

CTL Corner Summer Edition

August 13, 2018

Dear CTL Families:

We hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer break!

Our CTL Team has had a productive summer working together to ensure a smooth start to the 2018-19 school year. Teachers have been eagerly preparing their classrooms throughout the summer, and this week we are all together together for professional development and will be ready to greet you on August 21 from 2:00 to 3:00 in the classrooms for Meet the Teacher and at the Meet & Greet from 3:00 to 5:00 on the CTL Playground. Come prepared for an old-fashioned picnic where we will all mingle as the children play. It will be a festive celebration of the beginning of a new and exciting school year.



We are looking forward to getting back into the swing of things and to visiting with each of you.

The CTL Team

Meet Ryan DuFour, CTL's New Principal

We are excited to have Ryan DuFour join us this year as our CTL Principal. Ryan is not new to CTL. He has been with us behind the scenes since 2010 when CTL was just a vision and during the planning and implementation phases. Ryan is in his 14th year in education, all in Houston Independent School District. Before coming to the Center for Teaching & Learning, he spent three years as an Assistant Principal at Fonville Middle School, one year as an Assistant Principal at Hines Elementary School, and nine years at Sharpstown High School as an English/ESL teacher, Lead Teacher, Department Chair, ESL Coordinator, and Dean of Instruction. Ryan obtained both his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership/Administration and his B.S. in Educational Studies from Sam Houston State University. He holds a Texas Professional Mid-Management Administrator's Certificate as a Principal, Grades EC-12 and Texas Educator Certificates in grades 4-12 English Language Arts and Reading, grades 4-8 Social Studies, grades EC-12 English as a Second Language (ESL), and grades EC-12 Special Education. His lifelong dream of becoming a school leader at a phenomenal and reputable school such as the Center for Teaching & Learning is finally coming to fruition. Ryan truly understand the importance of a

school's reputation and the foundation that has been laid to get there which places high expectations on the administration, teachers, staff, and students. He truly appreciates the opportunity to serve all constituents here at the Center for Teaching & Learning and looks forward to becoming a valuable and integral part of the team.

Meet our 2018-19 CTL Team!



Dr. Linda Ellis

President & Head of School



Ryan DuFour

Principal



Amelia Maia

Administrative Assistant



Treva McKissic

Creative Strategist



Beckey Billings

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher



Annie Manning

Kindergarten Teacher



Lisa Lipar

Grades 1-2 Teacher



Corrie Sheldon

Grades 3-4 Teacher



Caroline Harrison

Grades 5-8 Language Arts &
7-8 Social Studies Teacher



Claire Want

**Grades 5-8 Math Teacher &
PK-8 Math Specialist**



Laura Wellbrock

**Grades 5-8 Science & 5-8
Physical Education Teacher**



James Milner

**Grades 5-6 Social Studies &
5-8 Drama Teacher**



Abby Salazar

Grades PK-8 Art Teacher



Sommer Trebilco

Grades PK-8 Music Teacher



Sarina Eckhardt

**Grades PK-4 Physical
Education Teacher**

2018-19 School Calendar

Please see our [2018-19 School Calendar](#) for important school dates, holidays, etc.

Preparing for the First Day of School

Want to get a jump start to the school year? Did you know that your school fees cover all general classroom supplies including pencils, paper, books, etc. All you need to purchase are personal organizational items, snack/lunch items (morning and afternoon snack for Pre-K), indoor shoes, and a backpack. Pre-K students will need a nap mat and blanket. The [Student-Parent Handbook](#) will have full details of what to bring to school and answers to other questions you may have.

We look forward to visiting with you next Tuesday from 2:00 to 3:00 at our Meet the Teacher and from 3:00 to 5:00 for the Meet & Greet on our CTL playground. Have a great rest of the summer!

Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and Hearing Screenings will take place Thursday, September 6. Please fill out the [attached form](#) and send a check made out to *Center for Teaching & Learning* or *CTL* with your student(s) name(s) on the memo line by **Thursday August 30, 2018**. If you prefer, you may **submit screening results** from your pediatrician's office instead of participating in the school screening by **Friday, October 5, 2018**. If you want to file an exemption for religious or personal reasons, please let us know so that we can provide you with the appropriate paper work.

After School Program Offerings

We are excited to offer a variety of after school program offerings this year. You will notice that we have included a few new listings as well as Friday programs:

Monday

- Nutty Scientist (grades K-6)
- Carma's Creations Jazz (grades 2-3)

Tuesday

- Carma's Creations Creative Movement/Exercise (grades K-1)
- Tennis (grades K-4)
- Soccer (grades 2-8) - Pending
- Young Rembrandts (grades K-6)

Wednesday

- Tennis (grades 5-8)
- Robotics (grades 2-8)
- Soccer (grades PK-1) - Pending

Thursday

- Golf (grades K-4)
- Yoga (grades PK-4)
- Field Hockey (grades K-8) - Wendtwoods Park

Friday

- Paint & Bubbles (1:15-2:15)
- Golf grades 5-8 (1:30-2:30 - Wendtwoods Park)
- Run/Solve/Serve (grades 5-8)

You will receive by email full descriptions of each program offering with costs later this week. This year program partners have been invited to set up tables on the playground at the Meet & Greet so you will be able to browse the offerings. For forward planning, we are offering the same programs each trimester for the entire year for 8-10 week intervals with an opportunity to sign-up at the end of each trimester for the next trimester.



The fine arts have always been an integral part of the vision of CTL, and we are thrilled to announce our latest venture. CTL is partnering with the Sarah Kelly Music School to provide our students with a first class music education. 2x Grammy nominee Sarah Kelly specializes in teaching popular music and songwriting. The Sarah Kelly Music School has a proven track record of taking students from learning to write their first song to making recordings that are played on the radio and beyond.

CTL is the only school with this partnership, and we are excited for the opportunity. Sarah Kelley Music School is offering a special rate for CTL students in grades 5-8 who wish to attend during their music time on Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:00 or to students in grades K-8 who wish to attend on Friday from 1:30 to 3:00. The rate will be \$200 per month for a 1 1/2-hour session each week instead of the regular rate of \$275 per month.

The possibility of this partnership with Sarah has been long coming, and we are so excited for the opportunity. Many of their students get Grammy nominations, and their after-school music program is full with no existing slots. Checkout their website at <http://www.sarahkellymusicschool.com>.

Interested parents will need to provide transportation and register directly with the Sarah Kelley Music School. We would, however, like to check out the interest. If you are interested and plan to enroll, please contact Dr. Ellis at lellis@centerforteachingandlearning.com.

We hope you are as excited as we are! What a wonderful opportunity our students have. This is huge!

CTL Teachers Begin the Year by Getting Back to the Roots



With Albert Einstein's quote, "If you can't explain it ***simply***, you don't understand it well enough," came our professional learning theme for this year--*Keep it Simple*. The CTL Team will be meeting all week with this theme in mind building community and learning together. We are energized about all the possibilities awaiting us for this school year with your children.

CTL Meet the Teacher and Meet & Greet

When

Tuesday, Aug. 21st, 2-5pm

Where

CTL Classrooms & Playground

More information

Students and families are invited to drop in and meet your teacher(s) in the classrooms from 2:00-3:00 p.m. This will be followed by a casual Meet & Greet on the CTL Playground from 3:00-5:00 p.m. We look forward to visiting with each of you!

Mark Your Calendars!

First Day of School

When

Wednesday, Aug. 22nd, 7:30am-3pm

Where

*Center for Teaching and Learning, 26131
Kuykendahl Road, Tomball, TX*

CTL Facebook Page

Click this button above for Facebook pictures and updates from our school.

CTL Website

Click this button above for more information regarding our school.

CTL Parent Facebook Page

Click this button above and join our CTL Parent Facebook community!

