

MyArlingtonISD

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BIG HONOR FOR DISTRICT



EVERFI Seal

The Arlington ISD found the perfect partner for reaching junior high students when the district teamed up with EVERFI in 2016.

The combo is still going strong five years later as the district was recently honored with the EVERFI Seal, an honor given to around five percent of the districts EVERFI partners with.

“It means that Arlington ISD is recognized as a champion of the whole-child education,” said Kevin Mechenbier, the EVERFI Texas director.

The seal is a designation awarded to K-12 school districts and individual schools that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to education through the use of EVERFI’s evidence-informed digital programs.

SEE EVERFI, PAGE 3

A MESSAGE FROM DR. CAVAZOS

This is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving, and I know as a district we certainly have a lot to be thankful for.

If you look in this edition of *MyArlingtonISD* you can see that everywhere. Just looking at the cover, you can see how we are fortunate to have great partners like EVERFI and the Dallas Cowboys working with us. Earning the EVERFI Seal is a great accomplishment for our district. It’s further proof that we’re taking the tools we’re provided from partners and using them in the right way, focusing on making our students succeed both inside and outside the classroom. It’s more proof that we care about the whole student, which we’ve known for a long time.

It’s also great to see all of the progress the district is making with the 2019 Bond. Our food and nutrition services headquarters will be better able to serve our students once the renovations are complete. It’s just one of many projects currently underway thanks to the bond, but it serves as a huge reminder this month of how vital that department has been during the pandemic as feeding our students has been one of our biggest priorities.

I’d also like to congratulate our employees of the month. Even though we’re doing things differently, it’s still one of the highlights for me each month to get out and honor them. Our employees continue to do fantastic work daily, and I’m thankful for that.

Please remember to be safe over the holidays.



CHECKING IN ON OUR KIDS' HEARTS

Recently, I read a quote that stopped me in my tracks. The quote was posted on a small road sign in a highly populated metropolitan city. It read, "Just because someone carries it well, doesn't mean it isn't heavy." This message resonated with me deeply and is a powerful reminder of the invisibility that often accompanies the burdens we bear as individuals. I couldn't help but reflect on the words and consider their application in so many areas of life. Immediately my thoughts turned to our children.

Kids are often seen as some of the most resilient people in the world. When change strikes and challenges arise, children are generally perceived to bounce back more quickly than we do as adults. But emotional hardships are equally as real for them and lasting. School today is different than it was a year ago. Contact with friends and family is limited. Opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities have been truncated. Even the way students are being asked to engage in the teaching and learning process switched for them overnight. While we are all focused on ensuring students are successful academically, we have to first prioritize their emotional well-being. Without that, success will be impossible.

So, what are some things we can do to support our learners during this unique time. Here

are a few suggestions shared by Laura Vargas in an ASCD article titled, *How We Can Make Time to Meet Students' Emotional Needs?*

1. CREATE A SAFE ATMOSPHERE

Investing the time to ensure that students are learning in a safe emotional environment is as important as ensuring a safe physical one. Kids will thrive in places where they know that they can share their experiences. Vargas quotes an educator who says, "If we dedicate time to make students feel that mistakes are part of the learning process, they will understand that we are there to help and not to judge." Suggestions include regular class meetings, check-ins with individual students, etc.

2. MEET STUDENTS' INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

The essence of this suggestion is to simply get to know your students. Who are they? What makes them tick? What are their interests? What are things they dislike? How do they prefer to learn and demonstrate their learning? Ask questions. The better we know our students (and make it overtly obvious to them that we know and care about them), the better we can meet their needs and support their emotional well-being.

3. ESTABLISH A SUPPORT NETWORK

Just like adults need support to navigate the difficult moments

in our lives, young people need the same. They need trusted adults who they can rely on to provide guidance and stability. They also need peers that they can trust. By intentionally creating opportunities for students to establish and build those meaningful and safe relationships, they can generate networks they can lean into when it's needed.

4. ROUTINELY CHECK-IN

One of the powerful things about "advisory periods" is they provide an opportunity for teachers to routinely check in on how individual students are doing. With so many courses and activities in a young person's life, it is important that a responsible adult routinely checks in with the students to see how they are doing. Quick chats, small talk about their life and even grade checks can help you know how what a student may need and you can best serve them.

