

2024-2025 DTR Ambassadors

DTR Ambassador

Professional Biography

Bob Adams



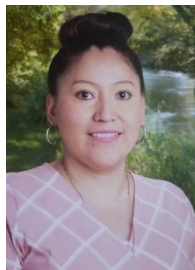
Bob Adams is a fifth-grade bilingual language arts teachers. He has been teaching at R.C. Burleson for 4 years. He has been a teacher now for 28 years total, mainly in fifth grade, but also third and fourth. The best way to contact Bob is via email at Boadams@dallasisd.org.

Rikki D. Bonet



Rikki Bonet has over 20 years of teaching. Rikki is currently a PreK 3/4 teacher for the PreK Partnership program. Rikki is a mentor/lead mentor, team chair, TEI expert, and presenter. She has taught PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th and 5th grade all subjects. She was awarded Teacher of the Year for my campus in 2017. She has also worked with TEA to develop a 30 year plan for public education, and she has help streamline the social studies TEKS grades K-3. She can be contacted at riingram@dallasisd.org.

Claudia Castro



Claudia Castro is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Wilmer Hutchins Elementary School. This will be her 24th year teaching, having served 6 years at Julian T. Saldivar Elementary in 1st grade and 13 years in Kindergarten at Larry G. Smith Elementary before transferring to ACE in 2020. She has been featured in the National Institute for excellence in Teaching TIA portal and is currently a presenter for the National Association for Bilingual Education Conference. Claudia was part of the Inaugural DTR Ambassador Program, and she is eager to continue to serve in this capacity for the 2024-2025 school year! Her best contact method is via email at clcastro@dallasisd.org.

Monica Chapa

Trinity Heights

Bilingual Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies

Maria Rosa Da Cruz



Mrs. Da Cruz is a PK4 Bilingual teacher. She has been teaching at Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center for 11 years. At Dunbar she has taught PK, Kinder, first- and second-grade. The best way to contact Maria Rosa is by e-mail at mdacruz@dallasisd.org.

Dipo, Nahsechay



Nahsechay Dipo is a Gifted & Talented educator currently working at Saldivar Elementary School. Although she currently teaches Gifted & Talented, she holds three Master's degrees, as well as certifications in Early Childhood Education, English Language Arts & Reading, and Special Education. Within DISD, she has served as a District trainer, curriculum writer, Department Chair, and she has written and obtained numerous grants supporting educational processes for DISD Scholars. She has recently completed all coursework for her Ph.D. and is currently working on her dissertation for Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Educational Technology & Design. In addition to classroom teaching Nahsechay is a national presenter with a focus on cutting edge technology, i.e. artificial intelligence and virtual reality in the classroom. The best way to contact her is via email at ndipo@dallasisd.org.

Fore, John "Greg"



John "Greg" Fore has 32 years of experience in education. He currently teaches an all-girls 6th-8th grade Functional Living Skills class at Young Women's STEAM Academy. He believes that all students can learn and that educators should strive to model this belief for our students by continuously stretching, growing and learning professionally themselves. He is glad to support teachers as they navigate through the DTR Process. He can be contacted at gfore@dallasisd.org or 972-892-5829.

Rene Garcia



Rene Garcia is currently a third-grade math and ELA teacher at Nancy Cochran Elementary School. This will be her 19th year teaching and her 4th year at an Ace campus. After three years, her school improved from an F campus to a B campus. She looks forward to assisting you and you can contact her at Rengarcia@dallasisd.org.

**Rochelle Grant
Jackson**

Dade Middle

Lincoln

Joshua Gutierrez



Joshua Gutierrez is currently teaching ELAR, SLAR, Science and Social Studies at Nancy Moseley Elementary School. He is in his 19th year in Dallas ISD. He has a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Divinity. He has worked for the State of Texas the last 9 years in creating the STAAR assessments (through Teacher Focus Groups, Teacher Summer Institute, and TELPAS, and he works closely with the Social Studies Department as a Teacher Leadership Cohort member. He also served as an Academic Partnering teacher, making instructional videos for the Office of Family and Community Engagement Department. He previously served as a Reading Instructional Coach for four years, and in his educational experience he taught 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5. The best way to contact him is via email at jogutierrez@dallasisd.org.

