



Growing Great Bilingual Minds
Desarrollando Grandes Mentes Bilingües

Dear Yorkville CUSD 115 English Language Learner and Dual Language Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year. While many aspects of our school environment have changed this year, the District 115 Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) Board will continue to be the collaborative voice for excellence in bilingual education for all English learners. The Board will also continue to celebrate and recognize the cultural contributions that occur when we all work together, including parents, teachers, students, and the District 115 employees, to create a learning environment that cultivates learners who enrich society with bilingualism, biliteracy, and socio-cultural competence.

BPAC is devoted to supporting the needs of all parents and students, ensuring that all programs serving English learners are successful, and providing quality literacy and content instruction that facilitates grade-level academic achievement.

Research shows that effective Bilingual education programs continue to thrive with parent and community engagement. Studies also show that students have greater success in school when their parents are engaged, as this leads to higher grades, achievement, and language proficiency. The BPAC Board needs the support of parents of the district's English learners and dual language students to ensure that you and your student's needs are met. If you are new to District 115, we welcome you and would like for you to be a part of the BPAC community. If you use social media, you are invited to join the **BPAC Facebook Group** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Yorkville115BPAC> to connect with other BPAC families as well as receive up-to-date information.

Furthermore, I would like to introduce you to our BPAC Board Members. We work together with the Bilingual and English Learner Services Coordinator, Michael Camp, to ensure the success of all Yorkville CUSD 115 bilingual and English learners.

Theron Garcia, President

tgarcia.bpac@gmail.com (630) 440-5586

"This is my first year serving on the BPAC Board, but I have served as a BPAC parent member for the last two years volunteering at various BPAC events in the district. I am honored to serve you all in this capacity this year! I have one son in the second grade Dual Language program. I am bilingual; Spanish is my second language. As a certified HR professional, I bring extensive experience in people, culture, organizational effectiveness, and development along with my knack for cultural diversity. I am also a Member of the Illinois Association of Multilingual Multicultural Education (IAMME); an organization that advocates for educational equity and excellence for bilingual students. I am eager to begin advocating and supporting all of you this year! Please know that the Board is here to ensure the success of your student's bilingual education so that they become bilingual, bi-literate, and bi-cultural citizens in our society and abroad."

Kelli Stewart, Vice-President

kelli@stewart-farms.com (630) 244-3375

“This is my second term serving as BPAC Vice President. I have four kids that have the honor of being in the Dual Language program. They are currently in kindergarten and grades 3, 5, and 7. It has been exciting to see the program grow into what it is now. I encourage parents to attend BPAC meetings, get involved, reach out to the Board if you have any ideas or concerns. We are here to help! Email and text are the best ways to get a hold of me.”

Jorge Ayala, Secretary

jayalap@me.com (404) 667-6254

“I have been one of the lucky parents that joined our BPAC when the Dual Language program first began in District 115. My son, Alejandro, is now in the first, seventh-grade Dual Language program at YMS. My wife, Marcia, Alejandro, and I just love this program. I have served on the BPAC Board for the last six years and I have been very honored to represent our great bilingual community. I am very glad to have been selected as the Board Secretary and will be helping our new President, Theron, in leading our group to ensure our children receive the best quality bilingual education.”

Areli Perez, Treasurer

arelimrz@yahoo.com (630)770-1484

“I am currently a stay-at-home mom. I previously worked in the medical field as a medical assistant. I am married and I have three kids. I have a 16-year old son in grade 11, an 11-year old daughter in the sixth-grade Dual Language program and a 6-year old daughter in a first-grade Dual Language classroom. We have been a part of the Dual Language program since 2014.”

I truly hope that you have acclimated to the changes in the structure of this year’s various educational models and that your children have been able to transition into their learning and engagement with ease. Regardless of the many changes that we experience in our school environment this year, we will continue to advocate for excellence in bilingual education so that students become bilingual, bi-literate, and bi-cultural.

Attached, you will find BPAC’s mission, vision, and beliefs, as well as a calendar that lists the parent meetings and events for the year. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach out to any one of the BPAC Board Members and/or the District 115 Bilingual and English Learner Services Coordinator.

We look forward to serving you in this 2020-21 school year!

Best regards,

Theron Garcia

Theron Garcia, SHRM-CP

President, Yorkville BPAC



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Why does BPAC exist?

School districts that have Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE), such as Yorkville District 115's Dual Language program, must establish a Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC). The committee consists of parents of children in the program, district staff, and other interested community members. Two-thirds of the committee must be parents of children in the Bilingual Education program. The committee must meet at least four times a year and affords parents the opportunity to express their views and ensures that the program is planned, operated, and evaluated with the involvement of, and in consultation with parents of children served by the program.

OUR MISSION:

- *To **advocate** for excellence in Bilingual Education for Yorkville District Y115.*
- *To **communicate** effectively and timely to parents of Yorkville District 115 English Language Learners and all other stakeholders.*
- *To **collaborate** and foster relationships with parents of Yorkville District 115 English Language Learners, schools, teachers, staff & administration, and community.*
- *To **support** parents of Yorkville District 115 English Language Learners with the tools and resources for a successful Bilingual Education.*

OUR VISION:

A body of Bilingual Education Program Parents, Teachers, and Community who is the voice that advocates for excellence in Yorkville District 115 Bilingual Education and the success of all language learners' academic achievement and language proficiency.

WE BELIEVE:

- *That all students, regardless of educational status, have a right to a valuable learning and engagement experience.*
- *In effective collaboration with our schools, parents, teachers, staff, and administration.*
- *In providing family support and educational resources to our parents that will assist with improving any academic achievement gaps.*
- *In timely and accurate communication to our stakeholders in a language that is understood.*
- *In a school environment that welcomes socio-cultural awareness.*