

BISD Family Connects

September 2021

The BISD Family Connects newsletter provides parents and families with helpful information about school and community resources and services.

- **P-EBT Benefit Deadline Extended**
- **Become a Mentor Today**
- **Short-Term Career Mentoring for Seniors**
- **Social Emotional Learning Update**
- **Tips for Back to School**
- **A Parent's Guide to ECI and ECSE**
- **Bilingual/ESL Spotlight**
- **Community Resources (Including Vaccine Clinic Sep 7)**
- **Mark Your Calendar!**

P-EBT Benefit Deadline Extended

Great news for families! The application window for 2020-21 School Year P-EBT benefits has been extended until Sept. 13, 2021. If you haven't yet applied, be sure to visit yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT to check your eligibility.

Become a Mentor Today!

For young people who are living through particularly challenging times, a stable adult in their lives can be invaluable. BISD is committed to creating and sustaining meaningful and potentially long-lasting relationships between caring adults and youth through our Mentor Program. You can choose the age group and school you want to mentor in, and we will connect you with a deserving child to mentor.



What are the requirements?

- Complete an application and pass a background check
- Attend a one-time orientation
- Make a one-year commitment
- Spend 30 minutes to 1 hour a week or every other week during school hours
- Play games, eat lunch, work on academics or even share a hobby

For more information, visit <https://www.bisdtx.org/Page/1129> or contact our Director of Community Relations, Karen Trevino at ktrevino@bisdtx.org or by phone at 512-772-7174.

Short-Term Career Mentoring for Seniors

BISD is partnering with the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce and regional businesses to provide a career mentoring program for seniors in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Mentees are paired with qualified and vetted mentors and will meet virtually for 45 minutes each week over the course of 6 weeks. Students and their mentors will follow a protocol of weekly topics including building new relationships, developing self-knowledge, and planning for post-high school opportunities. Eligible CTE classes are receiving information about this opportunity now, and students are opting into this program which will begin in early October.

We are seeking diverse industry professionals to participate as mentors. Questions or expressions of interest in this program can be sent to BISD's Coordinator of Work-Based Learning, Dr. Steven Henn at shenn@bisdtx.org.

Social Emotional Learning

What are Students Learning?

SEL time in these first few weeks has been devoted to building relationships and setting expectations that will help students be successful all year long. Teachers will begin introducing skills to help students focus during instruction, engage in positive self-talk when working on difficult tasks, and feeling empowered to ask for help if needed. Talk to your child about these topics to extend this learning at home.



Self-Care Tip

Our self-care tip for September is simple and efficient. At the end of each day, take five minutes to reflect on your day through journaling or simply thinking about situations that brought on stress. If you notice you're still holding onto that stress in your body, give yourself permission to let it go. If the situation is out of your control, practicing acceptance can be a powerful anecdote to that stress. If the situation is within your control, identify one step you could take to improve it. As this daily reflection becomes a habit, you'll find five minutes can easily extend to 20 minutes or more over time.

Tips for Back to School



- Use a calendar to keep track of school events and deadlines
- Start bedtime routines early
- Prepare lunchboxes and keep them simple
- Find a 'go-to-school' friend
- Talk about homework and ask questions
- Set realistic expectations
- Be prepared for parent-teacher conferences with the handy tip sheet below. To view this tip sheet in Spanish, click [here](#).

Parent-Teacher Conferences: A Tip Sheet for Parents

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. You and your child's school have something in common: you both want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share essential information about your child's talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parent-teacher conferences are a fantastic way to start talking to your child's teachers. This tip sheet suggests ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher conferences so that everyone wins, especially your child.

What should you expect?

- **A two-way conversation.** Like all good conversations, parent-teacher conferences are best when both people talk and listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child's progress in school: Ask to see data about your child's attendance, grades, and test scores. Find out whether your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards.
- **Emphasis on learning.** Good parent-teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better.
- **Opportunities and challenges.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child's progress and areas for improvement.

Checklist: Before the Conference

- ✓ Schedule a time to meet.
- ✓ Review your child's work, grades, and progress reports.
- ✓ Make a list of questions to ask during the conference.
- ✓ Think about ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning so that you can discuss them with the teacher.

Be Heard
Keep these principles in mind for a great parent-teacher conference.

Best intentions assumed
Emphasis on learning
Home-school collaboration
Examples and evidence
Active Listening
Respect for all
Dedication to follow-up

What should you talk to the teacher about?

- **Progress.** Find out how your child is doing by asking questions like: Is my child performing at grade level? How is he/she doing compared to the rest of the class?
- **Assignments and assessments.** Ask to see examples of your child's work. Ask how the teacher gives grades.
- **Your thoughts about your child.** Tell the teacher what you think your child is good at. Explain what he or she needs more help with.
- **Support learning at home.** Ask what you can do at home to help your child learn.

