

A walk to remember



Greg Haugen and his son Jack spent part of their summer on an epic walk.

If there's an adventure to be had, Lamar assistant choir director Greg Haugen will most surely have it.

Take a couple years ago when Haugen decided to do what he has over the years urged his choir students to do: push their musical limits.

Haugen did just that when he tried out for *The Voice*.

Haugen didn't make it to the finale of the show or achieve the stardom that usually comes with that sort of triumph.

But he did make it past the first round.

"Any time there's a chance for adventure," Haugen said, "that's the route I'm going to take."

No matter how long the route is, apparently.

It was hardly surprising when over the summer Haugen's Facebook friends

SEE HAUGEN, PAGE 3

A message from Dr. Cavazos

Congratulations to Lamar assistant choir director Greg Haugen for finding a great way to spend part of his summer.

The subject of the cover story in this edition of *My ArlingtonISD* found a great way to do some family bonding with his son Jack, who is also a student in our district. From reading the story you can tell it is a memory the two will be able to share for the rest of their lives, and I'm sure they'll never look at a Whataburger the same way.

Dr. Steven Wurtz also writes about the importance of empowering your students. We want all of our employees to own their work and it's just as important for our students to own theirs.

It was great to be able to start the school year by making the first of our employee of the month visits. Surprising outstanding AISD employees is one of the highlights of my month.

There is also a bond overview that gives you a general idea of what will be included in the 2019 Bond.

Hopefully you've had a chance to sign up for our new wellness program with [Virgin Pulse](#). One of the challenges we'll be having this year is a Biggest Loser event on campuses that is slated to start Oct. 7. You can join the more than 160 employees who have already signed up for the challenge by clicking on the [Biggest Loser ad](#) in the newsletter.



Empower your students!

I love to read. Recently, I saw a post on social media that shared how you can spot a person who loves books. It made me chuckle to myself as I read the cited “evidence”.

- Reads several books at one time...
- While also having a stack of books to read next and...
- Keeps a running list of even MORE books.

I guess it's safe to say that I am guilty as charged - I love having my nose in a book. Why do I enjoy reading so much? To me, books are a special way of communicating. The act of reading words slows us down and gives us a chance to consider new things without immediately feeling inclined to jump to a response. We can reflect and chew on things that challenge us within the quiet of our own mind. Books invite us (sometimes even boldly) to consider new ideas that stretch our thinking and expose us to concepts that we may never have thought about otherwise. They reveal new truths that we may sometimes fail to see and force us to reconcile the gap between the world we perceive and the reality around us. Books teach us about people and cultures. They invite us to be pliable and to grow. They challenge our assertions and expand our possibilities. The benefits of reading are endless!

True to form, I was actively in search of a new book and I came across a title that read, “Empower: What Happens When Students **Own** Their Learning.” The word empower grabbed



THE LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

my attention. My mind immediately began processing the word and started analyzing what the author potentially intended by its use. I thought about the relationship between the word own and the word empower. How are these two words connected? Can a person be empowered without ownership? Does ownership generate empowerment?

In the forward of the book, George Couros created a strong visual that represented the continuum of student agency. On one end of the spectrum was compliance. On the opposite end was empowerment. Somewhere in the middle he notated engagement. What an interesting idea! Empowered students are one step further beyond simple engagement in the development of their agency. They are not only engaged in the learning process, but also have the space, tools and permission to own their work. The book's authors, John Spencer and A.J. Juliani, go on to say, “The best educators have always tried to empower their students. They know that if you are truly good at your job as an educator, eventually the students will not need

you... To develop ‘leaders of tomorrow,’ we need to develop them as leaders today.”

How do we empower students to own their work and be self-starters? To start, student ownership is a mindset. It is a shift from a compliance mindset to one that is self-directed. Spencer and Juliani state, “Not every student will become an entrepreneur, but they will all someday need to think like one... They may not invent a company, but they will have to invent and reinvent their jobs in order to stay relevant. In other words, they'll need to be nimble.”

So what can we do to help students learn the skills of a self-starter? Spencer and Juliani suggest:

1. **Inspire them.** Students take initiative and are eager to participate in things that matter to them. Tap into their interests. Get to know your students and learn about what makes them tick.

2. **Create opportunities for self-starting.** Carve out some time in the instructional week for students to have opportunities to self-start on their own learning. For example, have an inquiry-based Wonder Day or Genius Hour where students can choose the topic, genre

and format for learning.

3. **Provide the tools.** At times, students have ideas but lack the tools and resources to see them through. Let's work to support their initiative by providing the tools for students to pursue the things they are most passionate about.

