

Bryant Bulletin

September 4, 2019

Staff Spotlight—Ms. Deanna Krenek



Ms. Krenek is one of our fabulous new 4th grade teachers. Although she comes from an Aggie bloodline, her love of performance arts and a scholarship led her to SHSU where she obtained her BFA in Dance. She then moved to Austin to complete classes in Elementary Education at UT. While her own children were growing up, she served as an active PTA member for 16 years. This is now Ms. Krenek's 13th year in public education. She taught performance arts at the junior high level for 8 years in Waller ISD before coming to Katy ISD as a 4th grade teacher in 2015. Ms. Krenek states she "loves working in education because seeing the world through my

students' eyes keeps me young." She appreciates having the opportunities to interact, collaborate, and laugh each day as she and her students celebrate their learning and grow in new ways. Ms. Krenek enjoys the students' smiles and active participation when they use jingles or movements to help retain concepts. She appreciates their enthusiasm when learning takes them out of their desks and outside of the box. When asked why she love education, Ms. Krenek states, "when I can make a difference by solving a problem or guiding someone towards the right path, I feel like I am where I am meant to be."

Outside of school, Ms. Krenek enjoys creating special moments with her four children, son-in-law, her precious 2 ½ year old granddaughter, and her parents. Fitness through strength training and cardio are priorities, and she "dances around the house every day." Ms. Krenek helps create a Culture of Kindness and Care at Bryant by connecting with her Bengals over common interests and experiences. She loves to turn the spotlight on others by recognizing their efforts and achievements and making sure they feel loved and appreciated. We are so happy to have Ms. Krenek as part of our Bengal Family!!

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

For those families who have been with us since we began, or if you have spoken to me about State Accountability and the STAAR test, you may know that I do not believe the success of a student nor a school can be measured by one day on one test. I also do not believe in stressing kids out by hanging the STAAR test over their heads like a scary monster. Staff members know my expectation that they not even specifically talk about the STAAR test or "THE test" until about 2 weeks out from STAAR testing, where time is taken to specifically review concepts and hone test-taking skills. It is my belief that if our staff teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), build solid relationships with students founded in Kindness and Care, communicate with parents, and follow campus goals, we will do fine on state testing. On that note, I am happy to let you know our staff and students worked hard together to build relationships and focus on common goals last year, which led to our campus earning a letter grade of "A" from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) with a *distinction* in "Top 25 Percent: Comparative Closing the Gaps," in which we scored 100%. Based on data and input from staff and parents, we have defined and refined goals for this school year. I will talk about these goals over the next few weeks in my weekly message.

Lunch Visitors: We are now open for lunch visitors! Please remember that you can visit your student once per week.

Grandparent's Week: We invite Grandparents to have lunch with their grandchildren one time next week. It is imperative that grandparents be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the 1st Day Envelope. If they are not listed, they will not be able to visit their grandchild. This is a safety measure for your child's protection. Each Grandparent will also need a valid state identification card/driver's license/passport. We look forward to meeting grandparents next week!

Notice: We are unable to heat students' lunches. When packing a lunch please ensure you are packing items that do not need heating, refrigeration, etc.

Reminder: Please remember students are not permitted to bring nut products for classroom snacks. We are unable to separate students and control eating environments in the classroom like we can at lunch. In the lunchroom we have allergy seating which separates students who have documented allergies from students who bring food from home.

Paws for Kindness: This year our PTA's major fundraiser will be called Paws for Kindness. Our PTA is doing all the work, which means a very large portion of the funds raised (90%) will be used here at Bryant and not paid to a company who puts on a production, provides the giveaways and plans the final event. Paws for Kindness will celebrate our school culture of Kindness and Care by challenging students to choose specific acts of kindness and complete these acts while family and friends make pledges for these sincere acts. If you own a business or know someone who does and would like to be an event sponsor OR if you want to know how you can volunteer, please email bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com.



After-School Program: The Katy Robotics Academy is coming back to BES in September for 1st-5th Grade students. Students will have a wonderful opportunity to learn computer programming with LEGO robotics this year! Students will learn computer science and robotics concepts through hands-on experience with LEGO EV3 and WeDo robots. Paid registration is first come, first served, and space is limited. To register or find out more information about this amazing program coming to Bryant, visit www.katyroboticsacademy.com

Please note--outside companies rent space at the school and are overseen by the company and its employees. Bryant Staff and Administration are not involved and do not oversee the programs. After school programs have their own method of dismissal, releasing car riders, etc.

