

# MyArlingtonISD

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## NEW BAND TRAILERS ROLL INTO ARLINGTON



*New High School Band Trailers*

The 2019 Bond literally rolled up to the 2014 Bond in early March and parked.

New band trailers, funded by the 2019 Bond – one for each of the Arlington ISD’s six traditional high schools – arrived in Arlington on March 2 and made their first stop at the 2014 Bond’s final project, the Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

The six, full-size semi-trailers – each bearing the name and logo of a district high school, rolled into the CVPA’s parking lot with a police escort and were greeted by district and fine arts administrators, high school band directors and band students from each high school.

Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos welcomed the trailers by speaking of the district’s investment in students and fine arts.

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## A MESSAGE FROM DR. CAVAZOS

It’s certainly been a busy time in the Arlington ISD.

How busy? All you have to do is look at this edition of *MyArlington ISD* to see. We’ve been so busy that we honored two sets of employees of the month in March. Now the reason we did that is because of the school closure in February because of the weather, but you get the point.

It’s been a busy and productive time for our district. Please, if you have a chance, drive by the new Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Many of you may have parked there when you got your COVID-19 vaccine earlier this month. The CVPA has been a busy place, as evidenced by our cover story on the new band trailers that were delivered. The trailers for each of our high schools came courtesy of our 2019 Bond and I can’t wait to see them in action.

Please take a minute to read the column by Dr. Steven Wurtz, our chief academic officer. He writes about welcoming our learners back to school. It’s extremely important as we continue to transition back to more face-to-face learning and try and bridge the learning gap brought on by COVID. We’re taking big steps throughout the district to close that gap.

Thank you for all of your hard work. I hope you enjoy your three-day weekend and the start of spring.



## WELCOMING LEARNERS BACK

Last year, we all jumped into Spring Break excited with anticipation for time to travel, rest, spend time with family and friends, etc. Little did we know that only a few days later the world would stop in its tracks and force all of us to re-orient ourselves to life without direct access to people and resources. This sudden change in environment has impacted so many facets of our lives including our physical and emotional well-being and the way we learn. Educators and students were thrust into an instructional model that required us to adapt and think about teaching and learning from a new perspective. Fast forward a year later and we are slowly seeing the sunrise in the distance.

As we gradually see this chapter in our lives start to close, we look forward to welcoming more and more of our students back to school. We are excited to see their faces and to engage in collaborative learning in an environment that is more relational in nature. While students may eagerly return, it's important to recognize that coming back to school and reorienting to life as it once was may stretch learners as they adjust. Habits have been formed while everyone has worked from home. And changing those habits can be challenging.

Here are a few tips offered by students and shared by author Dr. Richard M. Cash for educators to consider as we prepare for more students to return to the classroom.

### **Tip 1: Create a supportive and emotional safe environment**

Many students have been isolated for months from their peer groups. They have not had the chance to socialize or to interact with others on a routine basis, let alone in a physical learning environment. As more students return to school, it will be important to make time for this to happen. Build in time for learning activities that intentionally create the chance to reconnect with their classmates, exchange ideas, share experiences, etc.

### **Tip 2: Be flexible**

Students working from home have had a lot of autonomy. They have been able to take breaks when needed or get up and have a snack when they were hungry. They have even had the ability to daydream without being noticed, check their devices and even text their friends at will. As they return to school, it is important to remain flexible as students adjust to new expectations. Let's encourage and continue to mindfully support them as they adapt.

### **Tip 3: Foster the development of new study habits**

Learning in the home environment is quite different from being in school where students adhere to a bell schedule and structured learning blocks/periods. This change will necessitate new habits to foster engagement and learning. As students return to school, work to reestablish routines. Develop specific times where learning positive behaviors are fostered. Intentionally work to increase students' attention span by breaking up instruction into smaller chunks and integrating multiple opportunities for them to dialogue about the content they are learning. As Dr. Cash says, "Kids' brains need breaks, and their bodies need movement." Building those moments into their class time is a good thing.