Resources:
Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets
<http://tinyurl.com/y4eagwqr>

Questions to Ask
<http://tinyurl.com/qxz7hu>

How should you follow up?

- **Make a plan.** Write down the things that you and the teacher will each do to support your child. You can do this during the conference or after. Write down what you will do, when, and how often. Make plans to check in with the teacher in the coming months.
- **Schedule another time to talk.** Communication should go both ways. Ask how you can contact the teacher. And don't forget to ask how the teacher will contact you too. Be sure to schedule at least one more time to talk in the next few months.
- **Talk to your child.** The parent-teacher conference is all about your child, so don't forget to include him or her. Share with your child what you learned. Show him or her how you will help with learning at home. Ask for his or her suggestions.

Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative at Region 16 Education Service Center
Funded by Texas Education Agency
www.t1pe@esc16.net

TEA **Region 16**

Harvard Family Research Project: Harvard Graduate School of Education, www.hfrp.org
<http://tinyurl.com/y5bprf4j>

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What is ECI and ECSE?

ECI is Early Childhood Intervention and ECSE is Early Childhood Special Education. To help parents understand more about these services, including explanations, eligibility, and resources, the Texas Education Agency has put together [this helpful guide](#). Parents also can explore what a transition conference looks like from ECI to preschool, the evaluation process, and the continuum of services.



This month we want to share contact information for our bilingual/ESL department. Please let us know how we can serve you.

EL/Bilingual Program Director: Patricia Flores ~ pflores@bisdtx.org

EL Programs Coordinator: Dr. Augustina Lozano ~ alozano@bisdtx.org

Elementary EL Specialists: Silvia Whitaker ~ swhitaker@bisdtx.org and Yadira Avila ~ yavila@bisdtx.org

Secondary EL Specialists: Juan Sanchez ~ jsanchez7@bisdtx.org and Ana Llamo ~ allamo@bisdtx.org

LPAC Specialist/Title III Parent Liaison: Mellisabel Eaves ~ meaves1@bisdtx.org

Administrative Secretary: Erica Figueroa ~ efigueroa@bisdtx.org

Community Resources



FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL CERTIFICATION COURSE

Requirements

- Eligible for literacy services through Texas Workforce Commission
- Eligible to work in the United States
- Has good digital literacy skills
- Able to attend class in person at Bastrop Learning Center Tuesday/Thursday and on Zoom on Mondays from 9/7 to 10/31.
- Able to read at an intermediate level of English or higher

Apply Today

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE
Visit <https://bit.ly/excel2021fall>

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas
512-985-5169

Microsoft Office Excel Certification Course

FREE! Sep. 7 to Oct. 31.
[Register here](https://bit.ly/excel2021fall)



FREE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Register today at:
[COVID Vaccine Event Link 9/7/21](#)

or

Register in person at the event

WHEN:
September 7, 2021
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

WHERE:
Cedar Creek High School
793 Union Chapel Rd, Cedar Creek, TX 78612

FREE EVENT **FAST** **NO INSURANCE REQUIRED**

Free COVID-19 Vaccinations

[Register here.](#)



Ready to work on your English?
Free ESL classes for BISD parents!

Cedar Creek High School (evenings)
Genesis Campus (day and evenings)
Bastrop Middle School (evenings)
Lost Pines Elementary (evenings)
Red Rock Elementary (evenings)

ESL with Spanish GED preparation at Genesis Campus

Citizenship interview preparation during the day or on Saturday at Genesis Campus

REGISTER NOW!

bit.ly/BastropAdultEd

Call for more information or to make an in-person appointment for registration

512-985-5169
<http://bit.ly/BastropLeePayetteAdultEd>

SOME ENGLISH = SOME OPPORTUNITIES

MORE ENGLISH = MORE OPPORTUNITIES

GREAT ENGLISH = GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Free ESL classes for BISD Parents

Register now! 512-985-5169

Mark Your Calendar!

September 6: Staff & Student Holiday

September 7: Staff Development Day/Student Holiday

September 7: Vaccine Event at Cedar Creek HS Cafeteria, 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

September 6-10: Substitute Appreciation Week

September 12: Grandparents Day



September 21: BISD Board of Trustees Meeting at 5:30 pm
Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts

September 21: IT Professionals Day

September 22: First Day of Fall

September 24: First Six Weeks Ends (grades 7-12)

September 27: Second Six Weeks Begins (grades 7-12)



Connect With Us!

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 bisdtx.org