From Mrs. Flores, School Counselor:

This Week's Character Challenge: Respect everyone! Respectfully listen to those who are talking to you.

Today, we kicked off the month of September by highlighting our next character trait: Kindness. As you know, this is an important part of our school culture. The dictionary definition of kindness is: "the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate." But it can be so much more than that! The definition we are using in class is "the choice to act with words, gifts, or actions to bring appreciation, positivity, and encouragement to others and yourself."

Students will be understanding the meaning behind kindness and how to practice it in their everyday lives through engaging activities and powerful discussions. If you are looking for ways to extend this trait at home, check out our [K-2](#) resource and [3-5](#) resource. For more information, contact Mrs. Flores.

From the District:

This year the [Department of Special Education](#) will offer training sessions for parents on relevant topics pertaining to special education. Below you will find the Special Education Parent Training Session for September which is also located on the Special Education Website. All training sessions will be held at the Jeanne Coleman Support Annex (JCSA).

Katy ISD Special Education Department, Programs, Supports, and Services
Presenter: Dr. Brian Malechuk, Executive Director for Special Education
Thursday, [September 5, 2019](#)
2:00PM-3:30PM and 4:30PM-6:00PM

Learn more about the Katy ISD Department of Special Education and the programs that are offered across the continuum of supports and services.

The [Legacy Parent Academy](#) will continue in the 2019-2020 school year with sessions focusing on prevalent social-emotional topics. The academy is intended to provide parents with information on current topics that impact students and school districts. Academy sessions are supplemental to campus-based programs and initiatives. The Legacy Parent Academy [webpage](#) includes session descriptions and a link to register for future sessions. The September meeting will focus around cyberbullying. [Click here](#) for more information.

Campus Event Calendar

Thursday, September 5

PTA VIPS Kickoff, 9-10:00am in the LGI.

Monday, September 9

National Teddy Bear Day. Students can wear Pajamas to school (with school appropriate shoes) for the day with a \$1 donation. All proceeds will be donated to the Katy ISD Teddy Cop Buddies Program. [Read more about this project.](#)

Monday, September 9- Friday, September 13

Grandparents Week. Grandparents are invited to visit one day during the week and sit with their grand child(ren) at their *class lunchroom table or visitor table*. Grandparents must be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the First Day Envelope or [completed here](#).

Friday, September 13

PTA Spirit Store Open during lunch times. *If students will make purchases, please place money in a sealed ziplock bag labeled with student name and indicating the money is for Spirit Store.*

Tuesday, September 17

PTA Watch DOGS Orientation and Pizza Night, 6-7:00pm in the gym.
Progress Reports go home for 1st-5th Grade students

Thursday, September 19

Fall Picture Day

Friday, September 20

PTA "Paws for Kindness" fundraiser begins

Tuesday, September 24

PK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, ECAP, YCAP, and ASIP Open House, 6-7pm

Wednesday, September 25

Wear a College Shirt Day

Thursday, September 26

3rd, 4th, 5th, YCAP, and ASIP Open House, 6-7pm

Information from the PTA

PTA VIPS Kickoff - September 5th

Please join us on Thursday, September 5th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the LGI Room for our annual VIPS Kickoff. If you are interested in volunteering but don't know where or how to help out, this is a great time to come and find out more about all the exciting things we have planned this school year and all of our different volunteer opportunities.

You will also have the opportunity to meet your 2019-2020 PTA Board and those heading up many of our events. You can ask questions and learn first-hand about where you can put your talents to use.

Come make some new volunteer friends!

If you are unable to attend but you are interested in volunteering, please contact Christina Rannigan at:

bryantptavolunteers@gmail.com.

"Paws for Kindness" Fundraising Committee

We are gearing up for our major fall fundraiser and are looking for parents who would like to be a part of our planning committee. This year, our fundraiser will be coordinated by our PTA, and there are a number of roles, big and small, that you can help us with to guarantee this fundraiser is a success for our school and an amazing experience for our children. It's time to "Paws for Kindness." For more information, please email

bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com.