



What's Inside

Leave It All On the Field, Forward with Purpose,

2019 Bond Update, Tech Corner, Safety Tips,

Employee of the Month *and more!*

A MESSAGE FROM DR. CAVAZOS

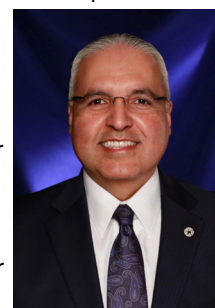
I know with more than 8,000 employees in the district, there are tons of unique stories about each of you.

Arlington High's Krystina Morris certainly fits into that. Who knew that a love of ultimate Frisbee could take you to the other side of the world and help you find the love of your life? What I liked most about Krystina's story is how her passion for the game carries over to the classroom, where she's an outstanding teacher and a great representative for our district.

With September being our first full month of classes, you can see from this issue of *MyArlingtonISD* there is a lot going on.

I want to congratulate our employees of the month one more time. September was our first trip of the school year to recognize them, and it was a great day as always.

I hope your September was a great one. I look forward to the cooler weather in October and reading more about your outstanding work.



LEAVE IT ALL ON THE FIELD

You wake up in Limerick, Ireland, on a breezy, summer day. As bright, white clouds fill the blue sky, you begin to get dressed to play ultimate Frisbee with your friends. What started off as a few fun games, becomes a third-place finish at the World Masters Ultimate Club Championship 2022.

It may sound like a dream, but that's the reality for Krystina Morris, a U.S. history teacher at Arlington High.

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FORWARD WITH PURPOSE

By: Dr. Steven Wurtz

I recently had the opportunity to visit with a colleague whom I admire. She is committed to teaching and learning, and that commitment is evident in the way she expends her energy pouring into teachers and curiously seeking out new knowledge to apply to her coaching practice. She is inquisitive and asks questions modeling what it means to *get better every day*. As I walked away from our conversation, I reflected on where that commitment comes from. What drives us to do what we do? How do we hunker down and press forward when the going gets tough? Why do we persist even in the face of obstacles? I think it comes down to purpose.

Pablo Picasso, a world-renowned artist, once said, “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” John F. Kennedy stated, “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” So how do we give our gifts away in the service of others? What is your purpose, and how do you generate a path to let it lead your work each day?

In Arlington ISD, we have one mission. That mission is to empower and engage ALL students through relevant, innovative and rigorous learning

experiences. Engaging every student requires us to know them and to understand what their interests are as well as their strengths and opportunities for growth. Empowerment embodies the idea of making someone stronger and instilling confidence in their abilities. Our mission is to provide learning experiences that do both of these things - captivate students’ minds and encourage them to believe in themselves. This takes skill and compassion. It requires us to master the art and science of teaching. It is why coaching plays a prominent role in our work and why we strive to master the best practices research shows impacts learning in the classroom.

This year, we have continued our effort to provide customized coaching to each of our math and reading teachers with the goal that every math and reading teacher earns a level three badge in four best practices, namely:

- Standards Alignment
- Assessment and Formative Feedback
- Differentiation and Scaffolding
- Small Group Instruction

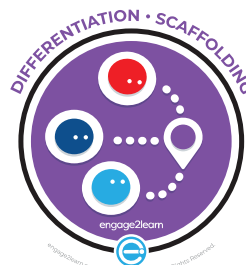
These four practices lay a strong foundation for learning experiences designed to meet

each student’s individual needs. When implemented effectively, they set the stage for students to be engaged in learning at their proficiency levels and empower them to lean into their strengths and assets as they grow towards mastery of the standards. The key word being *grow*. Coaching of teachers, coaches and principals, mastery of best practices, badging... all of this effort and work is to ensure that we all, as educators, build our capacity to effectively provide learning experiences that promote our learners’ growth.

We have an exciting year ahead of us that is full of opportunities! Thank you for your effort to get *better every day*. May we all continue on that path and together guide our learners to the destination they envision for themselves.



