

THE INSIDER

2023



GREEN THUMBS & BRIGHT MINDS
*The intersection of gardening and
STEAM education at Levi Fry*

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION
*New technology enhances student
learning and development*

EMPOWERING STUDENTS
*Tailored learning propels TCISD's
educational transformation*

THE INSIDER

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

District, community efforts result in significant strides



I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and achievements happening within our district this past year. Over the past year, our collective efforts have resulted in significant strides academically and in various other areas that directly impact our students' growth and success.

Our dedicated teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to implement innovative teaching strategies, personalized learning approaches, and comprehensive support systems. As a result, we have witnessed remarkable progress across all grade levels, with students achieving commendable academic milestones.

Another area of pride is the increased family engagement within our school community. We have recognized the importance of building strong partnerships with parents and guardians, understanding that a collaborative effort leads to the best outcomes for our students. Through various initiatives, workshops, and interactive sessions, we have witnessed a surge in parental involvement, which has undoubtedly contributed to the overall growth and development of our students.

Moreover, we are delighted to share that our enrollment numbers have experienced a significant increase. This reflects the trust and confidence parents have placed in our school and the quality education we provide. We believe this rise in enrollment is a testament to our commitment to excellence and the positive experiences shared by our current families.

Additionally, we have expanded our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming to equip our students with practical skills and valuable certifications. By providing a diverse range of career pathways and opportunities, we are empowering our students to explore their interests and make informed decisions about their future. We are thrilled

to witness their successes as they graduate with industry-recognized certifications and skills that make them highly competitive in the job market.

Furthermore, our fine arts and athletics departments have achieved remarkable milestones. Our talented students have excelled in various artistic endeavors, including music, theater, visual arts, and more. Their creativity, dedication, and passion continue to impress us, and we are proud to provide a nurturing environment that supports their artistic growth.

Similarly, our athletes have brought home numerous victories and accolades in various sports. Their hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship have elevated our school's reputation in the athletic arena. We commend them for their accomplishments and the values they embody as representatives of our school.

Lastly, we are elated to inform you that our recent bond election was a resounding success. Thanks to your support and dedication, we have secured funding for crucial upgrades and new buildings that will enhance the learning environment for our students. These improvements will ensure that our facilities align with the high standards we have set for academic excellence, providing a modern and conducive space for our students to thrive.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and partnership in shaping the educational journey of our students. Together, we are making a profound impact on their lives and preparing them for a successful future. We look forward to celebrating more accomplishments with you and remain committed to providing the best educational experience for every child in our care.

Dr. Melissa Duarte

Superintendent of Schools



GREEN THUMBS & BRIGHT MINDS

The intersection of gardening and STEAM education at Levi Fry Intermediate

In a little corner of the Levi Fry Intermediate campus, a garden overflowing with a variety of vegetables and herbs provides an avenue for students to grow their green thumbs while sowing the seeds of curiosity and planting a love for nature as part of Levi Fry's Garden Club.

The Levi Fry Garden Club started in 2021 as part of the school's STEAM program that promotes science, math and art opportunities. Science teacher Bailey Kuhn and band teacher Brandon Guerrero lead the club, which gives students the opportunity to grow produce, care for plants and learn useful techniques such as canning and entrepreneurship through the club's farmer's market.

Guerrero said the students have the responsibility of preparing the garden for each season of planting, which consists of weeding and tilling the garden beds and then keeping up weed maintenance throughout the growing seasons.

"They learn to spot the difference between weeds and different types of seedlings, water plants, fertilize and help rid the plants of pests," he said. "It's a lot of work maintaining and caring for the plants as the students understand they are living organisms and can be very temperamental sometimes."

Participating in the garden club offers the students the opportunity to become responsible for other living things and they learn that when not taken care of, bad things can happen, Guerrero said.

They are taught the importance of being punctual every morning so they make use of valuable time and also how to believe in themselves because they are the ones who help the crops succeed for a successful harvest. Students have planted a consistent crop of cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers and even introduced eggplants and onions to the garden.

Guerrero added that the garden club's activities align with the school's STEAM program with its focus on science and math that includes the lifecycles of plants and use of measurements to help space crops as they plant the garden each season.

"The club offers students the chance to learn about the different factors it takes to care for crops such as the amount of water, fertilizer and even sunlight that different plant species need to survive," he said. "We've discussed the scientific processes to preserve our cucumbers and other produce so that we have product to sell at our farmer's market days."

Care for the garden doesn't stop at the end of the school year. Kuhn and Guerrero spend time during the summer checking on the plants so they can keep them thriving and ready for the students' return in the fall.

Guerrero said he, Kuhn and the students are grateful to have the support of the Levi Fry administration and the community and the respect that the community gives to the outdoor garden and the students' efforts to sell their produce.

