

My AISD

Volume 4, Issue 9, April 2019

Passing with flying colors Strings teacher Jerez earns U.S. citizenship

Strings teacher Marco Jerez is used to being on the giving end of tests to his students at Adams, Amos and Morton elementaries.

Last month he was on the receiving end of a test.

He passed with flying colors, with the colors being red, white and blue.

Jerez, who came to the United States from Venezuela as a college student in 2000, passed his citizenship test as part of becoming a United States citizen at the end of March.

Jerez didn't need the test to stay in the U.S., as he's married to a United States citizen and has three children. It was something he wanted to do.

"My family – my wife and children are U.S. citizens," said Jerez. "I love the U.S."



SEE JEREZ, PAGE 3

Strings teacher Marco Jerez earned his U.S. citizenship March 26.



A message from Dr. Cavazos

It's always interesting to read the different stories about the stakeholders we have in the district.

Strings teacher Marco Jerez is no different. His story is interesting just because of where he's from, what he's seen and now what he's been able to accomplish by gaining his United States citizenship. That's outstanding.

Also doing a great job are the automotive students at our CTC. The partnership between our transportation department and the automotive technology program at the CTC is vital. It allows our students to gain real-world experience and helps

them prepare for a career after high school.

Hopefully you have been able to take advantage of all of the great resources available through our library services department. They do a wonderful job making sure you have the necessary tools available to you, and technology has made access much easier.

Congratulations to all our employees of the month and our outstanding customer service representatives. You all do a great job in setting the path we expect all of our employees to strive for. Thanks again for all of your efforts.



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NO. OF TICKETS: 2 | PRICE RANGE: \$20.00 - \$189.00 | COUPON: Coupon

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ENTER THE CODE **SCHOOLS** IN THE COUPON CODE TEXT BOX AND CLICK "APPLY"

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*Discount and seats subject to availability. Seating areas and pricing are subject to change.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION,
EMAIL [JROBERTS@TEXASRANGERS.COM](mailto:jroberts@texasrangers.com)



Arlington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education

National Inventors Month

Be Kind to Animals Month

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Better Hearing and Speech Month

AISD Night at Rangers Game	May 3
Star Wars Day	May 4
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Ramadan	May 5-June 4
National Music Week	May 5-12
PTA Teacher Appreciation Week	May 6-10
National Teacher Day	May 7
World Red Cross Day	May 8
VE Day	May 8
School Paraprofessional Day	May 8
Willie Velasquez Day	May 9
Mother's Day	May 12
Armed Forces Day	May 18
Talk Like Yoda Day	May 21
Memorial Day (School Holiday)	May 27

Discounts available for AISD employees

If you know how to navigate the intranet and get to the employee perks and discounts page, you can find discounts and much more, including everything from rental cars to ways to save money on a home purchase.

Thanks to the Texas Rangers employees can now get [discounted tickets](#) to games during the final season at Globe Life Park.

We also have a new agreement with [Pete & Mac's Pet Resort](#) just in time for you to plan your summer vacation. AISD employees can get discounts with the company on everything from boarding to baths.

Make sure to check the page frequently as it's updated throughout the year. If you know of other discounts that are for AISD employees please email Anthony Andro at aandro@aisd.net.

Remember we are also always looking for great stories about employees in the district like strings teacher Marco Jerez.

While we're already set for our May issue of *My AISD*, it's never too early to get story ideas ready for when we start back up in the fall.

If you know of someone who has an interesting story outside the classroom or office, please let us know by sending an email to aandro@aisd.net.

And please make sure to nominate deserving employees for customer service honors.

JEREZ FROM PAGE 1

There's something that's taken for granted. There's a freedom in this country that people have here that people in other countries don't have."

Jerez knows what he's talking about.

He left Venezuela in 2000 when he got a music scholarship from Baylor. When he left, Hugo Chavez had just taken over the country. Jerez said when Chavez took over initially things were fine in the country. But that's changed over the last two decades, and it's not a good time in Venezuela now.

"Right now it's completely different," he said. "Normally when the socialists start it works out in the beginning. Then they run out of other people's money and that's when

disaster starts."

Jerez hasn't visited his family in Venezuela in three years because of the issues in the country. He talks to his family when he can but because of issues with electricity, he's not sure when the next contact will come.

It's a far cry from the Venezuela he grew up in.

"Being Venezuelan in Latin America used to be like being considered an American," he said. "You had everything."