FOUR BEST PRACTICES



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Morris got a chance to compete with her team, Soar, at the championship against 18 teams from around the globe, including Canada, Singapore, England, Colombia and more. Soar is a not-so-subtle play on words since her team and division are comprised of women aged 30 and older. The team qualified for the world championship after placing fourth at a Colorado tournament in July 2021 and couldn't wait to compete in Ireland for a title.

The Dallas native's love for ultimate Frisbee began brewing on an intramural recreation team at the University of Texas at Arlington where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. Until then, Morris had never played a sport before.

"I didn't play sports and I never left this region growing up, but ultimate Frisbee opened so many new doors," said Morris. "I even met my husband on a team I used to play on."



"Our position in life isn't stationary. If you put the work in, you can always achieve results and succeed."

She has been able to cross some states off her travel list like Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, Utah and Illinois while spending quality time with her husband playing a sport they both enjoy.

When she's not vigorously training or competing, her time is spent trying to make history relatable for 16-year-olds.

"I always want to tell it like a story, so my kids can understand it better," said Morris. "It's about getting them to realize how history is impacting them, then it clicks for them."

Nearly a decade into teaching, her favorite thing is making connections with students.

The connections she's making at Arlington High are undeniable because she was selected by the school's dean of instruction and instructional coach to be a model teacher. Model teachers work closely with peers to promote and model excellent teaching through sharing effective practices. Basically, Morris opens her classroom to other teachers to show them how it's done.

"She's an outstanding teacher and team player in the building, so it makes perfect sense that she would be on a team that made it to such a high level," said Arlington High principal Stacie Humbles. "When I found out she was on the Frisbee team, I thought it was another unique and awesome quality she possesses. She's the coolest."

That's probably why she's a level lead, too, making sure all the U.S. history teachers are on one accord when it comes to teaching the material and preparing their students for success. And a campus technology facilitator. In this role, she encourages teachers to integrate technology into their classrooms so students can take what they're learning and apply it practically.

What's next for Morris?

As she heads into her 12th year of playing ultimate Frisbee, she will continue playing with her team in local and regional tournaments. On more relaxing weekends, Morris plans to hang out with her nieces and nephew at the movies, carnivals and anything else that requires lots of fun. In the classroom, she wants to continue to give her students opportunities to learn about the country, themselves and how they can make an impact in the world.

"Education gives opportunities," said Morris. "I was awful when I first started playing Frisbee but after practicing and putting forth effort, I got better. It's the same thing with education. Our position in life isn't stationary. If you put the work in, you can always achieve results and succeed."

Whether it's in the classroom or playing ultimate Frisbee, Morris is sure to leave it all on the field.



TECH CORNER: CTACS LEAD THE WAY

Campus Technology Advisory Committees (CTACs) have been an important part of campus operations for many years and played vital roles in supporting teachers during pandemic-driven remote learning. Despite this, some staff may wonder, “What is CTAC?”

CTACs are campus-level committees made up of teachers, librarians and instructional leaders who meet three times per year to discuss how technology usage, technology integration and the use of relevant digital resources enhances student learning outcomes at the campus. Learn more by watching the video at <https://bit.ly/whyCTAC>.

At the outset of the new school year, CTACs at every campus worked to set two technology related goals. One goal focuses on device care and management, while the second focuses on student technology integration. These two goals represent critical bookends for effective and meaningful use of student technology in Arlington ISD classrooms. Each relies on the other for a successful technology program, and CTACs are essential in ensuring campus-level needs and goals are prioritized and met.

The device care and management goal is designed to help ensure that students and staff know and follow best practices designed to keep devices in good working condition for their full lifespan. Teachers, substitutes and campus leaders can access a wealth of information about device care at a new district website: <https://www.aisd.net/classroomdevices>.

Molly Bennett, CTAC facilitator at Butler Elementary, shared, “We are using one Google Sheet to track every device on campus. We know where the device is located and which student or teacher it is assigned to, based on both the classroom device number on the sticker and on the device PIN number. There is much more accountability for the devices, and so far students are taking excellent care of them!”