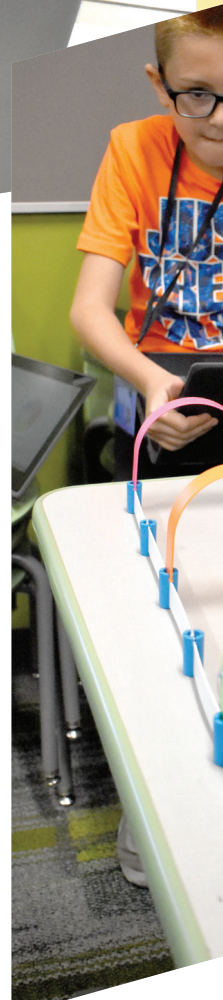
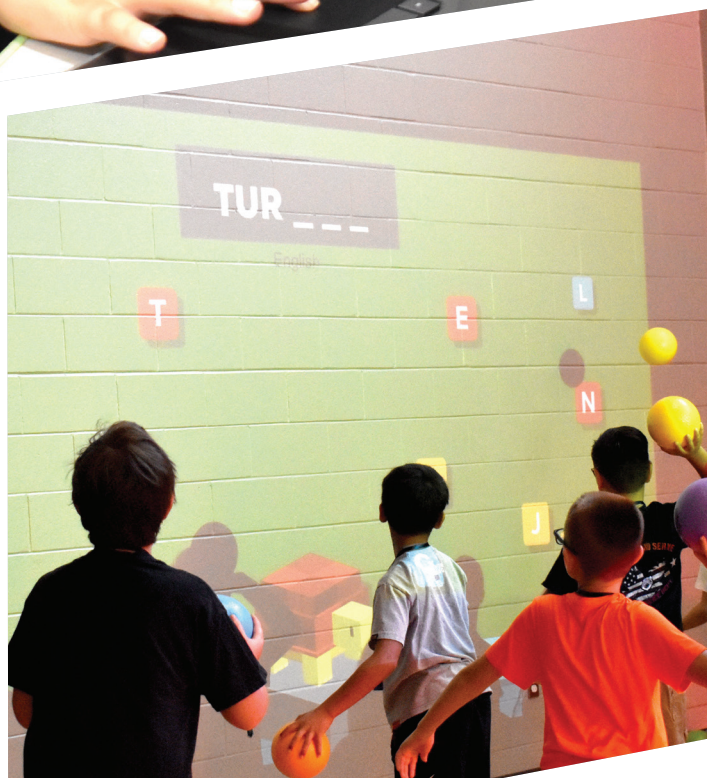
"We spend hours caring for our crops and are excited when we get to harvest the fruits of our labors," he said.

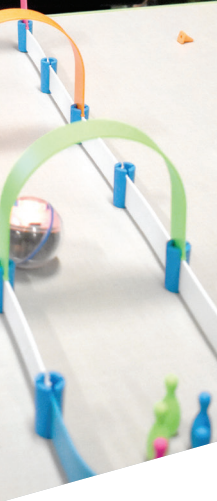
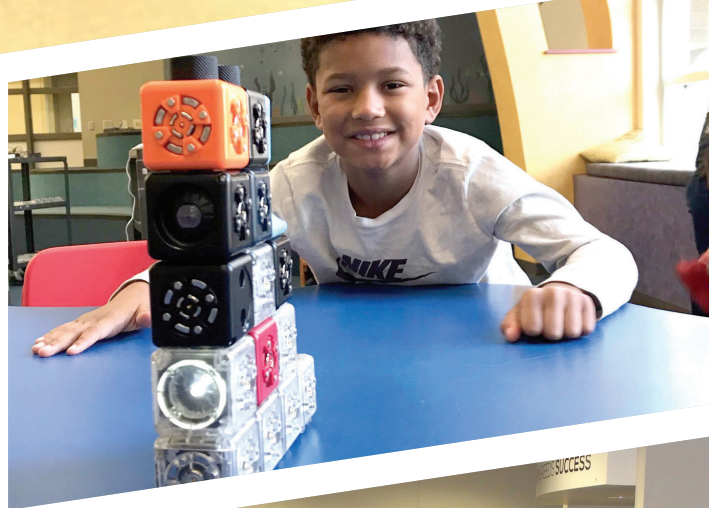
Anyone interested in purchasing produce throughout the summer can contact Guerrero at bguerrero@tcisd.org.



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

New technology enhances student learning and development in Texas City ISD





In a time defined by rapid technological advancements, school districts must continually adapt to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in a fast-paced and interconnected world. From active, motion-driven devices to robots and virtual reality, Texas City ISD has implemented several new and innovative technologies to revolutionize the learning experience for its students.

Alicia Jordal, TCISD's technology implementation coordinator, said the introduction of technologies like the Lu Wall, Active Floor, Sphero and Indi robots and Virtual Reality headsets are changing the learning experience for students by providing them the ability to actually see a connection and engage with what they are learning.

"If you're filling out a worksheet or answering something, you can look at it and maybe there are diagrams to show you how it's built or works," she said. "But if they can actually build it or manipulate it, they're really engaging their brain to make something work."

The introduction of these new technologies has also sparked a transformation in classroom dynamics, enabling teachers to deliver lessons that are more interactive, personalized and captivating. One of the pilot lessons for the virtual reality headsets was in a Texas City High School English class where students were reading *The Great Gatsby*. Through virtual reality, the teacher was able to place students inside Gatsby's mansion and walk them through the streets of New York to see the various locations in the book.

"They get to see something in a very different way and it develops discussion that maybe wouldn't come up otherwise," Jordal said. "From seeing a historical depiction of New York, the kids then wanted to learn more about the city, so we looked it up on Google to see how the city has changed and they asked more and more questions."

One of the benefits of the new technology integration is the ability to offer personalized learning experiences for each student. One example of this, Jordal said, was when kindergarten students at Kohfeldt Elementary participated in a parade of Indi robots. The robots are cars that respond to colored cards that direct them to perform certain movements.