We are living in a unique time. More than ever our students need caring, responsible adults and friends to support and encourage them in their school work and life. Thank you for committing to the young people you serve and for creating a space for them to thrive.

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the Arlington ISD Chief Academic Officer



EVERFI FROM PAGE 1

EVERFI has worked with the district on computer-based programs for a while, including financial literacy programs for elementary students. But it wasn't until 2016 when EVERFI teamed up with the Dallas Cowboys and the NFL Character Playbook that things took off.

District eighth graders taking CTHEI classes use EVERFI programs that focus on social and emotional learning. That was the program that tied into the Cowboys' NFL Character Playbook campaign. The biggest event was when Dak Prescott and Zeke Elliott were part of the rookies that visited Workman Junior High in the fall of 2016.

Part of that visit included a stop at a CTHEI class where the players got to see students working with the program.



Dallas Cowboy Dak Prescott's visit with CTHEI students

"It's made a huge impact," CTE specialist Sandy Hitt said of the program. "Especially when we're able to tie in the Cowboys. Our seventh graders see our eighth graders getting these opportunities. That makes a big impression. The students like it. The teachers like it. It's current, too. It fits in with our social and emotional learning push with the district. It's simple to integrate into the CTHEI course."

That 2016 visit to Workman launched the Character Playbook initiative with EVERFI and the district.

"We built the online curriculum programs students do with their computers," Mechenbier said. "We're sponsored by and have stuff donated by different partners. The NFL donates across the

country through EVERFI. Each NFL team gets to do community outreach in their own way. They just let EVERFI work with the schools. There's nothing heavy-handed about it."

The partnership has included great perks for Arlington ISD students, including visits from players and the NFL Draft program that also took place at Workman.

While the hook for students might be the chance to see Dallas Cowboys players in person, the draw for the district goes deeper. The district wanted a program that focused on social and emotional growth for students as well as health and wellness, inclusion and college and career readiness, which is a major focus of the CTHEI program.

That's what has made it so successful.

"Everyone feels like the kids treat each other better because of the program," Hitt said. "They make better decisions. They get to focus more on the character part of the idea. They get to see how things are being done. The lessons are cartoons, almost anime. It's a style that's appealing to the kids. They identify with it better."

 A photograph of a group of students standing in front of a brick building, holding a white banner that says "MARINE CORPS RESERVE TOYS FOR TOTS". The photo is framed with a decorative border of holly leaves and white snowflakes.

Volunteer

JOIN US
VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT THE
ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT TOYS FOR TOTS SEASON
INTERESTED CONTACT:
SGT. STEVEN VILLALOBOS.
svillalo@aisd.net
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CENTER
1111 W ARBROOK BLVD, ARLINGTON
TX, 76015

**December 5 and December 6
8:00AM - 6:00PM**

FOOD AND NUTRITION HEADQUARTERS GETTING MUCH-NEEDED UPGRADES NEW FREEZER ADDITION NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Feeding tens of thousands every day, Arlington ISD's food and nutrition services department has a momentous task that requires a team of dedicated employees and a host of complicated logistics. It also requires the right facilities, from warehouses and freezer space to offices and kitchens. Thanks to the 2019 Bond, the Arlington ISD's food and nutrition services' headquarters is getting a much-needed upgrade that will improve efficiencies and logistics, create better working environments and enhance food storage.

This is a major construction project with a complete renovation of the building and the construction of a new freezer addition. The food and nutrition services staff had to vacate the building last winter and take up temporary residence at another district building while construction is underway.

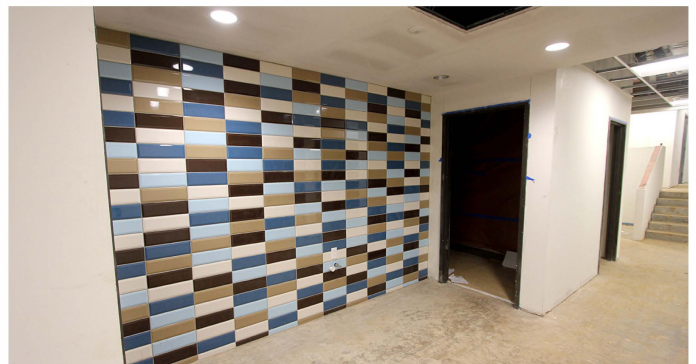
While moving out was inconvenient, the end result will make it well worth it.