Will Hastings



Will Hastings, is an Early College Math Teacher, and Department Chair at H Grady Spruce. He was a Dallas ISD Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2021 - 2022. He has taught for 8 years at H Grady Spruce, and he has led the school as a TEI Expert for 4 years. The best way to reach him is at whastings@dallasisd.org.

Jerry Hayes



Jerry Hayes is a fifth-grade math teacher. He has been teaching and at William B. Travis Vanguard/Academy for 14 years. He recently worked with TEA in developing questions for math STAAR. The best way to contact Jerry is via email at jehayes@dallasisd.org.

Susan Higgins



Ms. Susan Higgins is a General Music Teacher who has also instructed Middle School Choral Studies and Avid. She has been teaching at Larry G. Smith Elementary for six years and was previously the Choral and Theatre Director for Longfellow Academy for eight years. She began her teaching career by opening Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary in 2006. Ms. Higgins has worked with the district to develop training for Middle School Choir, Summer Intensive Programs in Recorder and Bucket Drumming through Region 10, and with the Texas Black Academy with their Budding Rose Concerts. The best way to contact Susan is via email at Shiggins@dallasisd.org.

Gina House



Gina House is a High School Science Demonstration Teacher at Seagoville High School. This is her second year at Seagoville and her 25th year teaching. She recently streamlined the campus' SST referral processes. The best way to contact Gina is via email at rhouse@dallasisd.org.

Longoria Leah Huggins



Mrs. Leah Longoria Huggins is one of three Dance and Drill Team Directors at Sunset High School. She has been teaching at Sunset for 14 years and currently serves as the Performing Arts Department Chair and Dance DTR Ambassador. She has grown the Sunset Dance Department from 76 to 300 students. Students in the dance department go on to receive scholarships and dance with collegiate pom squads and folklorico companies. Her contact is lhuggins@dallasisd.org.

Dorcas Kassebaum



Dorcas Kassebaum is an FLS teacher with grades 3-5. She has been teaching at Ronald E. McNair for 22 years. She coaches a First Lego League team and an Adaptive Robotics team. She spearheaded the district-wide Adaptive Science and Engineering Fair Showcase. The best way to contact Dorcas is via email at dkassebaum@dallasisd.org.

DTR

Distinguished Teacher Review

Megan Malone



Megan Malone has taught social studies at the collegiate and high school level for seventeen years. She currently teaches AP Government, AP Macro Economics, and Personal Finance at the School for the Talented and Gifted. Prior to that, she taught social studies and dual credit English at H. Grady Spruce High School. In addition to her teaching duties, Malone is the Social Studies department chair, is a member of the CILT team, and coaches the Academic Decathlon team. She earned her BA, MA, and ABD PHD in history from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her contact is memalone@dallasisd.org.

Jhaidee Nava



Jhaidee Nava has a diverse teaching background and has had the privilege of working with students in 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Dual Language. Her skills transfer outside the classroom as she is currently serving as member of the Dual Language Cadre in DISD, supporting the implementation of Dual Language programs in the district. Additionally, she served as a reading interventionist, focusing on supporting students who struggle with reading. This multifaceted experience has given her a comprehensive understanding of the academic and developmental needs of elementary students, particularly in the realm of language acquisition and literacy.

Norma Pardee

Norma Pardee is a ECSE special education teacher. She has taught in a variety special education classrooms from Inclusion to self-contained. Norma has a Master's Degree in ABA and enjoys assisting teachers and their students who may suffer with behavioral challenges. She believes every student can be successful with the appropriate accommodations and individualized goals. Contact Norma via email at npardee@dallasisd.org.