"They worked together to use the cards to set a parade route and were also each able to decorate their cars to personalize them," she said. "There was an individualized element and a teamwork element, and they get to use creativity on top of learning a skill."

Jordal said the ultimate goal with introducing these new technologies is to help students become digitally literate and provide them with the skills for success in their future.

"The technologies are helping them to become future changemakers in a 21st Century world by bringing curriculum to life through integrating project-based learning, collaboration, problem-solving, innovation and critical thinking," she said. "The skills provide a great foundation for the students beyond their K-12 career."

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

TCISD's new curriculum helps elevate student engagement and performance

Texas City ISD has introduced new curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade that is redefining the way students connect with learning. Teachers are focusing on active participation and hands-on experience to empower students to become enthusiastic participants in their own education.

Kami Hale, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said TCISD works with teachers and administrators to provide students with the resources they need to be successful.

"This includes providing curriculum that meets state standards while designing lessons that inspire students to learn and prepares them for high school and beyond," she said.

The district implemented several new programs during the 2022-2023 school year to help students meet those goals. A two-way dual language program started with 48 kindergartners who are receiving instruction in English and Spanish, which will continue through 6th grade. More than 150 eighth-grade students were recruited for Texas City ISD's new Early College High School, which will start this fall. The students will have the opportunity to graduate with an associate's degree or earn 60 hours of college credit in addition to their high school diploma. The district's career and technical education programs were also expanded to provide diverse programs to all students that help meet the needs of a global workforce.

Hale said teachers work with students in small groups so they receive individualized instruction to meet their needs.

"Students learn in many different ways, so it is important that our curriculum targets multiple learning styles and provides the support students need," she said.



The district also recognizes that integrating technology into the classroom is essential and in the past year has implemented cutting-edge technological tools. From virtual reality headsets to active floors that engage students through movement, students now have access to an array of digital learning materials.

"These technologies complement what is being learned and provide additional opportunities for students," Anne Anderson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, said.

In addition to engaging students in their learning, Anderson said TCISD also strives to offer meaningful opportunities to parents through campus events, promotion of campus highlights and inclusion in site-based

committees such as parent-teacher organizations and booster clubs.

"We are also focused on developing a parent support center that will provide valuable information and resources to parents," she said.

Hale said the district has already seen an increase in student engagement and a shift from teacher-focused instruction to student-focused.

"Our district values student engagement," she said. "Teachers have been trained to teach in a way that focuses on students being active participants in the lessons and this helps deepen student understanding and allows students to apply their knowledge across multiple subjects."





BACK TO SCHOOL



What you need to know for
the 2023-2024 school year

**School starts
August 16**

REGISTER NOW





TEXAS CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

P.O. BOX 1150, Texas City, TX 77590 | (409) 916-0100 | www.tcisd.org

JULY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	SH	8
9	10	11	12	13	SH	15
16	17	18	19	20	SH	22
23	24	25	26	27	SH	29
30	31					

July 4 Independence Day (District closed)

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	SH	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug. 3 New Teacher Staff Development
Aug. 7-8 Exchange Day/New Teacher Staff Development
Aug. 9-15 Teacher Inservice
Aug. 16 First Day of School/ 1st Nine Weeks Begins

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sept. 4 Student/Staff Holiday (Labor Day)

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Oct. 16 1st Nine Weeks Ends
Oct. 17 2nd Nine Weeks Begins
Oct. 30 Staff Development
Oct. 31 Parent Conferences (No classes)

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov. 17 Staff Development
Nov. 20-24 Student/Staff Holiday (Thanksgiving Break)

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Dec. 5-15 STAAR Testing
Dec. 20 Early Release Day/ 2nd Nine Weeks Ends
Dec. 21-29 Student/Staff Holiday (Christmas Break)

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan. 1-3 Student/Staff Holiday (Christmas Break)
Jan. 4-5 Staff Development
Jan. 8 3rd Nine Weeks Begins
Jan. 15 Student/Staff Holiday (MLK Day)

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Feb. 16 Staff Development
Feb. 19 Student/Staff Holiday

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 11-15 Student/Staff Holiday (Spring Break)
March 18 3rd Nine Weeks Ends
March 19 4th Nine Weeks Begins
March 29 Student/Staff Holiday (Good Friday)

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 9-12 STAAR Testing
April 16-18 STAAR Testing
April 19 Student/Staff Holiday
April 22 Staff Development
April 23-30 STAAR Testing

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 1-3 STAAR Testing
May 24 Last Day of School/ Early Release Day/ 4th Nine Weeks Ends
May 27 Student/Staff Holiday (Memorial Day)
May 28-29 Staff Development

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	SH	8
9	10	11	12	13	SH	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 18-28 STAAR Testing Make-up

LEGEND New Teacher Staff Dev. Teacher Inservice Student/Staff Holiday Staff Dev. Day (No Students) Parent Conf. Exchange Day
 Early Release Day STAAR Testing Beginning of Nine Weeks End of Nine Weeks Summer Hours (Offices Closed)

Revised 6/26/2023

*STAAR testing dates are subject to change per TEA

Download the calendar from our website.

