

HOUSTON ISD POWERS UP AND ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY

Many children of generation Y remember the early days of the personal computer, when it was a common futuristic notion to replace textbooks with computers. The future, it would seem, is here, according to HISD.

HISD is joining a national movement to implement a one-to-one technology initiative known as "Power-Up!". The program, similar to those which have been implemented with success in other parts of the country, was proposed by HISD Superintendent Dr.

Terry Grier in January of this year.

Lenny Schad, the Chief Technology Officer for the



Teachers in training at Sharpstown High. Photo: Houston ISD Blog. All rights reserved.

district, had this to say: "If you think about the kids and the world they're growing up in, it's a digital world...all of how they live and operate is around

technology. It's around the web 2.0 tools."

The goals of the program revolve around helping the students of HISD to be competitive in an increasingly digital world.

The program is in a pilot phase this fall, with teachers at 11 schools receiving their computers for training purposes and continues with the students receiving theirs this spring. The goal is to provide every student in HISD with a laptop of their own 24/7 during the school year by fall 2014. This would make the HISD program the largest of its kind in the country.

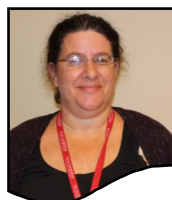
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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

*teach*HOUSTON Welcomes Two New Master Teachers!

Mrs. Ruth Kravetz came to tH from HISD, where she taught chemistry and math and served as Dean of Instruction Davis High School. Mrs. Kravetz Taught in The Gambia with the Peace Corps and in Bolivia at an



international school. Mr. Tom Le came to us from Humble ISD where he served as their instructional specialist after an 11-year career teaching math

around the Houston area.

Both of our new additions have math and chemistry backgrounds.



Welcome to *teach*HOUSTON, Mr. Le and Mrs. Kravetz!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Mariam Manuel (née Afzal)

A former biology major at the University of Houston, and a Spring 2010 *teach*HOUSTON graduate, Mariam Manuel (née Afzal) has shown her teaching prowess in KISD and has been recognized for it. The district has made Mrs. Manuel the Instructional Coach for Cinco Ranch and Morton Ranch High Schools.



Mrs. Manuel began working at Cinco Ranch High School in the fall of 2010, teaching academic physics— on-level physics for juniors and seniors and aquatic science to seniors. She remains centered at Cinco for her [JOB].

In the fall of 2011 she began teaching Pre-AP/GT physics to eleventh and twelfth graders. In addition, Mrs. Manuel taught senior-level aquatic science classes.

Mrs. Manuel works alongside two other *teach*HOUSTON graduates, Radha Jayakumar and Jacqueline Ekeoba at Cinco Ranch HS.

Though Mrs. Manuel is out of the classroom full time, she is surely still impacting lives in huge ways.

*teach*HOUSTON Graduates Take Over South Houston HS

*teach*HOUSTON began in 2007 with the charge from local school districts to provide 100 new math and science teachers each year. At South Houston HS, the highest concentration of *tH* graduates in Houston resides.

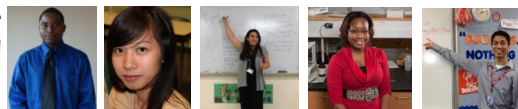
Each day, Kyronn Charles, Duong-



South Houston High School. Photo: Pasadena ISD. All rights reserved

Binh Do, Jaqueline Gonzalez, Jessica Ogbonmwan, and Miguel Vasquez (pictured below), all *tH* graduates, are changing the lives of students everyday and showing the progress the program has made toward meeting its charge.

These teachers are benefitting from having close, like-minded colleagues nearby everyday. Surely, however, their students benefit far more from the presence of these excellent teachers.



*teach*HOUSTON Hatches a Romance

It seems that *teach*HOUSTON can be good for more than simply excellent teacher preparation. The first wedding between two *tH* students took place in June of this year at the AD Bruce Religion Center on the UH campus.

Fall 2012 Graduate Emily Hatch (née Huckabay) and veteran project office worker Riley Hatch have been a common sight around *tH* since fall of 2009 when their relationship and Riley's long tenure in the project office both began.



Photo: Thomas and Penelope Photography, 2013. All rights reserved

More than one department would like to claim credit for this romance but there is no doubt about one fact: Riley and Emily spent a huge amount of their 3 year relationship at their on-campus home, *teach*HOUSTON.

Emily is currently teaching IPC at Sam Houston High. Riley plans to do his student teaching in chemistry in HISD.

"For most of us teaching is not just what earns our paycheck. Teaching is what we were put on earth to do." – Robert John Meehan