"We were happy to make the temporary move because the renovations and upgrades will make us more efficient in providing services to our students and families, said David Lewis, Arlington ISD's food and nutrition services' director. "We are really going to benefit from this once it's complete."

The food and nutrition services building has been a busy construction site since the spring. The inside was gutted and has been fitted with new walls and a new layout. In the back, an addition is now underway to house a new freezer. The addition's steel frame was hung recently and the concrete drive next to it will be poured next week.

Slated for completion in the spring of 2021, the new food and nutrition services headquarters will offer significant improvements, including:

- The new large, 7,400 square-foot freezer addition will replace four older, less efficient freezers.
- The renovated building will include a new training/conference area large enough to fit 110 people, the number of managers and leads in the department. The training area will also open into the catering kitchen.
- The renovated catering kitchen will be a dramatic improvement over the old, smaller kitchen, which was on two levels. Now on one level, chefs will no longer have to go up and down stairs to navigate the entire space.
- The renovated building will include a parent engagement area where parents will be able to get information and register for meal benefits. Parents visit food and nutrition services daily, so this will improve their experience and ensure they get the information and benefits they need.
- The renovated building will also improve on energy efficiency and upgrade security.
- The design of the building leaves space for a future addition that would allow the department to combine its two central Arlington food warehouses into one location, improving efficiencies even more.



The technology integration & innovation department (TI²) thanks teachers and campus staff for their diligent efforts to ensure student learning this fall! We are so thankful for the dedicated educators that we are honored to support.

This month, the TI² team is highlighting a few of its most useful websites and resources.

American mathematician Claude Shannon wrote that, "Information is the resolution of uncertainty." While true, the mere existence of information is insufficient. What is truly critical is knowing where and how to find the best available information as quickly as possible!

The TI² department has made a concerted effort over the past few months to consolidate and centralize the important resources and guidance critical to technology usage, tech integration and the use of relevant resources in Arlington ISD.

The TI² department website (<https://bit.ly/ti2ontheweb>) provides a lot of valuable information to staff. Notably, the site contains a direct link to the virtual office hour schedules for live Canvas and Seesaw support. Often, staff can receive timely assistance by visiting virtual office hours and can bypass the need to submit a help ticket in ServiceNow. A new addition to the site is the "Tech Talks" video series which consists of weekly, bite-sized Zoom-casts full of technical tips, time-saving strategies and hidden features for systems including Canvas, G-Suite, Chrome and more!

As every teacher is well aware, successfully navigating the school year demands proficiency in Seesaw and/or Canvas. TI² maintains two websites where staff can access the most essential training, support and troubleshooting resources for the district's learning management systems. Primary teachers (PK-2) can access Seesaw resources at <https://tinyurl.com/technologyresources2020>. Teachers in grades 3-12 should visit and bookmark <https://bit.ly/canvasconnection>.

Finally, any staff member seeking recommendations and insights about the most useful web and mobile applications (TI² endorsed apps) available in Arlington ISD should begin their search at <https://www.aisd.net/endorsedapps>. On the site, TI² provides what may appear to be simply a list of technology tools. However, visitors should note the ability to filter the list by categories of instructional use, by grade level and by device platform. Furthermore, each endorsed app has its own page which contains info including log in information, department and vendor resources and an overview video.

It's a fundamental goal of the TI² department to ensure that relevant information is available, accessible and well organized for teacher and staff access. Feedback as to how the department can enhance and improve is welcome and can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/valuedfeedback>.

DYNAMIC DIGITAL RESOURCES FROM LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

This month's spotlighted resource is a collection of eBooks that centers on social and emotional learning topics for our students in grades K-12.

Cameron's Camp for Wellness is geared for our younger learners in grades K-6. Students are able to view titles such as *Dealing with Defeat*, *Working as a Team*, and *Getting Your Zzzzzs*.

Cameron's Collection is for our older learners in grades 7-12. Secondary students are able to view titles such as *Crazy-Stressed*, *I am a Digital Addict: Now What?*, and the *Happiness Choice*.

Both collections provide simultaneous use for all students 24/7 and can be accessed by both teachers and students from all school library Destiny pages.