2023-2024 SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

- 2 box of facial tissues
- 2 8-oz. bottles school glue
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- 1 pkg. paper plates (no styrofoam)
- 1 roll paper towels
- 1 box crayons
- Dry erase markers
- Watercolors
- 1 pkg. of socks in your child's size
- 1 pkg. of underwear in your child's size
- 1 clear backpack (non-rolling, not mesh) with child's name on straps only

KINDERGARTEN

- 1 pair metal scissors
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 4 large pink erasers
- 6 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- 4 8-oz. bottles school glue
- 8 glue sticks
- 2 pkgs. asst. construction paper, 12x18
- 2 pkgs. manila paper, 12x18
- 1 plastic school supply box
- 1 3-ring pencil pouch
- 1 composition notebook, wide-ruled
- 2 plastic folders with pockets and brads
- 2 pkgs. dry erase markers
- 1 pkg. 8-count washable markers
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- 2 large boxes facial tissue
- 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- 1 pkg. baby wipes
- Girls: 1 pkg. brown paper lunch bags
1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- Boys: 1 pkg. 9-inch paper plates
1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- 1 pair of earbuds

1ST GRADE

- 1 pair metal scissors
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 4 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- 2 8-oz. bottles school glue
- 1 pkg. assorted construction paper, 9x12
- 1 pkg. manila paper, 12x18
- 1 plastic school supply box
- 8 glue sticks
- 4 composition notebooks, wide-ruled
- 2 highlighters
- 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- 2 large boxes facial tissue
- 4 pink erasers
- 2 8-oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- 4 vinyl folders with pockets
- 4 dry erase markers
- Girls: 2 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of earbuds

2ND GRADE

- 1 pair pointed scissors
- 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- 3 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 ruler
- 4 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled (70-count)
- 1 pkg. of notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 6 dry erase markers, black
- 8 pink erasers
- 1 zipper pouch
- 1 binder, 1-inch (white preferred)
- 1 pkg. 5-count dividers
- 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- 4 large boxes facial tissue
- 2 8-oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- 2 vinyl folders with pockets and brads
- Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
1 pkg. asst. construction paper, 9x12
one-piece swimsuit
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
1 pkg. manila paper (9x12)
one pair swim trunks
- 1 pair of earbuds

3RD GRADE

- 1 pair pointed scissors
- 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- 1 pencil pouch
- 4 pink erasers
- 2 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- 4 glue sticks
- 3 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled
- 3 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 1 pkg. asst. construction paper
- 1 pkg. manila paper
- 1 pkg. index cards
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- 2 composition books
- 2 red pens
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 2 dry erase markers
- 5 vinyl folders with pockets and brads
- 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- 4 large boxes facial tissue
- 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (sandwich)
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of earbuds

4TH GRADE

- 1 pair pointed scissors
- 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- 2 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- 6 glue sticks
- 2 pkgs. of highlighters
- 1 pkg. red pens
- 3 composition notebooks
- 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- 1 school supply pouch
- 1 box map pencils

- 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- 4 pocket folders with brads
- 2 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 1 pkg. dry erase markers
- 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- 3 large boxes facial tissue
- 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
1 pkg. large construction paper
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
1 pkg. manila paper
- 1 pair of earbuds

5TH GRADE

- 1 pkg. construction paper
- 5 folders with pockets and brads
- 1 pkg. map pencils
- 6 pkgs. No. 2 pencils
- 2 pkgs. blue or black ink pens
- 1 pencil pouch
- 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- 2 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 5 spiral notebooks
- 2 composition notebooks
- 3 large boxes facial tissue
- 2 dry erase markers, black
- 1 handheld pencil sharpener
- 1 bottle of glue
- 4 pkgs. index cards
- 1 student scissors
- 1 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of earbuds

6TH GRADE

- 5 folders with pockets and brads
- 2 pkgs. map pencils
- 1 pkg. blue or black ink pens
- 6 pkgs. No. 2 pencils
- 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- 6 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 8 spiral notebooks
- 2 pkgs. index cards
- 3 large boxes facial tissue
- 1 handheld pencil sharpener
- 1 bottle of glue
- 1 wooden ruler
- 2 dry erase markers, black
- Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
1 pkg. 9x12 construction paper
- Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
1 pkg. 12x18 construction paper
- 1 pair of earbuds

7TH-12TH GRADES

- Students will need notebook paper, pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, folders and binders. Specific teacher supply lists will be provided on the first day of school.
- 1 pair of earbuds

** Additional supplies may be requested by the teacher on the first day of school. Please send all supplies at one time. Put your child's name on all outdoor clothing and backpack straps. Supplies should be replaced throughout the year. Rolling backpacks are not acceptable.*

P3 CAMPUS

Texas City ISD uses an anonymous tip reporting application called P3 Campus, a vital tool that has proven to keep our schools and students safe.

School community members can report about a wide range of concerns, from mental health issues to threats of violence through our P3 Campus mobile app or through any web browser at P3.Campus.com.

Download the free app today on your phone and encourage your students to do the same. If you know about a potential threat, please report it immediately.

KEEP TCISD SAFE

SEE IT? - SAY IT! - DON'T SPREAD IT - REPORT IT

SEE IT: We need you to partner with us to report threats.

SAY IT: Immediately report suspicious activity.

DON'T SPREAD IT: Spreading threats is very dangerous.

REPORT IT: We take all threats and reports seriously.



TEXAS CITY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE!

Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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SAFETY RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Texas City ISD has adopted the "I Love You Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol. Students and staff will be training, practicing and drilling the protocol throughout the year.

WHAT IS A SECURE EVENT?

Secure is called when there is something dangerous outside the building. Students and staff are brought into the building and doors are locked. The event may not be on school grounds.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A SECURE EVENT?

No. Every effort is made to conduct classes as normal during a Secure event.

WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN A SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a Secure event is brief or the hazard is non-violent, like a stray animal on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place. With longer or more intense events, the school should notify parents that the school has increased their security. Please note, we will communicate once accurate information is gathered and verified.

WHAT IS A LOCKDOWN EVENT?

A Lockdown is called when there is something dangerous inside the building. Students and staff are trained to enter or remain in a room that can be locked and maintain silence. A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A LOCKDOWN?

The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. It's understandable, but perhaps problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or even the campus. If parents are already in the school, they will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

SHOULD PARENTS TEXT THEIR STUDENTS?

The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware, though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis. In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for a student-parent reunification.

GETTING A SUCCESSFUL START

Kindergarten teacher offers tips on how to help children have a great first year

For many Texas City ISD students, their first exposure to the classroom comes on the first day of kindergarten when they step foot inside the halls of a school for the very first time. It's an exciting time, and possibly a scary one as they experience new things. Often, not only is it new for the students, it's also new for their parents.

So, how can parents help their students navigate these new changes and experiences so they can have a successful first school year? Guajardo Elementary kindergarten teacher Marla Iles said practicing a few basics to get them started goes a long way.

"The first two or three weeks of kindergarten is really just practicing," she said. "How to hang up a backpack, how to put your folder in a box, how to take turns, share, and follow procedures like lining up; pretty much anything they need to know."

Iles said parents can practice those skills at home as well, so their students develop the habits. One suggestion is to have students practice one or two-step directions, like go get their shoes and put them in the closet.

Another thing Iles said teachers find is that many kindergartners haven't developed the fine motor skills necessary to correctly hold a pencil or use scissors. Playing with Playdough, tearing pieces of paper and

practicing tracing squiggly lines or cutting pictures out of a magazine can help build a student's hand muscles. Practicing opening their lunch items is also helpful.

Kindergarten is the time to get a jumpstart on learning and Iles said there's a lot that students will learn during their first year in school – counting, saying their ABCs, shapes and more. By the time a student leaves kindergarten, they should be able to read three lines per page, count to 100, count backwards from 20, identify their shapes and identify coins.

"Practice their sight words, practice counting, practice saying their ABCs and not singing them, count and sort pennies and have them tell you how many," Iles said. "If parents do easy things like that that they can do one-on-one with their kid, it will help them keep up."

For parents getting younger kids ready to come into kindergarten next year, Iles had a few suggestions as well. Have your child practice sitting for 5-10 minutes and give them simple directions to follow. Lots of hands-on activities are beneficial as well, including holding a pencil and sorting and picking things up.

"Give them a pair of tweezers and have them pick things up just to build those fine motor skills," she said. "It will do so much to get them ready."



SUPERINTENDENT'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

This award promotes academic excellence and recognizes students who demonstrate exemplary academic scholarship in grades 6-12. Students must maintain an A average for every course each semester, meet attendance requirements each semester and maintain an excellent discipline record in order to receive the award. The Academic Achievement Award recipients are listed with the number of years they have received the award.

12TH GRADE

Kaitlyn Allen, 1
Kaden Allison, 1
Wyatt Brasher, 2
Samuel Cambric, 1
Madison Carr, 1
Ian Cortez, 4
Shelby Deromie, 2
Nicholas Devasier, 1
Kishan Dobariya, 1
Martha Escobedo, 1
Baily Gaitan, 1
Elias Garcia, 1
Vivian Garms, 2
Jaden Garrett, 1
Manuel Gonzales IV, 2
Jessica Goolsby, 1
Elizabeth Gregurek, 1
Kylie Herm, 4
Wyatt Hernandez, 1
Trent Hooks, 3
Peyton Jay, 1
Anya Jones, 1
Leonel Juarez, 1
Mariangel Lopez Salas, 1
Yahir Martinez, 1
Emie McCoy, 2
Talia Miller, 1
Minenaya Moore, 2
Holden Musick, 3
Reagan Musick, 4
Tava Obungu, 1
Eric Ovalle, 5
Libny Paxtor Gomez, 3
Priscilla Perez, 1
Emma Perryman, 2
Wyatt Pevoto, 2
Kaiden Prall, 1
Cristina Ramirez, 1
Julianna Ramirez, 1
Raven Ratliff, 1
Judith Reyes, 1
Seviou Richardson, 1
Adriana Saucedo, 1
Marissa Self, 1
Joleen Sonnier, 3
Madison Swain, 1
Yesenia Villatoro-Rivera, 3
Eric Williams, 1
Ja'Breel Woods, 1

