

Continuing Ed. Connection

January 2020

Happy New Year & Welcome Back!

Happy 2020 everyone! We hope that each of you had a wonderful and restful holiday break. Now, it's time for a new semester and year. That equals new opportunities to love GISD students and make an impact every day. Thank you for all that you do to make that happen! Have a wonderful second half of the year!



Upcoming Opportunities:

- 1/11 - SIOP: Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol - This training provides best practices to support ELLs and all students achieve higher levels of success.
- 1/14 - ESL TExES 154 Test Preparation Session 1
- 1/16 - ESL TExES 154 Test Preparation Session 2
- 1/22 - Region 10 Vital Information for Principals
- 1/23 - ESL TExES 154 Test Preparation Session 3 and Mock Test

Upcoming Region 10 Opportunities:

- 1/11 - Meeting the Needs of Long Term ELs
- 1/18 - Readers-Writers Workshop for Secondary ELAR
- 1/25 - School Counselors: Crisis Intervention
- 1/25 - ESL TExES 154 Preparation Course

Shout Outs!

Kristal Lopez - Masters in Curriculum & Instruction

Congratulations to Carver's Kristal Lopez on her completion of her Masters in Curriculum & Instruction from Texas A&M University-Commerce in December. Way to go Kristal!



Holly Lane - Masters in Curriculum & Instruction: Leadership

Congratulations Holly Lane, Curriculum Strategist at WMAB, on her graduation from Liberty University in December. Holly graduated with a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction: Leadership. Way to go Holly!

Starting Second Semester Strong!

Let's be honest; returning from the holiday break can be challenging!

We have all seen the memes and jokes circulating social media about how many educators "really" feel about coming back to work this week. It can be tough. We are trading in weeks of relaxed routines, extra time in PJs, Hallmark movies, time with family and friends, or the like for structure again.

Despite the challenges of reestablishing routines and getting students refocused, there are some critical things we should consider that will help us start on a better foot.

Stop and think for a moment about our students' realities.

How many of your students are anxious to return to school tomorrow because...

- **It means they have regular meals again**
- **They missed the positive interaction that they only receive at school**
- **They haven't heard praise since they left in December**
- **They missed feeling safe and warm**
- **They are excited to interact and feel involved again**
- **It means they have somewhere to go in the afternoons**
- **It means they aren't alone anymore**
- **It means they will get a high-five, hug, or encouragement again**

The truth is many of our students did not have the holiday break that we did or that we often envision. Yes, there are GISD students that were blessed with family and gifts. There are just as many, though,

that struggled over the break!

Tomorrow, when you greet your students, please remember that. Remember that even though it is hard to leave weeks of vacation behind you, there are students that cannot wait to leave those weeks behind them.

Ultimately, choose the attitude that will bring about the best kickoff to this second semester possible. **After all, happy teachers equal happy students!** Challenge yourself to be your best tomorrow and every day this second semester.

Consider tomorrow a mini first day of school where we get to remind GISD students that they were missed, they matter, and they are supported!



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