While Jerez feels badly about what's going on in Venezuela, he's happy to be here now. After graduating from Baylor, he got his master's degree in music from SMU. He taught private lessons for years before deciding he wanted to change things up.

"Back in Venezuela I liked to teach in big groups," Jerez said. "Private lessons are one-on-one. Getting a chance to teach a larger group appealed to me more. And with a family, sometimes private lessons are busy and sometimes it's slow. This was a good chance for me to provide better for my family."

Jerez also came into the district at the right time. Part of the 2014 Bond funded new strings rooms at elementary schools. While Adams was already new, Jerez is teaching in new rooms at Morton and Amos.

It makes things easier for him.

"It's a different dynamic working at different schools, but it's worked

out well," he said. "I have everything I need here."

Jerez said his students know his Venezuelan background. They also know he became a citizen. His three children helped that by flipping the script on the teacher. Instead of him quizzing his children to get them ready for school, his children were quizzing him.

"You had to know everything from the branches of the government to the history of the country," he said. "You have to know who the Speaker of the House is. You have to be current and you also know who wrote the Constitution and what year, what the holidays are and stuff like that. It really was an amazing experience to finally finish the process."

Students service district vehicles

A new partnership between the AISD transportation department and the automotive technology program at the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center is giving high school auto tech students a unique opportunity to gain real-world experience. AISD white fleet vehicles are sent to the CTC where auto tech students perform needed maintenance.

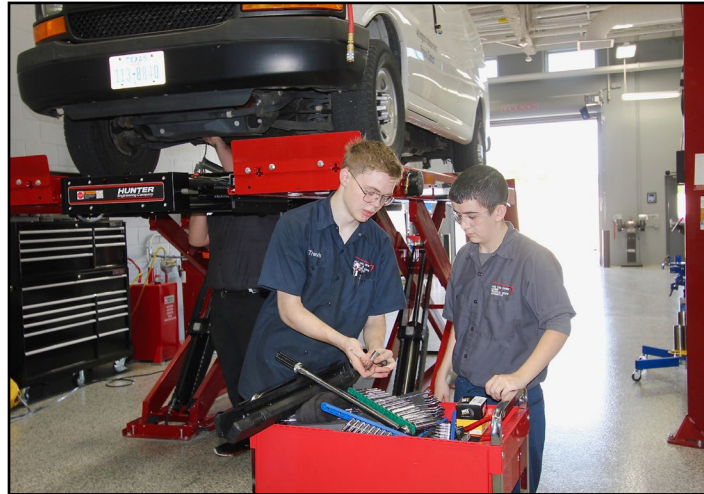
“We’re preparing our students to be ready for the workforce,” said Guy Jones, AISD fleet manager and the architect of this new partnership, along with Jamal Harvey, automotive technology teacher at the CTC.

The CTC, which opened in 2017 and was funded by the 2014 Bond program, houses a state-of-the-art automotive shop and educational space. Upper classmen from all AISD high schools travel to the CTC for automotive classes.

White fleet vehicles are the district’s maintenance and operations vehicles. The majority are pickup trucks, Suburbans and vans, and many were also funded by the 2014 Bond.

They are typically serviced in the transportation department’s own shop by the district’s professional mechanics.

But Jones came up with a new idea. Let the district’s automotive students do standard vehicle preventative maintenance (PMs) on the white fleet in the CTC shop, simulating for them what a real entry-level auto tech job is like. Larger repairs, including anything that might carry liability issues, would be left to the



Automotive students at the CTC have been working on white fleet vehicles since January.

district’s mechanics.

The new partnership kicked off in January and is still getting off the ground, but already white fleet vehicles are going to the CTC for routine maintenance. The goal is to send six to eight each week.

The white fleet vehicles are dropped off at the CTC in the morning, and then auto tech students perform PMs and light repairs, including oil changes, fuel filter changes, tire rotations and alignments. Jamal Harvey and fellow CTC automotive teacher Gary Foote inspect and sign-off on all the students’ work. The students also inspect the vehicles and let the transportation department know if any larger issues exist.

Mastering preventative maintenance is crucial for the students, as that’s what will qualify them for their first jobs. And the chance to perform PMs on a large number of vehicles – especially vehicles that are operational and belong to a client – is exceptional.

“I’ve never had this happen at a district where

they’d let us work on district vehicles,” Harvey said.

The vehicles come in and go out, much like a real shop, offering students a real-world experience. And their work matters. Students get a strong sense of responsibility knowing their work on the vehicles helps the district and the district employees who drive them.