Brayden Zaragoza, 2
Leslie Zuniga, 1

11TH GRADE

Lexie Allred-Rojas, 1
Marian Ashcraft, 7
Katy Bennett, 1
A'Maree Bledsoe, 1
Miguel Campos, 5
Adrian Castaneda, 3
Janeese Castille, 2
Nicholas Clements, 1
Emily Coronado, 1
Jordan Davis, 1
Avery Demers, 1
Karla Fabela, 7
Stefanie Fernandez, 1
Camryn Greif, 1
Jasia Harris, 1
Erica Ikaria, 2
Emma Kelly, 1
Azalea Longoria, 7
Lily Melchor, 7
Mya Miranda, 5
Myla Mosley, 1
Alaysia Murray Bordelon, 1
Michael Piazza, 3
Emma Prolic, 3
Marlyn Reyes, 1
Maria Romero, 1
Gabriel Rowland, 1
Cynthia Sanchez, 1
Kylie Schmidt, 3
Nicole Spriggs, 7
Avery Torres, 5
Madison Kay Tucker, 7
Augustine Veliz, 3
Breeanna Wilson, 5
Zachary Wilstead, 1
Ethan Zepeda, 6

10TH GRADE

Ava Anderson, 1
David Fuentes III, 6
Jamal Hurt, 3
Jenna Povse, 1
Caybree Presley, 2
Derek Rodriguez, 6
Jayda Rodriguez, 6
Melanie Sepulveda, 1
Kailey Thompson, 5

Alexander Tinney, 1
Savannah Valdez, 5
Luis Vega, 1

9TH GRADE

Presley Bean, 1
Daymein Bosquez, 2
Aidan Compton, 2
Jordan Cortez-Squier, 4
Andrea D'Silva Montilla, 1
Nathaniel Fox, 5
Christian Garcia, 1
Braylyn Harris, 4
Kyrston Hernandez, 1
Andrew Hipp, 5
Regina Huerta, 2
Janelle Leiva, 1
Alesandro Martinez, 5
Erick Martinez, 3
Jenna Mayor, 5
Ricky Meno, 1
Vincent Mitchell, 1
Adan Morales, 4
Connor Morgan, 4
Logan Pedraza, 5
Jackie Perez, 2
Patience Salusbury, 5
Julia Selvera, 2
Abby Stokes, 5
Jamelia Wallace, 5
Cory Winston, 3

8TH GRADE

Kamden Barton, 3
Mica Chapman, 3
Emma Davis, 1
J'Lynn Davis, 2
Silvio Fabela, 2
Kali Garcia, 2
Cayla Hill, 2
Heaven Johnson, 1
Milinia Lara, 1
Anayla Lavergne, 2
Brianna Lee, 1
Jovanni Lopez, 1
La'Promiss Murray, 1
Alyssa Newman, 2
Jaylyn Perry, 1
Emely Posada, 2
Kennedy Rudolph, 1
Katherine Salazar, 2

Joseph Salenger, 3
Zo'Nae Sam, 1
Natalie Tran, 3
Moises Vega, 1
Forrest Weaks, 3
Keairys Wells, 1

7TH GRADE

Kyra Addison, 2
Kaiden Arceneaux, 1
Evan Biggs, 1
Isabel Campos, 2
Luis Cantera, 2
Christopher Castano, 2
Morgan Castille, 2
Julia Chapman, 2
Gabrielle English, 2
Hunter Follis, 1
Jonah Guevara, 1
Gavin Gutierrez, 1
Halyn Knowlton, 1
Micah Lagunas, 2
Avery Lozano, 2
Alexis Mayeux, 2
Josselyn McMullen, 1
Chandler McNeil, 2
Angelica Pereira Carollo, 1
Haydyn Reyes, 2
Ashley Rosales Molina, 1
Alina Smith, 2

6TH GRADE

Yahaira Alvarez, 1
Karina Amaro, 1
Jordan Austin, 1
Bethany Barker, 1
Alissa Benavides, 1
Cade Bunker, 1
Greyson Byrd, 1
Jennifer Cidrian, 1
Katelynn Gallagher, 1
Zachary Gutierrez, 1
Kyrie Jaramillo, 1
Ardon Johnson, 1
Landon Lord, 1
Isabella Ochoa-Arizpe, 1
Eric Rojas, 1
Tori Sendejas, 1
Emily Sherwood, 1
Hector Vidales, 1



LMHS VALEDICTORIAN
Bradley Adams



TCHS VALEDICTORIAN
Ian Cortez



LMHS SALUTATORIAN
Joseph Rolland



TCHS SALUTATORIAN
Manuel Gonzales IV

STAFF UPDATES

Texas City ISD announces anew administrators for the 2023-24 school year



DAVIS PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Kristen Davis has been promoted from La Marque High School Dean of Instruction to Director of Secondary Education. Davis will be beginning her 20th year in Texas City ISD. She was hired originally as a teacher at Texas City High School. She has also served as a math/science instructional specialist and an assistant principal at Blocker Middle School.



MULLINS SELECTED AS NEW PRINCIPAL AT SIMMS ELEMENTARY

Keli Mullins has been hired as the new principal at Simms Elementary. Mullins has 20 years of experience in education and has served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Houston area and San Antonio. She brings a well-versed background in special education, discipline management and overall campus leadership to TCISD.



LOCKHART PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL AT HAYLEY ELEMENTARY

Andrew Lockhart has been promoted from assistant principal at Levi Fry Intermediate to principal at Hayley Elementary. He began his teaching career in Galveston ISD in 2006. He has spent the past five years in Texas City ISD as an assistant principal at Levi Fry.