Technology integration occurs when students leverage technology to learn new subject content and relevant technology skills. In Arlington ISD, one type of integration involves students using digital tools to create products that demonstrate their content understanding. Learn about some of the best tools for student creation at <https://www.aisd.net/endorsedapps>.

“What excites me the most about Bebensee’s student integration goal is that we will highlight not only staff members, but also students who excel at utilizing our devices and Endorsed Apps to express themselves and demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways,” said Margaret Resendez, the CTAC facilitator at Bebensee Elementary.

From the perspective of Thornton Elementary’s facilitator, Jamika Jefferson, the CTAC’s work is stronger than ever. “This year, the CTAC has worked together as a team to get tasks taken care of across all grade levels. We’re more cohesive as a team and there’s been increased input from everyone on the CTAC.”



Anna Ruiz, facilitator at Key Elementary, agrees. “I love how our team has been able to become one cohesive unit working toward the same vision and technology goals that we set for our campus. By creating these goals, we have the ability to focus on the areas of opportunity at our campus to make the most lasting impact for our students and our teaching practices.”



DIGITAL RESOURCES FROM LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

capstone connect

PebbleGo, PebbleGo Next and Capstone eBooks are now combined into one powerful platform called **Capstone Connect**. Capstone Connect is your gateway to thousands of K-5 standards-aligned nonfiction articles, eBook bundles and instructional activities. Capstone Connect allows you to easily find and share content with students that can be searched by standard or title and includes natural read-aloud audio for every article and eBook.

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OCTOBER HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

National Bullying Prevention Month
National Principal Month
International Walk to School Month
National Physical Therapy Month
Persons with Disabilities History and Awareness Month
Computer Learning Month
Cybersecurity Awareness Month

National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day	Oct. 2
National Taco Day (Or Any Day in Texas)	Oct. 4
Texas Night Out	Oct. 4
Yom Kippur	Oct. 4-5
World Teacher's Day	Oct. 5
Walk to School Day	Oct. 5
National Instructional Coach's Day	Oct. 6
Staff Exchange/Student Holiday	Oct. 7
Fire Prevention Week	Oct. 9-15
Staff/Student Holiday	Oct. 10
National School Lunch Week	Oct. 10-14
World Food Day	Oct. 16
Boss' Day	Oct. 16
National Character Counts Week	Oct. 17-23
National School Bus Safety Week	Oct. 17-21
Red Ribbon Week	Oct. 23-31
Mother-In-Law-Day	Oct. 23
National Cat Day	Oct. 29
End of Second Six Weeks	Oct. 29
Halloween	Oct. 31
Start of Third Six Weeks	Oct. 21

Rendering of Arlington High School Expansion
View from the corner of South Cooper and West Park Row Drive



EXPANSION AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL KICKS OFF THIS FALL

Addition will include new band hall, library and more

PHASE ONE INCLUDES DEMOLITION AND SITE WORK

Remember that gas station that was in Arlington High School's front yard at the corner of Park Row and Cooper? It's gone. Arlington ISD bought the Shell station and tore it down to make way for some major improvements at the school. All that's left right now is a grassy field.

But that's about to change.

After years of planning and design, it's time for the Bond 2019 project at Arlington High to start. The whole project will include an addition with new classrooms, a new library, a new band hall and more, and it will help provide the space needed for the future fine arts and dual language high school academy.

"It'll be a huge and beautiful three-story wing that I refer to

as 'The Cube,'" said Arlington High Principal Stacie Humbles.

PHASES

The project has been designed in two phases: first, a demolition and site development phase, and second, a renovation and construction phase. The first phase's budget was approved by the Arlington ISD Board of Trustees at its meeting on Aug. 4, and work will begin this fall. Phase one will include demolition, site grading and utility improvements to prepare for the renovations and new addition.

The areas slated for demolition are on the east end of the main building and include the band hall, choir room and administration offices. The band, choir and admin are all relocating to other areas of the campus until the new spaces are ready.