Apply now at
www.aisd.net/specializedprograms

PATHWAYS

STEM

- Be part of just the ninth elementary to be a certified STEM school at Percy STEM Academy
- Earn college credits and set yourself up for everything from internships to the possibility of going to MIT at the STEM Academy at Martin High School
- Immerse yourself in STEM life in a traditional high school setting

FINE ARTS/DUAL LANGUAGE

- Start your student on a path of dual language as literacy and content are taught in both English and Spanish with Mandarin starting in second grade
- Piano, 3D visual arts and more are options starting in Pre-K with specialization paths beginning in fifth grade
- Junior high and high school fine arts/dual language coming on board soon!

LEADERSHIP

- Focus on critical and creative thinking beginning in elementary
- Take ownership in the community with service and leadership opportunities
- Learn core curriculum through a concept-based lens

WORLD LANGUAGE

- Become bilingual and biliterate in Spanish or English starting in Pre-K
- Learn about cultural awareness
- Focus on the four Cs of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity

EARLY COLLEGE

- Earn up to 60 hours of free college credit
- Set yourself up for success with workforce certifications including a brand new health science technology pathway
- Seamlessly transition from high school to college

CAREER & TECHNICAL

- Explore careers in more than 30 programs
- Earn workplace certifications for free
- Spend part of your day at traditional high school

Why apply for Arlington ISD Specialized Programs?

It's never too early to set your child up for success in the Arlington ISD. Because of our specialized programs, you can put them on the path to an outstanding career or a head start in college for FREE. Whether it's fine arts, dual language, STEM, early college or a jump start on a career, you can do it all in the Arlington ISD specialized programs. MIT or cosmetology? It makes no difference because we've got the right path for them. And it starts as early as Pre-K.

Apply now to set them up for success!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



1. *Quiana Peterson,
Peach Elementary
Elementary Teacher of the Month*
2. *Adrian Johnson
Workman Junior High
Junior High Teacher of the Month*
3. *Alexi Delathouder
Bowie High School
High School Teacher of the Month*
4. *Patricia Fusilier
Department Employee of the Month*

MONTHLY MENTIONABLES FOR DECEMBER 2020

World AIDS Day	Dec. 1	End of First Semester	Dec. 17
National Cookie Day	Dec. 4	Early Dismissal (elementary)	Dec. 17
Inclusive Schools Week	Dec. 7-13	Winter Break	Dec. 21-Jan. 1
Human Rights Day	Dec. 10	First Day of Winter	Dec. 21
National Merit/National Hispanic Scholar/National African American Scholar Recognition at Board	Dec. 10	National Egg Nog Day	Dec. 24
Hanukkah	Dec. 10-18	Christmas Day	Dec. 25
Bill of Rights Day	Dec. 15	Kwanzaa begins	Dec. 26
		New Year's Eve	Dec. 31





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

WORKPLACE SAFETY IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As the end of the year quickly approaches, we are often preoccupied with holiday planning, year-end deadlines and work commitments. As a result, we may see an increase in workplace injuries just before and after the holiday season. We ask that you be mindful and maintain your focus on safety at all times, especially during the holiday season.

BE MINDFUL WHILE WORKING

Eliminate as many distractions as possible:

- Plan enough time to complete your tasks safely.
- Avoid rushing.

These tips are particularly important when working with hazardous materials, sharp devices and powered equipment.

WALK SAFELY THROUGH CAMPUS

Slips, trips and falls continue to be one of the most common causes of accidents reported.

- Wear shoes with good traction.
- Be cautious, especially on wet surfaces and stairs, and use handrails.
- Allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Avoid using mobile devices while walking.

MANAGE YOUR STRESS LEVEL

The holidays can be a stressful time. Minimize stress by:

- Reaching out for support
- Making time for yourself
- Being aware and mindful during your daily activities
- Exercising
- Practicing healthy eating and sleeping habits

WASH YOUR HANDS

With colder weather, we are more inclined to stay indoors. And with more people in shared spaces, washing your hands can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.

DRIVE SAFELY

Prepare your car before the cold weather hits by checking your tire tread, antifreeze levels and radiator. Keep supplies in your car in case you become stranded while driving. Allow more time for travel than you would during good weather. Drive slowly and cautiously through campus and be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists.

TAKE CARE WHEN DECORATING

Whether you are hanging decorations in your home or office, prevent injuries by using step stools or the appropriate ladder. Never climb or stand on furniture. If hanging lights or electronic decorations, keep cords out of the way to prevent slip and trip injuries.



We wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday!