



WISE's Excellence Transformation

When you think of success at a campus, all too often, we instinctively rely on standardized testing to tell us whether a campus is excelling or failing. We look to student performance to determine what celebrations a campus deserves to acknowledge. While student achievement provides a part of the story, it fails to tell the complete story. It buries the journey. Here is one school's journey that looks at where they've been and where they're going.

The year 2022-2023 has been a challenging year for Winston Intermediate School of Excellence, but one where there has been growth. This year began with big wins. All positions on campus were 100% staffed, the recently appointed principal was entering her first full year as principal, and the school had just hired a dedicated instructional specialist that would work closely with teachers to support the newly adopted curriculum. Student enrollment was also strong peaking at over 200 enrolled students in the first month. But then, new challenges began to appear.

Within the first two days of school starting, two veteran teachers had resigned. A third classroom would also leave behind a vacancy bringing a new realization that three of the nine core classrooms were without instructional experts. Student enrollment began to decline, lack of structures and systems led to a large scope of work becoming overwhelming and unfocused, and the newly assembled leadership team was still trying to build new relationships on a foundation of trust.

Fastforward to where we are currently in this new Spring semester... Student enrollment is still under 200, but attendance is the highest that it has been in a long time. Only one teaching position continues to be vacant, but the permanent substitute assigned to that class is receiving the same support and training that would be given to any teacher. And, the campus leadership team has worked together to begin to develop new systems that have created a strategic focus on three buckets of work: data analysis, instructional coaching, and one high leverage instructional strategy that helps to align everything that happens on the campus. W.I.S.E., as it is also known, is not quite at the stage where you can pick up a set of summative assessments and say it is an A-rated campus, but the work that has been going on this year is nothing short of an 'A.'

The story of WISE's rise to excellence is not over, in fact, it has just begun. The work of each educator, administrator, and staff member on campus is striving for the overarching North Star of student excellence. All energy and talent in the classroom leans toward ensuring WISE scholars are taking ownership of the work and leaving nothing on the table when it comes to learning. This is the first part of this story and this team of faculty will see the semester through to the end. Stay tuned to what happens next at WISE.

Special thanks goes to Texas A&M University San Antonio faculty supportive of this campus: Drs. Socorro Garcia-Alvarado, Karen Burgard, Michael Boucher, Katherine Espinoza, Jimena Guerra, Melissa Jozwiak, Karen Kohler, and Caroline O'Quinn.

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The Institute Team takes an outing

Understanding what it takes to make a strong team stronger takes time and effort. The Institute team and supporting Texas A&M University San Antonio faculty visited In the Eye of the Beholder Art Gallery and Studio in East San Antonio. The group was able to take in art by Black artists curated for San Antonio and this gallery. This opportunity allowed for the team to explore and learn together.

Burleson Blooms make it happen for Valentine's Day

The [Burleson School for Innovation and Education](#) nailed it on Valentine's Day for the community of Edgewood and the larger San Antonio community. Burleson Blooms sold over 100 floral arrangements which not only met but surpassed their target for this Valentine's Day. A KSAT News story also brought much attention to the A&M San Antonio Innovation Lab Campus and their real-time experiential learning. Because of the local news story the Local Market Viewership Audience - 78,387 potential eyes saw the clip, and the Ad Value - \$898.45 worth of paid advertising per 30 seconds. We thank all the patrons of Burleson Blooms and be on the lookout for florals for other



special holidays.

Click [Burleson Blooms](#) to order floral arrangements



Thank you Rotary Club

Gus Garcia University School and the Institute received \$750 for their campus garden from the Rotary Club of San Antonio Mission Trail. The Innovation Lab campus already has a food orchard generously provided by AbleCity and Gardopia Gardens and will now be able to further design the gardens with both the students and community in mind.



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