4. **Encourage creative risk-taking.** Growth mindset is key to being a self-starter. Encourage your students to take risks and to accept failure as part of the learning process. Even the greatest inventions of the world came from lots of trial and error.

5. **Model the thinking process.** Show students how you are a self-starter in your own life. What are some ways you personally take initiative and how does that impact the positive way you see yourself?

6. **Affirm it.** Acknowledge when you see your students being self-starters and reinforce the behavior. Practice over time builds strong habits.

7. **Help them find a community.** Self-starters are connected to others. They network with peers and mentors. Finding opportunities to expose students to leaders and self-starters within the school and community can help them understand themselves and envision their future impact.

In the Arlington ISD, one of our cultural tenets is to *own your work*. By empowering our students to own theirs, we are inviting them to use their learning to make a difference. And that is what education is all about!

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer in the AISD

HAUGEN FROM PAGE 1

began receiving a series of posts that he and his 12-year-old son Jack, a seventh grader at Young Junior High, were walking to Jack's grandmother's house.

Now what made this little tidbit of information sharing Facebook worthy was that the grandmother lives in Springtown.

That's 50 miles away.

So in late June, Greg and Jack strapped on backpacks, slapped on a generous helping of sunscreen and went at it. Greg had mapped out as best he could a path that would keep them off highways and places they didn't know at night. Leaving Arlington at the crack of dawn, they made their way just north of Fort Worth, trekking through Hurst and ending in Saginaw. Of course, seeing what's on a map and encountering what is really in your walking path can be tricky, such as having to navigate a creek that seemed to have been hiding on the map.

"I looked at Jack and said, 'Take off your shoes and socks,'" Greg said. "He just looked at me and said, 'What?'"

After hitting a Whataburger in Saginaw - by then it was late - they walked across the street to a hotel.

Jack was out within minutes.

As for Greg, he secretly nursed the blisters on his feet.

"I got a little worried," he said. "Didn't know if we'd even get to the second day."

He did by trying to find other things to occupy his time - songs, games,



By the time Greg and Jack Haugen made it to the Whataburger in Azle, the restaurant was ready for them with gifts and applause.

counting American flags.

"We think we got up to 326," Greg said of the flags.

By then the traveling twosome, who were chronicling the adventure on social media, were going viral. At the Whataburger stop in Azle, just 10 miles short of grandma's house, Greg and Jack were greeted by hoards of family and friends.

Oh, there was a reason for the Whataburger pit stops.

When Greg first brought up the walking expedition idea to his son, "He wouldn't have it," Greg said.

So he did what any respectable dad would do.

He bribed him.

He promised a series of Whataburger stops along the route. Jack could eat whatever he wanted and drown it all down with his favorite, can't-live-without-it Strawberry Fanta.

The son was sold.

Thanks for the social media posting, Whataburger had gotten wind of the whole thing and, by the time they got to Azle, had decorated a table, complete with streamers and balloons.

"We walked in to applause and cheers," Greg said.

Around 9:30 p.m. on June 28, three days after they left Arlington, dad and son strolled up to the front door of grandma's house, weary, relieved and revived.

Mom met them there, too, saying how proud she was of her dynamic duo.

Whataburger lavished the pair with shirts and other swag, including a new pair of Whataburger-inspired shoes. (Greg sported them during his appearance at Operation Inspiration at UTA's College Park Center).

For Greg, the whole experience was far deeper than hanging out at Whataburger.

At a time when teens and their phones are intimately intertwined, they have become somewhat detached from family, finding solace in Snapchats and Instagrams.

The trip put the brakes on that.

"The biggest takeaway is we had a chance to connect in a way that the busyness of life would not have allowed us to do," Greg said. "We talked about school, about church, about life in general. I would not trade that time. We will have some really great memories for a long time."

Greg isn't sure what they might do next summer.

He knows yet another adventure is looming. He just hasn't thought of it yet.

OCTOBER DATES

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

Texas Night Out	Oct. 1
Rosh Hashanah Ends (Sundown)	Oct. 1
Monarch Butterfly Week	Oct. 1-6
Custodial Worker's Recognition Day	Oct. 2
Walk to School Day	Oct. 2
Lamar HS Homecoming	Oct. 4
National Taco Day	Oct. 4
Fire Prevention Week	Oct. 6-12
Yom Kippur Begins/Ends evening to evening	Oct. 8-9
Staff Development/Student Holiday	Oct. 11
Staff Holiday	Oct. 14
National School Lunch Week	Oct. 14-18
World Food Day	Oct. 16
Boss' Day	Oct. 16
World Values Day	Oct. 17
Seguin HS Homecoming	Oct. 18
Elementary Early Dismissal	Oct. 18
National Character Counts Week	Oct. 20-26
National School Bus Safety Week	Oct. 21-25
Red Ribbon Week	Oct. 23-31
Martin HS Homecoming	Oct. 25
Mother-In-Law-Day	Oct. 27
National Cat Day	Oct. 29
Halloween	Oct. 31



Installation of security cameras done

The installation of new security cameras throughout the Arlington ISD as part of the 2014 Bond is complete.