BOND 2022 UPDATES

Projects approved as part of the November 2022 bond election are progressing



MARATHON TCISD STEM AND ROBOTICS CENTER

A groundbreaking for the new Texas City ISD STEM and Robotics Center was held April 10. In addition to the funds approved by voters during the bond election, Marathon Petroleum Corporation

generously donated \$1 million to help fund the project. Construction is expected to be complete in November 2023.

CALVIN VINCENT EARLY CHILDHOOD

The new Calvin Vincent Ealy Childhood Center is currently



in the design phase, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. Construction is set to begin in January 2024 with completion due by June 2025.

LA MARQUE HIGH SCHOOL

Progress on the new La Marque High School has just completed

the design phase with architects presenting renderings and floorplans of the campus to the Board of Trustees on June 13. Construction is expected to begin in January 2024 and be complete in December 2025.

To stay up-to-date on the progress of bond projects, visit www.tcisd.org/bond22.

Texas City ISD, its students and staff continued a tradition of excellence this school year by earning prestigious awards in many areas.

TCISD EARNS PRESTIGIOUS HOLDSWORTH PARTNERSHIP

Texas City ISD has been selected as a Partner District for the prestigious Holdsworth Center! As a Partner District, TCISD has the incredible opportunity to collaborate closely with principals and leadership to bring forth positive changes and advancements for the district's schools and, most importantly, TCISD's amazing students! Texas City ISD is committed to fostering a nurturing and empowering environment for learners. Being chosen as a Holdsworth Center Partner District validates the district's dedication to excellence in education and the continuous growth of educators. The Holdsworth Center's expertise and support will undoubtedly propel the district forward, equipping principals and leadership with invaluable tools and strategies to enhance student success, foster innovation, and promote equity in education.

▼ DISTRICT CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAM NAMED OUTSTANDING

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston and the Construction and Maintenance Education

Foundation named Texas City ISD the Outstanding CTE Program for 2023! They stated, "Your outstanding leadership and innovative approach to Workforce Development has had a profound impact on the local industry, and I have no doubt that your achievements will continue to inspire future generations of students and contractors." Alexis Kopp is the Director of Career and Technical Education and Carling Caldwell is the CTE Coordinator.

TCISD'S DEROMIE MEDALS AT STATE VASE ART CONTEST

Texas City High School's Shelby Deromie earned a medal at the State Visual Art Scholastic Event competition. Deromie and Lily Melchor both qualified to compete at the State level. Their art teachers are Jenn Massie and Dezz Haddock. Deromie's artwork received an Exemplary Rating and was awarded a State VASE medallion.

LMHS BAND RATES SUPERIOR AT CONCERT AND SIGHT READING

The La Marque High School Wind Ensemble earned a Superior rating of straight ones on stage for the UIL Concert Band Contest and they earned ratings of 1, 2 and 2 from judges in the sight reading contest. The directors are Kevin Black and

Marvis Jones.

▼ PARKER EARNS STATE CHAMPION TITLE AT UIL TRACK COMPETITION

Texas City High School's Kenyon Parker is the 2023 300M Hurdles 5A UIL State Champion. The TCHS 4x4 relay team of Parker, Clyde Bruton, Rickey Green and Glenn Parker also advanced to the UIL State Track competition and placed 6th in the state in their event.



TCISD DANCERS SELECTED FOR IDEA ALL-STATE HONORS

Two senior dance team colonels were named All-State Dancers. Madison Swain represented the Stingarettes and Amari Spoons represented the Cougarettes at the Texas Dance Educators Association Convention.

FUTURE EDUCATOR PROJECTS ADVANCE TO NATIONALS

Three projects from Texas City ISD's TAFE program advanced to the national Texas Association of Future Educators conference after placing at the TAFE state conference. Emerald Merchant - Interactive Bulletin Board; Jordan Davis - Interactive Bulletin Board; Gabriela Pereira-Salzar and

Yuridia Mar - Childrens Lit. PreK will all compete at the national competition.

EIGHT LMHS COSMETOLOGY STUDENTS ADVANCE TO STATE

Eight La Marque High School Cosmetology students qualified to compete at the State Skills USA Contest after placing at the SkillsUSA District competition. Advancing students included Libny Villafranca, Kyii Franklin, Alyssa Naranjo, Jessica McCauley, Jade Alvarez Nunez, Anaya Celestine, Holly Gregory and Ciara Pines. Their teacher is Brittany Byars.

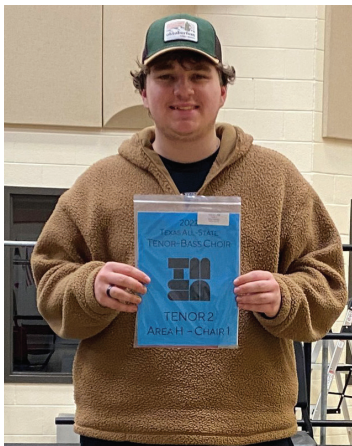
GILES DANCE TEAM EARNS 14 AWARDS AT COMPETITION

The Giles Middle School Cougar Dolls earned 14 awards at the Miss Dance and Drill Team Dance Regional Competition. Awards include: first place small ensemble hip hop, first place medium ensemble pom, choreography award in officer, pom, jazz and hip hop, choreography award in team pom, jazz and military, super-sweepstakes officer, super-sweepstakes team, runner-up officer jazz, division winner officer pom, division winner officer hip hop, division winner team jazz, division winner team pom, division winner team military, runner-up Best In Class officer, and runner-up Best In Class team. Their director is Quineshia Thomas.