Sara Ramirez



Sara Ramirez is a PK-12th grade science lab teacher. She has been teaching at the DISD STEM Environmental Education Center for 12 years. She has received several grants to purchase items for her science classroom and facility and she has presented at many state science conferences to share engaging lesson ideas. The best way to contact Sara is via email at sar Ramirez@dallasisd.org.

Hector Rodriguez



Mr. Hector Rodriguez, a native of Puerto Rico, has been with Dallas ISD since 2015. For over 24 years, he has taught ethics, geography, and history in the U. S. and Puerto Rico. Currently, Rodriguez teaches Public Administration and Political Science at the Magnet Program. He has worked as a Chairperson for the Middle School Association of Colleges and Schools, Speaker for the PR Association of Private Education, Academic Senator at the University of Puerto Rico, CILT, ILT, TEI Expert, and DTR Ambassador. In his second year at Dallas ISD, Mr. Rodriguez was recognized with the 2017 Teacher of the Year Award at his middle school campus, thanks to his dedication and achievement with his students. Mr. Rodriguez has a dual BA in Secondary Education - Social Studies and History and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. He can be reached by email at hectrodriguez@dallasisd.org.

Brandon Segura



Mr. Segura is a Pre K Bilingual teacher, who has been teaching and at Dan D. Rogers Elementary for 9 years. He recently piloted the new bilingual program and enjoys helping his fellow teachers move up to the next level on their applications. The best way to contact Brandon is via email at bsegura@dallasisd.org.

Karla Smith



Karla Smith teaches 8th grade at Benjamin Franklin International Exploratory Academy. During her 30 years as a science teacher, she has become a national speaker and passionate advocate for equity in STEM. She actively contributes to educational policy by giving invited testimony in multiple Texas House Education Committee special sessions. She actively serves as an educational consultant and curriculum writer for districts across North Texas. She can be reached at karlasmith@dallasisd.org.

DTR

Distinguished Teacher Review

Morgan Smith



Morgan Smith is an art teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School. She has been teaching for 11 years in Dallas ISD, 6 in middle schools, and 5 in the high school setting. She is the Visual Arts Department Chair, has written for the ACP, has been awarded multiple grants, and has experience coaching sports in Dallas ISD. The best way to contact Morgan is via email at msmith@dallasisd.org.

Brent Voorhees



Brent Voorhees is a Precalculus teacher at Skyline High School. This is his 12th year as a member of Dallas ISD, serving all 12 at Skyline High School. The best way to contact Brent is via email bvoorhees@dallasisd.org.

Courtney Wade



Mrs. Courtney Wade is an 11th grade English III teacher. She has been teaching at Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy for 4 years, but teaching for 11 years in total. She served as a DTR ambassador last year and helps facilitate AFC tutoring on her campus. The best way to contact Courtney is via email at cowade@dallasisd.org.

Monica Williams



Mrs. Monica Williams is a 6th grade teacher at Seagoville Elementary. Mrs. Williams has been a part of Dallas ISD for 22 years. She started out in central staff for Dallas for 16 years and then became a teacher for 6 years. After her 3rd year of teaching, she became department Team Lead as well as the campus Teacher of the Year. The best way to contact Mrs. Williams is via email at mwilliam@dallasisd.org.

DTR

Distinguished Teacher Review



Carolina Xilotl



This is Carolina Xilotl's second year as a 4th grade reading and math teacher at Eladio R. Martinez Learning Center. She served as a 3rd grade Math and Science teacher for 6 years at the same school. It has been a wonderful experience but now, she is ready to move up levels. She is also excited to continue learning about Amplify and improving her Eureka skills. The best way to contact her is via email at caxilotlvazquez@dallasisd.org.

**Leonardo Zuno
Fernandez**



Booker T Washington

Piano, Music Theory, Music Appreciation