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Holiman Elementary

Principal

Stacy Fischer - Principals' Institute Cohort #13

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San Angelo ISD

Superintendent

Dr. Christopher Moran

[Video Link to Holiman Nomination for Schools Transforming Learning](#)

Overview and Background:

Holiman Elementary is a kindergarten through 5th grade campus consisting of approximately 330 students. We are the gifted and talented magnet campus supporting the LEAD (Learning Experiences and Academic Discoveries) program for San Angelo ISD. Our campus Core Values are built around being safe, respectful, and responsible. We have been a Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Campus since 2019 and believe relationships with our students and families are the foundation of all we do. Here at Holiman, we strive to engage students in a relevant and inspiring education that helps celebrate all the ways our students are smart in order to produce future ready graduates. Holiman is focused on providing our students with real world connections which will set them up for a successful future.

Focus Area and Work:

A few years ago, we spent time with the staff to develop core beliefs for our campus. With feedback from all staff members, we established our two core beliefs:

1. Relationships are the foundation, so we have created a nurturing community that surrounds staff, students, and our families with a genuine, affirming, loving environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging.
2. All children can learn; therefore, we are dedicated to providing an engaging, robust education that supports the unique needs of every learner and develops a yearning for excellence.

Our work at Holiman Elementary has been focused around Article II: The New Learning Standards. As stated in Article II.c, "learning standards should embrace development of the whole person to build students' capacity to shape their own destiny as individuals and as contributing members of society." The foundation of Capturing Kids' Hearts has been a guiding practice for our campus which helps us focus around this principle. We understand the importance of building relationships with our students and believe a strong positive relationship with our students allows us to take learning to a deeper level. By focusing on our Capturing Kids' Hearts components, we have the opportunity to embrace the development of the whole child in order to build their capacity as individuals and contributing members of society. When students come to school each day, they are greeted at the car door and along the way to their classrooms. Each morning begins with the Holiman Morning Show where students will get school information as well as a short guidance lesson and reminders of our character trait of the month.

Much of our work this year has been around the development of our LEAD Gifted and Talented program here on campus. Article II.e helped us outline our work as we collaborated to develop this program. Article II.e states, "standards should tap curiosity and imagination in the traditional academic core, aesthetic, and skill areas in a way that lack of proficiency in any one area does not discourage students from recognizing and pursuing their special talents and learning in other areas." Grade level GT students from across the district are bussed to the Holiman campus once a week, on a particular grade level day, to participate in the LEAD enrichment program. LEAD stands for "Learning Experiences and Academic Discoveries." We knew we needed to make a shift in the way the previous Gifted and Talented program enriched our students. With much collaboration across the district, parents, GT learners, and teachers, we dove into our first year of the LEAD program. The innovative component of this program is that all students enrolled in Holiman Elementary participate in the learning. Our students and the GT students from other campuses merge together each week to

participate in engaging activities that further enrich our tier one units of study. We have provided our students with field trips around the community to build background knowledge connected to the district units of study. For example, we have taken our students to our local university for Hispanic culture celebrations, both San Angelo ISD high schools to collaborate with high school students, and various locations in San Angelo to participate in community service activities. The program has been a huge success because as the learning helps highlight the smartnesses our students possess outside of the daily classroom content, we are able to see the hidden potential in all of our students. The LEAD program has helped all staff and students grow in our ability to support curiosity and imagination in the traditional academic core content. We have opened up learning to help students stoke wonder in the topics of study.

Another way we have worked to transform learning here at Holiman Elementary is with the implementation of enrichment clubs. Each week our students have the opportunity to participate in a club here on campus. Teachers take student input, as well as their personal smartness areas, to design learning for students in a variety of activities such as chess, cosmetology, music, art, gardening, crochet, STEM, 3D printing, and so much more. Students rotate clubs approximately every six weeks so they have the opportunity to participate in new learning. We look forward to our students being creative and even sharing their unique talents during clubs.

Here in San Angelo ISD, our students are presented with learning that supports our district mission, as well as the Learner Profile characteristics. Teachers focus their work around the components of the Learner Profile to enhance the content presented each day. By providing students with the opportunity to be good communicators, creators, critical thinkers, and collaborators, we are opening up the possibility for our students to learn deeper and be set up for success throughout their future. The Learner Profile skills we use each day directly support skills students will need in the world after they graduate.

Results:

Our work around Article II, focusing on embracing the development of the whole person, is evident in each of our classrooms. Students are able to refer to their Social Contracts and help support one another throughout the school. Our students are becoming more aware of their emotions and have worked harder to regulate those emotions so they are ready to learn on a daily basis. Our students have been advocates for our campus and become leaders as we welcome LEAD students each week. A strong focus on educating the whole child has shown a decrease in the number of students supported on tier two and three behavior implementations.

Our campus continues to show progress in student growth measures. The opportunities presented to students daily have built background knowledge to better support all academic areas. Teachers see the power of designing lessons for their learners and show a love of teaching when able to design and be creative for their students. Our work at Holiman Elementary will continue to improve as we focus on the creative opportunities for our students to collaborate and take risks in their learning. We have noticed many students who struggle academically have increased their confidence and willingness to participate in the learning when they can use their unique smartnesses both in LEAD and in clubs.



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Superintendent Endorsement

I endorse and support the nomination of Stacy Fischer, Principal
as a School Transforming Learning. Holmsten Elementary

Superintendent's Signature: Christopher Morahan

Date: Jan 21, 2025