LMHS ONE-ACT ENDS SEASON AS BI-DISTRICT ALTERNATE

The La Marque High School UIL One Act cast had a top-four finish and were named the Bi-District Alternate during competition season. Bi-district awards include: Best Performer, Amyrie Lavergne; All-Star Cast, Peja Bishop; Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, Darryl Jones and All-Star Crew, Jacqueline Gonzalez.





▲ TCHS SENIOR EARNS TMEA ALL-STATE HONORS FOR SECOND YEAR

Texas City High School senior Kent Anderson was selected for the prestigious Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir for the second year.

► FIVE BLOCKER ART STUDENTS EARN HIGHEST RATINGS AT CONTEST

Blocker Middle School had five students attend the Jr. Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) contest and all five students received the two highest ratings possible! Hailey Bradberry, Melissa Juarez, Angelin Vela and Keairys Wells received an Excellent Rating on their artwork, and Madeline Brown received a Strong Rating.

▼ JOHNSON, ASHCRAFT NAMED 2023 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Texas City ISD announced the district's Teachers of the Year at its annual employee recognition celebration in May. Simms Elementary's Crystal Johnson is the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year and Texas City High School's Nikki Ashcraft

is the district's Secondary Teacher of the Year!

DEAN ADVANCES TO UIL STATE JOURNALISM CONTEST

Texas City High School's Savannah Dean qualified to compete at the State UIL Journalism competition. She placed third overall in Editorial Writing at the region competition to advance to the state competition. Her coach is Jennifer Kunard.

ILES FINISHES IN TOP 30 AT UIL STATE COMPETITION

Texas City High School junior Emma Iles qualified for the Texas 5A State Championship and finished as one of the top 30 golfers in the state! Her coaches are Mark Cooper and J.J. Wyatt.

Fellow of the Texas Art Education Association. This recognizes her significant contributions to the advancement of quality art education. She leads incredibly creative projects in her classroom and for the community.

CHOIRS EARN EXCELLENT, SUPERIOR RATINGS AT UIL

Both the LMHS and TCHS choirs performed well at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading contests. The LMHS Bella Voce Choir received ratings of Excellent for both concert and sight reading at UIL competition and the Master Chorale Choir received an Excellent rating in concert and a Superior rating in Sight Reading. The TCHS Master Chorale earned the

identification of community needs and specific actions taken based on those needs and new and creative methods for community engagement.

WHITE, EVANS NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Geny White and Shone Evans were named finalists for the Galveston County Daily News Citizen of the Year! White is the Executive Director of the Texas City ISD Foundation for the Future and Evans is the Texas City Athletic Coordinator and Head Football Coach for the Stingarees. These two are incredible educators!

TCHS BAND RECIVES PERFECT SCORES FOR UIL CONCERT

The Texas City High School Band achieved perfect scores from each judge in their concert performance at UIL competition. They received one superior and two excellent scores in sight reading. Lane Palmer, Benjamin Guillotte and Michael Johnson directed.

▼ TCISD POWERLIFTERS ADVANCE TO STATE CONTEST

Five TCISD powerlifters qualified to compete in the State Powerlifting Meets this year. Kai Janice from La Marque High School brought home a medal for fifth place in his division! Students competing in the state competition also included TCHS's Myla Mosley, Libny Paxtor Gomez, Carmine Benavides and Tony Teeples. The LMHS head coach is Amber Rozier and the TCHS head coach is Derrick Taylor.



FINN NAMED TAEA DISTINGUISHED FELLOW
La Marque High School art teacher Joan Finn was appointed a Distinguished

Sweepstakes award of first division ratings in both concert and sight-reading!

TCISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONORED AS HEB FINALIST

The Texas City ISD Board of Trustees was recognized at the HEB Excellence in Education Awards for being one of five statewide finalists for the Outstanding School Board Award. This honor is designed to recognize school boards that have demonstrated real leadership in the community that it serves based on three basic criteria: academic/student progress within the district,



OUR BOARD



DISTRICT 1
Melba Anderson



DISTRICT 2
Mable Pratt



DISTRICT 3
Nakisha Paul



DISTRICT 4
Lori Carnes



DISTRICT 5
David Moss



DISTRICT 6
Hal Biery



AT-LARGE
Randy Dietel

DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The policies established by the board, acting as a body, are executed by the administration of the schools. Trustees adopt a budget, which is necessary to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes to support the budget and submit bond issues to the district's community to finance construction projects. The board also appoints the superintendent as its chief executive officer.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Regular meetings are

scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month and are held in the board room of the Simpson Education Support Center, 1700 Ninth Avenue N., in Texas City.

Board meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise designated. When necessary, the board schedules other public meetings — special meetings, emergency meetings, study sessions and work sessions — to conduct additional business and for in-depth study of programs and issues.

TEXAS CITY

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) requires school districts to notify parents, students, faculty and employees annually of the presence of asbestos in the facilities and to inform them of how it is managed. The act also requires that a management plan be written and approved by the Texas Department of Health. Copies of TCISD's approved management plan are available in the TCISD Business Office, the Maintenance Department and individual schools. For more information, contact Don Pursley, executive director of maintenance and operations, at 409-916-0141.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Tailored learning propels TCISD's educational transformation

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