"To say this group is flexible is an understatement," Humbles said. "We've moved our choir into the auditorium, band to a gym, wrestlers to the old dance hall and dance to a shared space. Main offices will be moved to central classrooms, and those classes are moving to portables. We're using pods for storage and parking in the band practice field."

Construction on the new addition – phase two of the project – will start in early 2023. Renovations for the existing building's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and athletic fields are also a part of phase two, but those projects likely won't start until next summer.

The entire project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2024.

"It's been a challenge, but

we are certainly excited to get things underway,” Humbles said. “I am so honored to work with a staff that truly embraces the idea of being a family. We all know the outcome is going to be worth it in the end and we are all doing our part.”

FINE ARTS DUAL LANGUAGE

One of the main reasons for the project is to add space for the district’s new fine arts and dual language high school academy, opening in the fall of 2024. The new academy will welcome the students who attended Corey and Jones fine arts dual language elementary academies and then Gunn Junior High and Fine Arts and Dual Language Academy. The first group of academy students are currently in seventh grade at Gunn.

“Our goal has been to provide Arlington ISD students with innovative programming that encourages exploration, fosters creativity, promotes rigorous learning and builds skills for students’ successful entry into an international workforce,” said Dr. Steven Wurtz, Arlington ISD’s chief academic officer and one of the architects of the district’s fine arts and dual language model. “The fine arts and dual language program has provided students with these unique opportunities and the program at Arlington High School is the capstone of that experience.”

Academy students will continue the fine arts and dual language programming they’ve had since kindergarten at the high school level, but they will also get to take advantage of all the other opportunities at AHS, including sports and extracurriculars.

FOR ALL

While some of the new facilities have been purposefully designed for the future academy, they are also intended to add value for the entire student population at Arlington High.

Like the new library.

“Our goal is to use the new library space to continue to build and improve our AHS community,” said Maryjane O’Halloran-Beane, who has been the Arlington High librarian since 1994 and plans to keep doing what she loves in the new space. “Use of library space relates positively to student learning and success. The AHS library wants to continue to be a warm and welcoming space for our students. The open, airy and sunny space plan will offer a positive place to gather, read and work. Expanding our space will give more opportunities for student and staff use. There will be meeting rooms and niche areas where students can collaborate on projects, have discussions and share ideas.”

The new fine arts spaces will also give every Arlington High student access to state-of-the-art music facilities. Plus, the addition will offer a huge improvement over the old, cramped spaces they’ve had for years.

“For decades, the old band hall has housed 13 classes over a two-day period,” said band director Nathan Burum. “The percussion department was having classes in hallways, the auditorium, outside and sometimes not at all. The new band hall will allow multiple classes to occur during a single class period. It will

allow sufficient storage for equipment and the acoustics of the room will provide our bands a great atmosphere.”

It’s going to take some patience, though, while the new band and fine arts facilities are built. Arlington High’s band has been relocated to two different areas. Gym C is housing the concert bands, jazz band, storage and inventory, and a temporary classroom is housing the percussion department.

But Burum is unfazed.

“This arrangement is a bump in the road while the district builds a state-of-the-art band hall and fine arts wing,” Burum said. “We are excited to have this new addition at AHS.”

“We are so thankful to be in a district that focuses on excellence in the fine arts and supports us by providing the facilities needed to foster that excellence. All the AHS fine arts will benefit from this project, and we can’t wait to see the new wing and band hall.”



See more renderings of the expansion of Arlington High on the school’s [bond webpage](#). And learn more about all 2019 Bond projects at [aisd.net/bond2019](#).



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

We recognize your dedication and hard work!



Ann Cooper,
Bryant Elementary
Fifth-grade teacher

Cooper has a passion for teaching. She develops relationships with each student, which is a cornerstone of her classroom culture. She thoughtfully plans student-centered lessons that are differentiated to meet the needs of her students. Prior to this year, Mrs. Cooper taught science. She helped us earn a distinction in science due to her hard work and effort with our students. She proactively looks for ways to ensure that her instruction is student-led and rigorous.



