

Parents and Families Newsletter

Spring 2023

All content will be trans-adapted for a Spanish version of the newsletter.

Other languages are available through the S'more newsletter.

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Parent & Family Newsletter! In the first half of the school year, your child had the opportunity to establish routines in class and in extracurricular activities. Now that the second half of the school year has begun, learning will intensify as teachers work to ensure your child learns all grade-level content. As parents, we know that you might feel the pressure of class projects, reports, and tests, which are all opportunities for your child to show what they have learned. This newsletter will list ways you can help your child at home during this potentially rigorous time.

Storyline Online



TELPAS/ STAAR



Intellectual Self-Care



Don't forget to fill out a [quick survey](#) to share any information or suggestions you might have for the next newsletter. We value your input!

Announcements

TELPAS Testing



Emergent bilingual students in K-12 will take the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) between **February 20, 2023, and March 31, 2023**. Check with your child's school to find out the exact dates. TELPAS measures your child's

English language growth in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Additional ways to help your child be ready for the TELPAS can be found in this [brochure](#). For more information on the TELPAS, please visit [txel.org](https://www.txel.org) or go directly to this [FAQ](#).

Visit this [page](#) to view the assessment windows for ALL state tests.

College Planning Checklist for High School Students

College planning involves many moving parts. Below is a checklist that will help as you prepare to send your child to college.

1. Research colleges you'd like to attend
2. Visit Campuses
3. Meet with high school counselor
4. Take the ACT/SAT exam
5. Fill out college applications
6. File the Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)*

*Parents/guardians complete tax information needed

College Board Visit this [page](#) to view more college preparation information.

Resource Center

At-Home Learning Sites for Students

The following educational websites are free resources schools have shared that will help your child improve their English language skills.

The logo for Storyline Online, featuring the words "Storyline Online" in a white serif font on a dark red rectangular background.

[Storyline Online](#)

Target Skills: Reading, Listening, Comprehension

Recommended Grade Levels: PK - 4

Watch actors read books aloud and use the activity guide to help with comprehension.

The easiest way to use this resource is to:

1. Open Storylineonline.net, and Click on "All Books."
2. Select a book.
3. Click on the image to open the recording.
4. Click on "Activity Guide" to read about the themes in the book.
5. Listen to the story with your child and discuss the book's theme.

We recommend that you start with "[The Busy Life of Ernestine Buckmeister](#)" by Linda Ravin Lodding.



Epic

Target Skills:

Reading, Listening, Comprehension

Recommended Grade Levels: K-12

Find lessons and activities for all grade levels.

Epic is a library of online storybooks, audiobooks, fairy tales, and more.

1. Open [Getepic.com](https://www.getepic.com), and click on "I'm an adult," then, "Parent."
2. Select "Get Epic Basic" to get free access to books.
3. Once you create your free account, add your child's name to the account.
4. Select "Explore" to find a book.
5. Sit with your child to read or listen to the book.
6. Discuss the book with your child.

"[My Favorite Animal: Humpback Whales](#)" by Victoria Marcos is a great read!



Prodigy

Target Skills: Math and English

Recommended Grade Levels: K-8

Engage in fun activities that teach math and English.

This app has a free version that you can use to help your child practice basic math and English skills. Once you create your account, your child's progress will be tracked, making it easier for you to monitor their progress.

1. Go to [prodigy.com](https://www.prodigy.com), and select the "Teachers and Parents" button.
2. Create a FREE account, and then add your child as a student for Math and/or English.
3. Have your child open a new window at Prodigy.com and click the "Play Now" button.
4. Your child can play any game they would like.
5. Log in when they are finished so you can track their progress.

At-Home Learning Strategies

Nowadays, cell phones and computers can be found everywhere! However, you can still implement safety measures to make sure your child uses the internet properly and with care. The article, "[Help Your Child Learn to Use the Internet Properly and Effectively](#)," found on [ColorinColorado.org](#), describes several ways to support your child with effective internet use. Three of them are listed below.

Side-By-Side

Sit side-by-side with your child and have your child show you what they do when they get on the computer or phone. Have them show and explain what they are doing and why. This could be a great way for them to share their favorite websites and talk about their fun hobbies, while also giving you more information on their online activity.

Inspiring Curiosity

Share some websites you think are appropriate with your child, including their school's website and some of the resources found in our newsletter. Spending a little time each day showing your child new online resources can help direct them toward learning sites and inspire curiosity.

"Screen" Time

American children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games, and using the internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities. Set a timer when your child is spending time in any of these activities to ensure that they limit their "screen" time.

Read

The best way to limit screen time is to encourage your child to read. Watch the video below on some helpful ways to ensure that your child is reading at home.

Encourage your child to read!



[Family Literacy Tips for Older Children and Teens: A Lifelong Love of Reading](#)

Self-Care Tips

This quarter, we are focusing on Intellectual Self-Care from the [8 types of self-care](#) for caregivers from the Daily Caring article. Intellectual self-care refers to the act of taking time to care for yourself by enriching your mind.

There are many ways to support intellectual self-care without formal education. One way that is described in the article is listening to podcasts, reading books, and embracing new ideas. Podcasts can be found on music apps, web browsers, and podcast apps. Search for a topic that interests you, and start listening. This type of learning keeps life interesting and provides opportunities for growth. Remember to check out our previous newsletter for advice on physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual self-care.









Final Thoughts

Tests

An important part of a school's instructional plan are tests. They serve as an ongoing guide for instruction. As parents, the greatest support you can provide is ensuring your child has routines at home, attends school regularly, and engages in at-home learning activities. Having regular discussions with your child about what they are learning in class will strengthen the critical thinking they need to show what they know on tests, and it will also keep you informed about what your child is learning.

Previous Newsletters

If you would like to access the previous Parent and Family Newsletters, click below!

	<p>Winter 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Help your child develop routines that will ensure daily success including morning, homework, and nighttime routines.</p>
	<p>Fall 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Identify ways to team up with your child's teacher to support your child throughout the year.</p>
	<p>August 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Learn about setting up good routines to prepare for school as well as suggestions on how to add in emotional self-care routines.</p>
	<p>July 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Find out what to do if your child has changed schools, help your child develop some practical skills around the house, and get some tips for physical self-care routines.</p>
	<p>June 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Learn about ways to keep your child engaged both mentally and physically. Also, check out numerous websites for local and digital adult English classes.</p>
	<p>May 2022 Newsletter Highlights</p> <p>Visit the Goodwill Community Foundation for free courses about various technology programs.</p>

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Supporting English Learners in Texas



[TXEL.org](#) is a web portal that provides information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support educational leaders, teachers, parents and families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's English learners.

Contact us at: <https://www.txel.org/contact/>

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