The 4,000 new security cameras have increased the AISD security department's video surveillance from 35 to 80 percent of all AISD buildings and specifically increased coverage in entry-exit points, stairwells, cafeterias, gyms, libraries, hallways, loading docks and playgrounds.

The new digital cameras replaced old analog cameras and provide a better, clearer picture. The digital video taken by the new cameras is saved to a network video recorder (NVR), which offers significantly more storage than the old analog recorders. The District has installed 205 new NVRs funded by the 2014 Bond.

"From a security standpoint, the 2014 Bond provided a tremendous enhancement to the safety of our district," said David Stevens, AISD director of security. "The sheer number of additional cameras, along with the upgrade from analog to digital, allowed our staff to have more visibility of our campuses and facilities. This one project allows our campus, patrol and dispatch operations center staff the opportunity to oversee the activities on a campus in a more effective manner. Further, it provides us the ability to better direct resources during emergency situations, as well as identify involved persons and those affected by incidents that occur. By having all of the cameras in place as we progress through our strategic plan for safety in the district, we are able to focus on expanding their capabilities and also integrate them with our other security systems."



REGISTER NOW





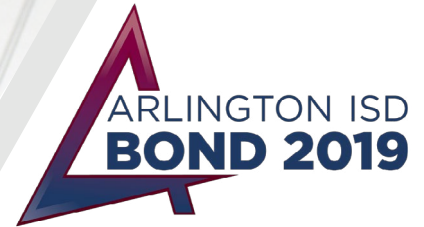
BOND 2019

www.aisd.net/bond2019

NO DEBT SERVICE TAX RATE INCREASE

• Facilities	\$852,726,335
• Safety, Security & Technology	\$90,829,000
• Fine Arts	\$6,955,752
• Transportation	\$15,488,913

TOTAL **\$966 MILLION**



EARLY VOTING Oct. 21 - Nov. 1, 2019
ELECTION DAY November 5, 2019

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

- Address top priority condition needs and life-cycle improvements at all schools (examples include heating and cooling, restrooms, interiors, accessibility, kitchens, etc.).
- Rebuild aging Webb, Thornton and Berry elementary schools; close Roark and Knox elementary schools no longer needed for capacity.
- Rebuild aging, undersized Carter Junior High at the current Knox Elementary site.
- Districtwide elementary playground replacements (including shade structures and age-appropriate, accessible equipment and surfaces)
- Renovations and additions at Gunn Junior High and Arlington High School for districtwide Fine Arts/Dual Language junior high and high school academies
- Additions, renovations and furnishings for new full-day Pre-K program for eligible 4-year olds (specific to campus needs)
- Improvements to fine arts spaces including rehearsal halls, visual arts rooms and auditoriums
- Create competition softball field at each high school campus.
- Renovations at Martin High School to create a third districtwide competition athletic field
- Improvements to Wilemon and Cravens Fields including locker rooms, restrooms, concessions, bleachers, field turf replacement and tracks resurfacing
- High school athletics renovations including new field turf, resurfaced tracks and improvements to gymnasiums, locker rooms and tennis courts
- Junior high athletic field upgrades including restrooms, concessions and storage
- Right-size Bailey Junior High with a classroom and cafeteria addition.
- Dan Dipert Career + Technical Center classroom and lab addition for program demand and expansion
- Career and tech renovations so each high school has comparable spaces for introductory courses
- Raze and rebuild aging, undersized Security and Transportation facilities.
- Safety, Security & Technology: Additional security cameras, upgrade of security and communications systems, replacement of outdated technology and expanded technology access
- Fine Arts: Additional instruments, replacement of uniforms and pianos, and upgrades to theater and visual arts equipment
- Transportation: Replace old buses and service vehicles; expand fleet for program needs and hazardous bus routes.

This list is not comprehensive.

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Risk Management
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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.

