
SEPTEMBER EDITION

SAMUEL W. HOUSTON ELEMENTARY

Building Champions by ensuring ALL students reach high levels of learning academically, behaviorally, and socially.



THE PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

I'm pleased to share that we are off to a strong start this school year—instructionally, behaviorally, and socially. Our students are back in the building, engaged in learning, and our staff is working with great energy and focus. It's been wonderful to see classrooms alive with clear learning goals, meaningful student discussions about the content, and students proudly showing evidence of their learning.

Instructionally, we've set clear priorities to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Our goals this year include:

- Learning and following the Backwards Planning Learning Cycle during our Wednesday Extended Collaborative Team Meetings.
- Becoming proficient at Collaborative Team Meetings (CTMs), where teachers review student data and evidence of learning, then leave with an action plan designed to directly address student learning needs.
- A schoolwide emphasis on Growth–Growth–Growth for both students and staff.
- Setting a measurable outcome that 75% of all 4th and 5th-grade students will perform at or above the same performance level they achieved on the Spring 2025 STAAR Assessment.

Behaviorally, we are focused on creating a safe and positive environment by:

- Teaching, modeling, practicing, and celebrating positive behaviors.
- Rewarding students individually and as grade-level teams for being safe, responsible, and respectful at all times.

Socially, we are building strong connections and a sense of community by:

- Greeting students every morning at the classroom door with a smile and celebrating the “good” before beginning instruction.
- Teaching social skills to all students and empowering them by involving them in rating their own classroom behavior through the classroom social contract.

Although we may find ourselves in the middle of life's storms, we have not lost our focus as a campus, as a team, and as a family. We continue to trust in God throughout all seasons of life, and we stand firm in the belief that we will be victorious together. Above all, we are celebrating the fact that students are here—learning, growing, and thriving together. The energy in our building is inspiring, and I'm confident this momentum will continue as we work toward our goals.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and families.



SWHE

Weekly Brag Report

4th and 5th-grade students and their teachers at car rider dismissal. They are doing an amazing job at listening for their name to be called and then getting to where they need to be for pick-up.

The Pre-K and Kindergarten transitions this year are looking amazing. Even with a few areas that we are working on, we are further ahead with our hallway and transition expectations than we were at this time last year.

The Kindergarten team had a wonderful CTM on Wednesday. Everyone participated, was very invested and truly saw the value in the work they are doing. You can tell they are a collaborative group and they are helping our new members as well. Keep up the hard work and dedication!!

Mrs. Banks asked for a walk-through in order to show off the wonderful things her students have already learned. While I have visited all PK-1 classes at least 1 time, I have seen her 2-3 times. This is because she was so excited about showing me how they could not only connect their learning to the objective for the day, but also how eager they were to be the one to answer. Way to go!

Shout out to Mr. Ritchey's classes as they are already implementing the social contract rater before they switch classes and the students are able to identify an area they can work on based on the rating. He is building CHAMPIONS!

We appreciate Mr. Leon as his making an impact, building those relationships with our students, and simply being a positive role model that they need. He is building CHAMPIONS.

A BIG THANK YOU to Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Heinemeier, Mrs. Delfin, Mrs. Costilla, and Mrs. Lopez as they support our classrooms on Wednesday during CTM. You all are greatly appreciated! They are building CHAMPIONS!

The kindness, compassion, and grace I've received from my SWHE family have meant more than words can express. Knowing I have such a strong network behind me has been truly comforting. My family and I are deeply grateful, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive and caring organization. It is truly an honor to work alongside such amazing individuals.

What an incredible start to the school year!! Expectations were in place from the first day and everyone is doing their part in helping our kids become the best they can be!

Mr. Horton and Mr. Leon - making a positive difference in the behavior of our students with consistency and high expectations! Thank you for all you do!!

Shout out to all grade levels for getting our technology expectations lesson completed and helping get our technology into classrooms!

SWHE

Weekly Brag Report

Ms. Delfin, Ms. Metcalf and Mr. Santos - y'all do an amazing job of getting the drop off line going each morning!

Mrs. Hampton and Mrs. Arteaga are doing a wonderful job embracing their new classroom technology

Ms. Houston- Doing an amazing job in Pre K!

Mr. Leon- Helping me out in the mornings keeping the bus lane free of traffic.

Thank you 2nd Grade Math Team for working so hard on your 1/2 day planning!!!

Thank you 5th Grade Math Team for all the hard work you did at our 1/2 day planning!!



Great Things are Happening at Samuel W. Houston Elementary
Keep Stinging 'Em Hornets