



Dr. Bryan C. Jack Elementary
1900 Balsam Gap
Tyler, TX 75703
Nominated by Principal Brett Shelby, PI 12
Brett.Shelby@tylerisd.org 903-262-3260



Overview and background

Dr. Bryan C. Jack Elementary is a PK-5th grade elementary school in Tyler ISD. The building opened in 2007, as the newest elementary school in Tyler. Shortly after the opening, we transitioned to using leadership principles as a guiding force to create a culture of Building Leaders of Tomorrow. We serve 688 students, with around 80 staff members. Jack is a Title I campus, with 45.5% of our students qualifying as economically disadvantaged, with 18.5% of our students being served in special education or 504, and 11.4% Gifted and Talented. Our campus subpopulations include 50.4% Caucasian, 17.3% African American, 20.9% Hispanic, 5.3% Asian.

Our mission "Build Leaders of Tomorrow" is the catalyst for driving instruction and decision making within daily interactions with our learners. We focus on leadership principles, not only in isolation through classroom lessons, but an integrated approach as well. Through the ever-changing world of education, we integrate real world-application empowering our Leaders to take ownership of their learning, pursue passions, as well as take on leadership roles throughout the campus. Giving our learners voice and choice, and providing educational opportunities through leadership truly exhibits transformation at our campus.

Transformation Target: New Learning Standards through Student Leadership

Jack Elementary has been building a culture of leadership as a foundation for student success for 8+ years. We are able to provide our Leaders with opportunities that will impact lifelong learning, including opportunities to impact the community, build leadership skills and traits and collectively grow student voice and choice across the campus with unique learning experiences. We create a cohesive culture that is based on the celebration of Building Leaders. Our Leadership Signing Day was implemented this year within the first two weeks of school. Each Patriot had the opportunity to sign the "Letter of Intent," a commitment to leadership.

At Jack, all learners are given opportunities for leadership roles in the classroom. Learners at our older grade levels are given opportunities to apply for campus wide leadership roles as well, including but not limited to our Live KJAC morning announcement crew, Library Leaders, Car Greeters, and more. Each student in every classroom has a class job that they take on. Throughout the year, these jobs rotate so that they are exposed to a variety of leadership responsibilities.

The KJAC morning news crew is student led, a job students have to interview for in order to participate, then learn some of the vital skills necessary to compete in this ever changing world including communication and public speaking. The jobs change every nine weeks so that more students are able to have the opportunity to lead the morning announcements that are streamed live. We often invite guest speakers on the show from across the district and community in order to highlight leadership as well.

We provide experiences for learners to participate in school wide enrichment clubs. This is a chance for learners to pursue a passion for learning, based on voice and choice, to enrich the learning experience. At the beginning of the school year, teachers decide what club they would like to host and our students are given choice sheets to pick their passions. We meet with these clubs 6-8 times a year, allowing our learners to have an experience to transform their learning. Our student led lighthouse team is one club that serves as a voice for our campus and provides input on decision making, with student led tours of our campus and more.

Each spring our Leaders participate in our Leadership and Career Day. Community partners collaborate to provide a real-world learning experience that is career based. Everything from individual presentations from architects and entrepreneurs, to partnering with local hospitals, businesses, and city organizations, our learners have the chance to develop competencies for further learning, career and life. Our students are given a choice sheet and are able to pick careers that they are passionate about and to extend their learning path. Grade levels also complete projects based on the careers of leaders from past and present, allowing them to explore and create living and non-living museums for presentations.

Our leaders also participate in student led conferences with families, walking through a Leadership Notebook full of victories, leadership roles, and goals. This provides our students with the opportunity to find their voice and take ownership of their learning and set goals. Tracking their progress throughout the learning process helps them understand where they are and lead their learning targets.

During the spring we have a schoolwide parade highlighting various academic content. The learners are able to use choice to pick their content and then design projects to march around the school and showcase learning. Our learners are able to transform into book characters, science and math vocabulary words, and create visuals to represent idioms and more.

Throughout the year, we also participate in numerous service learning projects, designed by each grade level. We partner with local organizations such as the SPCA and Child's Advocacy center to collect items for donation. The students are the driving force behind these projects, tracking progress, and promoting it across the community.

Our educators are also given the opportunity to collaborate with our Instructional support team including our Media Technology Specialists. We have transformed our library with flexible seating and redesigned our computer lab to create a Synergy Lab. These areas integrate traditional literacy components and our learners have access to a broad based, high quality education involving a STEM based approach with access to digital resources, robotics and maker spaces. Our educators are able to collaborate with our MTS and create lessons that can reflect creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration, all 21st Century Skills important to life-long learners.

This past year we participated in the nation wide "Rock Your School" event. This day was dedicated to providing a unique learning experience for every student. We had room transformations, grade level transformations, and activities built into the day that allow our students to "rock" education. Teachers collaborated with guest speakers, integrated technology and content to allow our leaders to explore and create.

Our mission "Build Leaders of Tomorrow" is evident, and the creative approaches and opportunities that are provided for our learners truly transforms the learning experience at Jack.