**Every great dream
begins with a
dreamer. Always
remember, you
have within you
the strength, the
patience, and the
passion to reach for
the stars to change
the world.**

Harriet Tubman

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Five First-Aid Tips for Common Injuries

Although workplace injuries are extremely common, a survey from the American Heart Association found that only 45% of employees have received any first aid training. Review these tips for five common injuries to ensure that you're able to provide first aid in the event of a sudden injury or illness:

1. Unresponsiveness or lack of breathing

Check for breathing by tilting the head back, then looking and feeling for breaths. Push firmly downward in the middle of the chest and then release. Repeat this at a regular rate until help arrives.

2. Choking

Perform the Heimlich maneuver or hit the person firmly between the shoulder blades to dislodge the object from the throat.

3. Heavy bleeding

Put pressure on the wound to stop or slow down the flow of blood. Keep pressure on the wound until help arrives.

4. Burns

Place the burn under cold, running water for at least 10 minutes. Loosely cover the burn with a clinging film or a clean plastic bag.

5. Broken bones

Have the person support the injury with their hand, or use a cushion or items of clothing to prevent unnecessary movement. Continue supporting the injury until help arrives.



Is your classroom safety violation free?

- Classroom exits and emergency exits including exit windows shall not be obstructed
- Any fire extinguishers should be mounted in plain view and not blocked or hidden
- Classroom door windows should not be covered
- Suspending or hanging decorative items from fire sprinkler pipes is not allowed
- Materials stored on top shelves or cabinets may not be closer than 18 inches to sprinklers/ceiling
- Excess papers and supplies should be stored in approved storage closets
- All bookcases and cabinets shall be secured
- Do not plug more than one extension cord and one power strip to an electric outlet

Most classroom safety violations can be avoided by keeping classrooms clean, neat and well organized. Do not try to store more materials than your room was designed to safely handle. Don't try to exceed the capacity of the rooms' electrical systems. Do not obstruct the existing fire safety systems that are there to protect all occupants. Always be on the lookout for conditions that have the potential to harm our students.



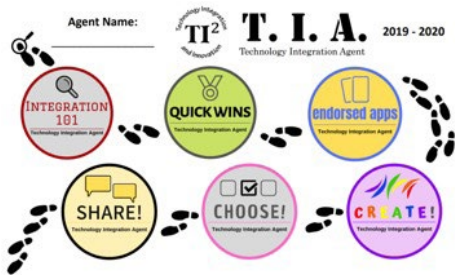
Remember: practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

It's all tech, all the time start to year

The technology integration & innovation department (TI²) is off to a busy start to this school year and is excited to provide a couple of updates related to tech integration, tech usage, and the use of relevant resources in AISD:

Earn Your Badges!

This year, campus technology advisory committees (CTACs) are offering a series of six on-campus trainings designed to prepare teachers to be highly skilled technology integrators in their classrooms.



Become a technology integration agent this year in order to effectively provide your students with learning experiences that afford the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of content TEKS via technology!



Similarly, Seesaw for Schools is being implemented in PK-2 classrooms throughout the district this



Peach Elementary's Teffany Hodge and Dr. Stephanie Lee had one of the top keyboarding elementary campuses in the district.

school year. Teachers at those grade levels have the opportunity to earn their own badges that demonstrate their growing ability to engage AISD's youngest learners in tech integrated activities on a regular basis.

Learning.com Keyboarding Contest

Late last school year, TI² partnered with Learning.com to sponsor a keyboarding contest for students in grades 3-6.

Forty-three campuses participated and students logged a total of more than 6,800 hours of practice time in Learning.com's adaptive keyboarding lessons.

Campuses were ranked according to their average words per minute (WPM), with highest accuracy serving as a tie-breaker.

The winning campuses were: Hill, Corey, Goodman, Morton, Percy and Peach.

Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements about additional Learning.com contests for the 2019-2020 school year.

iCANvas '19 Encore Event

Be advised, a 'mini'-version of TI²'s iCANvas '19 event will be held at the PDC on Saturday, Oct. 19. Access more information at <http://bit.ly/icanvas19encore>



Employee discounts available

Don't forget that you can access our most current employee discounts and perks by going to [Access AISD](#) – our intranet site.

There you can find discounts on everything from Pluckers wings to ways to save money when you're having your pets kenneled.

If you know of more discounts available to AISD employees send an email to Anthony Andro at aandro@aisd.net.

SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Saumi Bonds
Ellis Elementary
Elementary Teacher of the Month



Arthur Aven
Boles Junior High
Junior High Teacher of the Month



Kristi Taylor
Bowie High School
High School Teacher of the Month



Renee Pope
Professional Learning
Department Employee of the Month