“The students see something new on a regular basis, and they get to run into problems,” Harvey said.

Good problems – the kind that offer challenges that students must overcome, ultimately making them better mechanics.

“This gives them the skills to hold down a job,” Harvey said.

Harvey explained that most auto mechanic shops will not employ anyone under 18, so getting real-world experience is hard to find. But the opportunity to work on white fleet vehicles fills that gap, giving students experience they can’t get anywhere else. Once they graduate, they’ll be ready to get a job.

In addition to the white fleet vehicles, the

transportation department also donated two Silverado pickup trucks to the CTC shop. The trucks had exhausted their usefulness to the district and were slated for auction. Instead, Jones sent them to the CTC to serve as training vehicles, and he expects to send more in the future.

“These are great because it’s hard to get vehicles donated that actually run,” Harvey said.

Students can train on these trucks and take them apart without having to worry about breaking something.

Jones and Harvey are extremely excited about their new partnership as both are passionate about sharing their automotive experience with students and preparing them for successful careers in the industry. “Fellow gear heads,” as Jones described them, they believe this partnership is just the beginning.

“Both departments feel this could manifest itself into a program that has tremendous growth potential and be a program for other districts to model,” Jones said. “We can have this thing snowball.”

For example, Jones and Harvey envision a future summer mentorship program for auto tech students at the transportation department. Students – after they have gained valuable PM experience at the CTC – would apply for, interview and ultimately earn a paid summer job at the AISD transportation department shop. They would spend the summer getting real-life experience alongside the district’s professional mechanics.

AISD libraries are digital

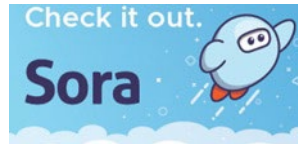
AISD library services is under the technology innovation and integration umbrella, and as such, AISD students and staff have access to a variety of high-quality, reliable digital resources that are provided by the library services department. These resources can be accessed 24/7 and are just one of the reasons AISD libraries are the go-to destination for digital empowerment and discovery.

A few resources are highlighted here but to see the extensive number of resources available, log in to Rapid Identity at password.aisd.net and click on Destiny. From the list of schools, select a campus to view the resources. If you need help with a username and password, contact your campus librarian or if you are not on a campus, please contact:

Julie Moore, Library Coordinator at jmoore16@aisd.net or 682-867-7841 or Lesley Cano, Library Services Specialist at lcano@aisd.net or 682-867-7828.

Sora eBooks

All AISD students and employees now have access to Sora, an app that provides free eBooks, audiobooks and read-alongs.



With Sora, AISD students and employees can access a large collection of eBooks and audiobooks for independent, recreational, or teacher-assigned reading. Students can read or listen to these books using a Chromebook, desktop computer, or personal mobile device.

To access the free eBooks and audiobooks

- 1) Login to Rapid Identity at password.aisd.net
- 2) Click on Sora
- 3) Search using title, author or subject

TeachingBooks.net

TeachingBooks.net provides a vast amount of literary resources to extend student learning through in-depth activities and connections to books and authors. Students can hear authors answer questions and explain the backstory of their novel, as well as listen to author interviews which will deepen students understanding of books they are reading.



TeachingBooks.net also provides teachers with activity ideas and vocabulary resources to help build student understanding.

If you have questions about accessing these digital resources or any of our other digital resources, contact a campus librarian or the library Services department at 682-867-7829



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Special offers for AISD Employees

Daycare 10% off daily daycare rates

- Drop off your dog as early as 6:30am and pick up as late as 7:00pm

Grooming 10% off regular rates for professional services

Special \$10 Guest Bath

- Offer good only when combined with paid daycare day

Enjoy 1st night of boarding free

- Additional nights at 10% off standard rate
- Free night applies to new customers only, first visit only

Participation in VIP Rewards Programs

- Frequent Fido Boarding VIP, each 13th night FREE
- Dirty Dozen Grooming VIP, \$20 resort credit after 6 professional services
- Daycare Club VIP, each 13th day FREE (cannot be combined with discount daycare package use)
- Tell A Friend Rewards – Share Pete and Mac's with your friends and they'll get 20% off their first ever service and you'll get a \$25 credit posted to your account

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Tips to Spring Clean Your Office/Classroom & Keep It Safe

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Accident What to do next?

Contact supervisor.
If an emergency
response professional
is needed call 911.

Contact the risk
management office
at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers'
comp packet.](#)

Completed packet
should be sent to the
risk management office
in the administration
building.

