



The Bearkat BUZZ

www.shsu.edu/charter-school

Unique. Rigorous. Engaging experiences for all.

May 2023

Upcoming District Events

May 8-12

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 19

Field Day @ all campuses

May 22

Board Meeting at Spring Woods
campus @ 6pm

May 23

**Special Programs Parent
Meeting @ 5:30 (Brighton
campus) and Virtual Zoom**

2023-2024 Staffing Assignments
Announced via SeeSaw

May 24

Graduation Ceremonies: Spring
Woods & Greengate
GT/ STEAM Expo, 5:30-6:30

May 25

Graduation Ceremonies: Cypress
Trails & Brighton

Announcing our first Special Programs Parent Meeting

The SHSU Charter School is inviting you to attend a **Special Programs Parent Meeting** on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30pm. This meeting will be held in-person at our Brighton campus, as well as virtually via Zoom. You can access the virtual meeting here:

Special Programs Parent Meeting

<https://shsu.zoom.us/j/82506665954>

Meeting ID: 825 0666 5954

Passcode: 178074

The Special Programs Parent meeting will cover details and new developments for programs that serve our students within unique special populations including:

•**Special Education** • **Section 504** • **Response to Intervention (RTI)** •
Emergent Bilingual (EB) • **Gifted & Talented (GT)** • **House Bill 4545** •

This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions of school personnel serving these programs. We are also starting a new quarterly Special Populations newsletter (included here), that details new committees parents can join for the 2023-2024 school year.

SAVE THE DATE! **Meet the Teacher** **2023-2024**

July 19– Cypress Trails

July 20– Spring Woods

July 21– Brighton

July 26– **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

*Pre-Order your School Supplies
before June 1! Supplies Lists are
available on our website under
each campus page.*

WE'RE HIRING!

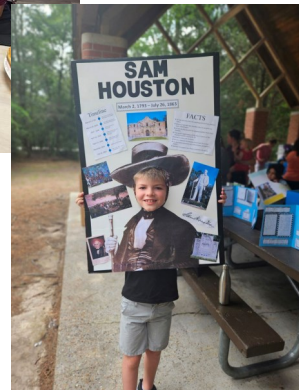
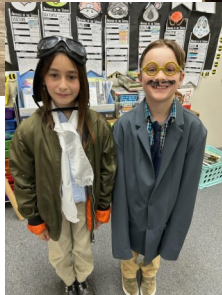
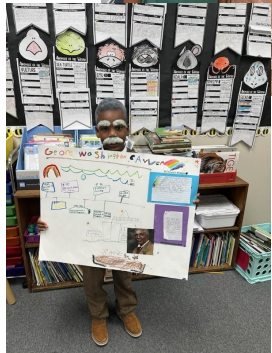
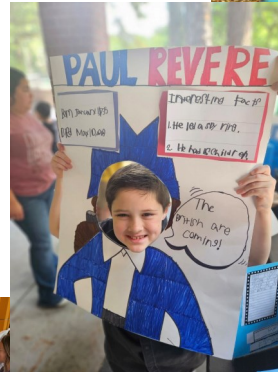
Accepting applications for a
Classroom Teacher, Special
Education Teacher, and
Paraprofessional positions for
the 2023-2024 school year,
APPLY TODAY!



Staffing Updates

We know you are anxiously awaiting an Announcement regarding the New Superintendent position. The Superintendent Search Committee has made its selection for a finalist, we are awaiting University onboarding procedures, and we hope to make an announcement to you on **June 1** naming the replacement for Dr. Knox.

Classroom Teacher assignments for the 2023-2024 school year will be made on **May 23** via SeeSaw.



Have a GREAT Summer!

THANK YOU for allowing us to love and support your Bearkat this year, we have enjoyed watching them grow. Enjoy a safe and restful summer break, we'll see you in July!

Special Programs Newsletter

Unique. Rigorous. Engaging experiences for all.

·Special Education · Section 504 · Response to Intervention (RTI) · Emergent Bilingual (EB) ·
·Gifted & Talented (GT) · House Bill 4545 ·

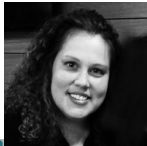
Introducing the Quarterly Special Programs Update!