### **Tip 4: Model patience**

Change is hard. It's especially hard when multiple changes are happening at the same time such as changing the learning environment and the way one learns. As students come back, they may need more time to complete assignments or to take an assessment. They may need opportunities to safely work in small groups or to go slower in order to eventually go faster. As we plan for instruction, it's important to understand what gaps they may have related to the content we are about to teach and customize the learning experience that gives students the opportunity to potentially have more than one attempt. Let's encourage students to take risks in their learning by being patient as they learn.

Slowly returning to life as we knew it is exciting! It is also scary and overwhelming for many. May we support and encourage one another and our learners as we step back into it.

*Dr. Steven Wurtz is the Arlington ISD Chief Academic Officer*



## TRAILERS FROM PAGE 1

“This investment in Arlington students is significant because they have shown us time after time that if we invest in them, they excel. It’s that simple equation,” he said.

The six Kentucky-built trailers were outfitted by Clubhouse Trailer Company and designed specifically to transport marching band equipment like instruments and uniforms. Clubhouse, an Oklahoma company focused almost entirely on band trailers, worked with the district to customize the trailers to meet Arlington’s band’s needs.

“The entire design and layout of the trailer has been created to ensure safety and efficiency,” said Drew Taylor, who founded Clubhouse Trailer Co. with Jeff Hadley. “Safety of equipment, students, staff and parents, and efficiency in packing and unpacking equipment. As Jeff and I were both band dads, we recognize these problems and have crafted unique solutions to ensure that these great kids have a world-class experience with our products.”

The Arlington ISD trailers each have two levels and specifications include:

- A drum wall that can hold 10 snares, five tenors and six bass drums
- Uniform rack that can hold about 40 uniforms for the loading crew and front ensemble. Having a dedicated spot for the uniforms helps them stay cleaner and last longer
- Upstairs level dedicated to individual instruments. Each shelf unit holds a combination of 15 baritones and mellophone horns (brass instruments) with space for additional wind or brass instruments below. There are also accommodations for seven sousaphones (tubas) with additional instrument storage above
- Downstairs level with room for 15-18 pieces of front ensemble equipment with additional space for sound and speaker carts
- Guard drawers that hold about 40 flag bags for the color guard. The drawers are on full-extension slides underneath the trailer
- Full-width ramp for safe and efficient loading. The ramp is 15 feet long, has a capacity of 1,000 pounds and stores in only 10.5” of space
- Stairs at both front and back designed for efficient people-flow and both powered using an electric actuator
- Solar panels on the roof that power the batteries for the stairs, ramp and interior and exterior LED lights



Until now, district bands’ travel to other schools and events made for a logistical challenge, to say the least. Fleets of vehicles – small trailers pulled by pickups, parent cars and school buses – were employed to transport band students and their hundreds of thousands of dollars of instruments, uniforms and equipment. Inefficient, slow, unsafe and chaotic are just a few of the adjectives that describe the process.

But that all changes with these trailers. Lamar High School’s band students have some new adjectives.

“It’s awesome,” said Aditi P., a senior Lamar High School student and president of the marching band, as she toured Lamar’s new trailer.

“It’ll make things one thousand times easier,” said senior Lamar band member Andy A. “Loading stuff will be ten times faster.”

“Now it will be organized,” said Justin B., another senior member of the Lamar band. “Usually we took instruments on the bus. Now everything will be in one place.”

Sam Houston High School band direct Arun Bhatt added “peace of mind” and timeliness to the list of advantages the trailers will provide.

“This investment will dramatically impact our students, providing peace of mind that we no longer have the fear of running late to performances and competitions,” he said.

The trailers are just the latest investment that Arlington ISD has made in fine arts. From the CVPA and new instruments and uniforms to strings rooms at every elementary, the district’s bond programs have made fine arts a significant priority. And it’s all about equipping students to excel.