Shelby Hudson,
Workman Junior High
Eighth-grade teacher

Hudson's passion for teaching and working with students can be seen the moment you walk into the door. In her class, students are excited about learning. She makes learning interesting for her students. Hudson consistently demonstrates professionalism and the ability to help students become the best they can be, in the classroom and outside of the classroom. After hours in the classroom, you can find her at games and concerts supporting her students.



Cailey Hudson,
Seguin High School
English 2 Teacher

Hudson has taken the initiative as the leader of the ELA department coming in the 22-23 school year. She is at the forefront of our DDI and small-group implementation in her English 2 classes. She provides guidance and assistance to her ELA peers by sitting in on both ELA 1 and ELA 2 PLCs and providing support as needed. Hudson does an excellent job of connecting and building rapport with her students to ensure they have an excellent ELA experience at Seguin.



Estefania Juarez Sanchez, *Technology Integration & Innovation*

Estefania Juarez Sanchez has only served as the technology integration's department secretary for six months, but in that short amount of time she has exemplified the Arlington ISD Cultural Tenets while serving stakeholders in a variety of ways. She joined the team having served seven years at Wood Elementary in a variety of roles. Since her arrival, Estefania has helped to improve internal systems, completely overhauled the reception and common spaces in the office, provided invaluable support at this summer's Camp Innovation and proactively supported other essential department operations. She's professional and personable and seeks to make every interaction count.

AVOIDING WORKPLACE SAFETY COMPLACENCY

Safety is paramount in the workplace to avoid illness and injury, which is why becoming complacent with safety measures can be so dangerous. Workplace safety complacency is a sense of security in your job that causes you to become less aware of your surroundings. In other words, complacency happens when you go on “autopilot” mode, going through the motions of your job without being fully engaged.

Safety complacency can lead to workplace accidents in which you or a co-worker may be injured. Complacency can also lead to decreased efficiency, as tasks may have to be redone if they were initially executed incorrectly or insufficiently.

There are many steps you can take to combat complacency and promote safety at work. Here are some best practices to consider:

- **Focus on your tasks.** Even if it is something you have done countless times before, making a conscious effort to focus on each step can help you stay more engaged in the task at hand.
- **Eliminate distractions.** Try to limit conversations with co-workers until you are finished with your work, and do not multitask. Keeping your focus on one thing at a time will help you avoid becoming complacent.
- **Switch up your routine, if possible.** For example, if you normally check your emails in the afternoon, try checking them in the morning instead. A new routine keeps you on your toes and makes you less likely to become complacent in your work.

Workplace safety complacency can show itself in many ways. Some signs you may recognize in yourself include:

- Skipping or forgetting steps in your typical work tasks
- Experiencing near-miss incidents
- Feeling a lack of motivation

Some signs you may see in your co-workers include:

- Changes in attitude
- Frequent tardiness
- Shifts in communication, whether it pertains to the frequency or the quality



IT'S TEACHER APPRECIATION TIME FOR TWO OF OUR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS.

First, the Dallas Mavericks have their teacher appreciation night scheduled for Thursday, October 29. You can get a link to discounted tickets [here](#).

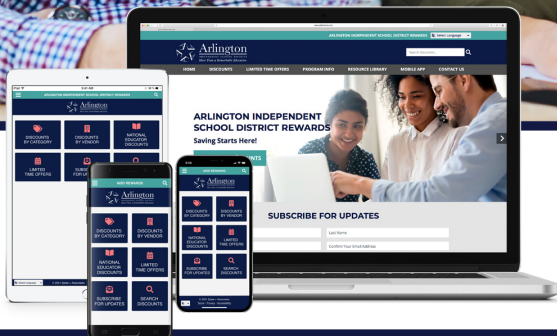
The Dallas Stars have their teacher appreciation night set for Saturday, November 19. With those discounted tickets you also get a teacher appreciation t-shirt. You can get a link for those discounted tickets [here](#).

And if you're really a planner, Arlington ISD Night at the Rangers game is set for April 21. Mark your calendars for that one. It looks like there will be an event-specific cap included this year for Arlington ISD night. Stay tuned!



Arlington

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