In an effort to “Make our Good, Great”, the SHSU Charter School would like to increase transparency, representation, and community engagement within our Special Programs. As a public school that receives public state funds, the SHSU Charter School is required to provide students services (at no cost to families) for the programs mentioned above: Special Education, Section 504, Response to Intervention (RTI), Emergent Bilingual (EB), Gifted & Talented (GT), and House Bill 4545. As such, we will publish quarterly updates with the district newsletter to publicize new initiatives. We would like to invite you to meetings where local, state, and federal policies are discussed, and inform you of your rights as a parent to partner in your child’s education. You can be involved as much or as little as you want! But this is a resource to keep you informed of the details that go on “behind the scenes” to support our students within special programs.

Meet Our Team

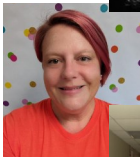
Leslie Gay

*Licensed Specialist in
School Psychology*
SE Coordination
ARD Facilitator



Emily Batelaan

SE Teacher
CPI Trainer



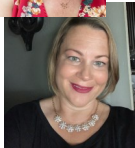
Amy Williams

Interventionist
SE, RTI, HB 4545



Jill Martin

District Testing Coordinator
ESL Coordinator
HB 4545 Coordinator



Alicia Hernandez

District Administrator
504 Coordinator
Committee Facilitator



Nacol Hicks

*District Gifted &
Talented Representative*
Campus GT Rep,
Cypress Trails location



Chris Krafcik

Campus GT Rep,
Brighton location



Jayci Ray

Campus GT Rep,
Spring Woods location



Please join us for our first bi-annual **Special Programs Parent Meeting** on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30pm. This meeting will be held in-person at our Brighton campus, as well as virtually via Zoom. You can access the virtual meeting here:

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Opportunities for Parent Involvement in Special Programs Committees for the 2023-2024 School Year:

(please RSVP afh013@shsu.edu if interested in participating)

CIP/ DIP Committee (Campus Improvement/ District Improvement)

SHAC Committee (School Health Advisory Council)

LPAC (Language Proficiency Assessment Committee)

Special Programs Overview

Special Education: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that makes a free, appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities. Speech services fall under Special Education, as can Dyslexia. Each admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee is made up of parents, teachers, special education staff, and an administrator.

TEA Resources: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education>



Special Education or IEP-Related Questions?

Consult SPEDTEX, the Texas Special Education Information Center. This is a resource backed by TEA to inform and support parents, teachers, and anyone committed to the success of children with disabilities.

Phone: 1-855-SPEDTEX (1-855-773-3839)

Website: www.spedtex.org

Section 504: covers qualified students with disabilities who attend schools receiving Federal financial assistance. To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment. Section 504 requires that school districts provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualified students in their jurisdictions who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

TEA Resources: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/section-504>

Emergent Bilingual: Students that hear or speak a language other than English at home are monitored for English language proficiency. At the SHSU Charter School, we support this with the ESL (English as a Second Language) Program. The ESL Program ensures all EB students receive content instruction from an ESL-certified educator. Our goal for EB students is to promote high academic English language proficiency while still maintaining mastery of their native language. A parent representative is required for the LPAC Committee each year.



Gifted and Talented: The state's goal for GT students is to ensure that students who participate in GT services demonstrate self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication skills. GT students develop innovative products and sophisticated performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are targeted to an audience outside the classroom. The SHSU Charter School begins GT screening at the end of 2nd grade. Students in 3rd-6th grade participate in supplemental activities during the fall and spring semesters.

TEA Resources: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/gifted-and-talented-education>

HB 4545: House Bill 4545 eliminated grade retention and STAAR retesting requirements in grades 5 and 8. It also requires schools to provide 30 hours of accelerated instruction and/or tutoring for any STAAR subject test that a student didn't pass during the previous year. Parents have the authority to opt-in or opt-out of 4545 interventions for their child. Parents will receive information regarding 4545 tutoring when STAAR results from 2023 become available.

Response to Intervention (RTI): RTI is an approach that schools use to help all students, including struggling learners. The RTI approach gives Texas students opportunities to learn and work at their grade level to help all students be successful. RTI can be used to support academic or behavioral concerns, and can also target needs for additional future evaluations. Students receiving RTI support are eligible for unique state assessment accommodations for STAAR and TELPAS.