“Students, this is all about you,” said Christopher Anderson, Arlington ISD director of

**SEE TRAILERS, PAGE 5**

The technology integration & innovation department (TI<sup>2</sup>) is inspired by the diligent efforts of all the campus and district staff who have consistently engaged in ongoing professional learning this year. Through an incentive provided by Google, Arlington ISD's purchase of Chromebooks last year allowed TI<sup>2</sup> to team up with MobileMind.

MobileMind is an online professional learning tool that provides self-paced and differentiated micro-courses that allow participants to develop and master new skills and applications within Google Workspace (formerly GSuite). In other words, users can learn basic, intermediate, and advanced skills within awesome apps like Google Docs, Sheets and Slides. Teachers can even earn their Google Educator Certification via MobileMind. Best of all, most of the engaging, hands-on courses take less than 15 minutes to complete and are a perfect fit for busy schedules!

Many teachers, librarians, support staff and other campus and district leaders have already engaged in this learning. Here are some of their thoughts about learning via MobileMind, which is available for all Arlington ISD staff.



Caroline Wilks, Professional Learning Department

Wilks, secretary for the professional learning department, has completed a variety of micro-courses in G Suite and shared, "I thought I knew how to use Google to my greatest advantage, but, wow, I have learned so many things that make my work in Google Suite much more efficient. For example, the paint brush feature that mimics the formatting of a certain cell."

Not only has Wilks completed many G Suite productivity courses, but she also intends to earn her Google Educator Certification, a learning pathway provided in MobileMind! She also recommends this learning for others, "The lessons are very easy and quick tasks. It helps to learn how to use such great collaborative tools!"



Melissa Uribe, teacher at Bowie High School

As a high school librarian, Melissa Uribe has completed 60 MobileMind micro-courses. She reflected, "I appreciate that MobileMind is conveniently available for me to complete a quick lesson when I have a little bit of time. I can stop and come back to it whenever I'd like and pick right up where I left off. I chose to engage in learning with MM because of online learning. MM seemed like a great way to polish

my skills to ensure I will be ready to help with online teaching and learning. I am especially glad I learned about all the things that can be achieved through Google Drawings and Google Earth. I believe others might consider engaging in MM because it is easy to access, can be done in short segments of time, is easy to follow and gives many great ideas for online learning."

If you have interest in earning your Google Educator Certification or engaging in some of MobileMind's other timely and relevant micro-courses, we encourage you to check out the list of available learning opportunities and request access to MobileMind. You can access the course list and the interest form at [bit.ly/mobilemindaisd](http://bit.ly/mobilemindaisd).

## DYNAMIC DIGITAL RESOURCES FROM LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

Inspire Curiosity with Britannica's Online Encyclopedias

Britannica School (English) and Britannica Escolar (Spanish) are online encyclopedias that provide trustworthy, engaging content in all areas that inspires curiosity in students. Simplified searches retrieve articles, images, and video results, dictionary definitions provided by Merriam-Webster, magazine and journal content provided by EBSCO, links to primary sources, and e-books. Each Britannica article has a Reading Level 1-2-3 tool, which shows the current reading levels available for articles on the same topics, making personalization easy to meet learners where they are.

To access this resource, click on the icon and use the following credentials:

**Username:** *aisd*  
**Password:** *student*



TRAILERS FROM PAGE 3

fine arts, at the ceremony welcoming the trailers. “We’re proud of what you do, and we wanted you to feel first-rate when you roll up.”

While it’s all about the students, it’s all because of the Arlington community. It’s the support the community offers in so many ways, including voting for and funding the bond programs, that has made these trailers, and so much more, all possible.

Bhatt spoke for each band when he thanked the community.

“The SHHS Band is extremely grateful to the Arlington ISD administration, parents, alumni and community for passing the bond that has provided these new trailers,” he said. “Our students have a fantastic showpiece that shows the commitment of the community to their learning and gives them a strong sense of pride in their school. We can’t wait to take it on the road for the first time.”

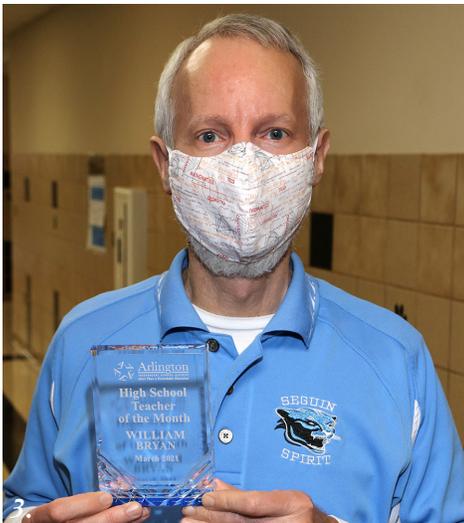
# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY



1. **Kimberly Fennell**  
Adams Elementary  
Elementary Teacher of the Month
2. **Mike Dunbar**  
Ousley Junior High  
Junior High Teacher of the Month
3. **Kristin Crocker**  
Arlington High School  
High School Teacher of the Month
4. **Suzann Jinks**  
Department Employee of the Month



# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH MARCH



1. *Jessica Hughes*  
Berry Elementary  
Elementary Teacher of the Month
2. *Scott Jones,*  
Young Junior High  
Junior High Teacher of the Month
3. *William Bryan*  
Seguin High School  
High School Teacher of the Month
4. *Robert Robertson*  
Department Employee of the Month

## MONTHLY MENTIONABLES FOR MARCH 2021

Keep America Beautiful Month (kab.org)  
National Occupational Therapy Month

National Autism Awareness Month  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

April Fool's Day	April 1
Student/Staff Holiday	April 2
Texas Rangers Home Opener at Globe Life Field	April 5
Public School Paraprofessionals Day	April 7
National Library Week	April 4-10
National Library Workers Day	April 6
World Health Day	April 7
End of Fifth Six Weeks	April 9
Easter	April 11

Staff Development/Student Holiday	April 12
Ramadan	April 12-May 11
Start of Sixth Six Weeks	April 13
Teacher of the Year Dinner	April 13
Public School Volunteer Week	April 20-24
San Jacinto Day	April 21
National Jelly Bean Day	April 22
Earth Day	April 22
Administrative Professionals Day	April 22
National Arbor Day	April 30



## REPORTING AN ACCIDENT

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.

Tina Baze, Specialist  
Risk Management  
Arlington ISD  
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy  
Arlington, TX 76013  
Office: 682-867-7649  
Fax: 682-867-4682

## HAND TOOL SAFETY

A variety of workplace tasks require the use of hand tools. However, such tools can create significant safety hazards without proper precautions in place. In fact, according to recent research from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), nearly 10% of all workplace injuries are caused by hand tool incidents.

The incorrect or unsafe use of hand tools can lead to a wide range of potential injuries, including:

- Cuts, abrasions, amputations and puncture wounds
- Eye injuries caused by flying objects or particles
- Bruises, fractures and broken bones

Fortunately, you can help prevent these injuries by upholding the following hand tool safety guidelines:

- **Select the correct tool.** Make sure you are using the right tool for the task at hand. Further, ensure you are properly trained and qualified to use that tool. If you are ever unsure of how to operate a tool or which tool to utilize for a task, ask your supervisor.
- **Use personal protective equipment (PPE).** Be sure to wear all necessary PPE when using hand tools. This may include gloves, safety eye-wear, steel-toed shoes and a hard hat.
- **Keep tools secure.** Don't be careless about transporting or storing hand tools. Carry tools in a toolbox or belt — never in your pockets. Keep track of tools at all times while they are in use. When you are finished using a tool, store it in a safe and secure location.
- **Ensure safe operation.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions to confirm safe usage of a tool. Always maintain a solid grip, comfortable posture and proper footing when using a hand tool.
- **Conduct regular maintenance.** Keep hand tools in good condition through routine maintenance. Never use a broken or damaged tool. If you have any additional questions regarding hand tool safety, consult your supervisor.