**Courage is what it
takes to stand up and
speak; courage is
also what it takes to
sit down and listen.**

Winston Churchill

The temperature is getting warmer, and baseball season is here. These signs are all pointing in one direction — spring is upon us! And with spring comes the urge to declutter and reorganize before summer begins. This year, consider adding a few tasks to your spring cleaning that are aimed at keeping your office/classroom not only tidy but also safe.

Start a new habit of being organized. Make a spring resolution to keep your desk organized, putting five minutes into your daily calendar to go through all of the things that you have on your desk.

Do it in sections. Any task can seem daunting if you do it all at once. Take it in sections. Even if you only clean a little bit of your office/classroom space, you'll feel better than if you don't clean at all.

Ditch the ink. What's more frustrating than reaching for a pen, only to find out it doesn't work? Go through your pens. If it doesn't work, toss it out. Life's too short for scribbling and shaking.



Sort your papers. Go through that stack of papers that's been growing since the last time you cleaned your desk. Make a system and keep up with it to keep your space tidy and free from unnecessary paper and packaging.

Clean your computers and other electronics. We use them every day, spill coffee on them, and sometimes take them into the bathroom with us. Take

a few minutes and clean your electronics (with special wipes for your screens, a keyboard cleaner that picks up junk in between the letters, and even a spray can of air should do the trick).

Contain the cords. At the very least, find a way to contain all of the cords that are running from your various (newly cleaned) electronic devices. Remember the cords on the floor can become tripping hazards. Cleaning the cord clutter on the floor can avoid falls.

Remember the round (or trash) file. If you have to ask if you need it, you probably don't.

In all your cleaning, remember to lift within your limits. Spring cleaning usually entails some lifting of piles of heavy books, boxes or furniture. Take time to rest and don't overexert yourself. Be safe when cleaning and moving items.

Although there are a seemingly infinite number of tasks involved in spring cleaning, safety should be on the top of any spring checklist. By keeping the above tips in mind, you can help make sure that your yearly deep clean leaves your office/classroom tidy and safe for you and those around you. Good luck!

Remember, practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.



APRIL TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



Ashley Williams
Webb Elementary
Elementary Teacher of the Month



Lori Green
Boles Junior High
Junior High Teacher of the Month



Kathryn Beaver
Venture High School
High School Teacher of the Month

ACCESSIBILITY
TANGIBLES
RELIABILITY
RESPONSIVENESS
EMPATHY



Accessibility

Rachel Ouellette
Wimbish Elementary

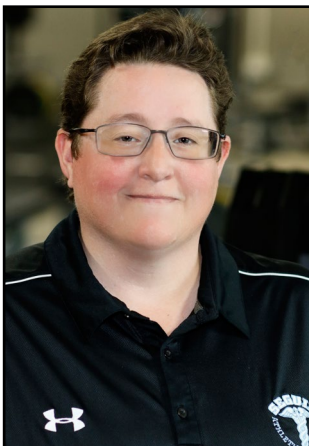
What they said: She is a great teacher, but many call her 'The Child Whisperer.' She keeps her phone with her at all times because everyone calls her to come and help with students in need. All teachers know that they can go to her for assistance in any given situation.



Tangibles

Aracely Acevedo
Key Elementary

What they said: No matter what my question or concern is she is eager to assist and often times finds the solution. The front office staff often times goes unnoticed and underappreciated.



Reliability

Holly Howell
Seguin High School

What they said: She has cared for so many students including my own children. My daughter was injured during softball practice and as always, Coach Howell responded quickly and handled it professionally. She cares very much for our children/students as if they were her very own.



Responsiveness

Melanie Wood
Student Outreach Services

What they said: Whether calming a frustrated parent or helping a staff member needing help in understanding a procedure, a new process or just someone to explain an issue, Melanie is always supportive, an active listener with patience and a pleasant attitude.



Empathy

Kristin Lewis
Wood Elementary

What they said: At meet the teacher, Ms. Lewis knew that my son was new to Wood and she immediately embraced him and took my very shy, socially awkward son and started introducing him to kids. He was so excited and looking forward to school for the first time ever.

A customer forms an impression of service received over time depending on a range of experiences. Have you recently experienced exemplary service from anyone in the AISD? If so, affirm their practice by sending a shout out to bit.ly/AISDSERVE, and we'll recognize them! Be sure to let us know which component of the framework was exemplified (accessibility, tangibles, reliability, responsiveness or empathy).