



# Neuhaus News

SUMMER 2020

## Together We Stand

As we work to process the tragic deaths of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many before them, we wanted to send a message to you directly. To those that are hurting, angry and scared, we want you to know that Neuhaus Education Center stands with you.

Discrimination is the greatest threat to a community built on belonging and acceptance. It cuts to the core of who we are and what we believe in. Neuhaus Education Center stands united with the Black community, our stakeholders, our supporters and our employees against racism and injustice. We reject racism, bigotry, and hate.

We cannot talk about recent events without also acknowledging some dynamics that are taking shape today and will cause our nation to either sink or rise. COVID-19 has underscored a stark reality that can no longer be ignored. That reality is directly linked to class and race-based disparities in our country.

According to National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) scores, two-thirds of our students are not proficient readers. Closing this gap post-COVID-19 must be a critical priority. Children in this country are more than capable of achieving at or above grade-level in reading. The science on how to teach reading has been around for 100 years. We have the “treatment,” so why are many students in classrooms today not receiving the “cure”? This is a moment we must seize; a movement we can create together on behalf of our most precious treasure... our children. It is long overdue that we rally around hard-working educational leaders who are fighting valiantly to provide equity and access for all.

Black lives should not only matter. Black lives should flourish – but that can only happen when systemic racism embedded in educational systems is confronted through courageous conversation and actions. Anti-literacy laws no longer officially exist; the requirement that a person be able to read to vote has

been outlawed. Yet, the insidious nature of covert racism continues to exude systemic poison.


We want all our friends and supporters to know the decisions we will make in how to proceed. Our answers cannot always be immediate, but we promise that Neuhaus will communicate with transparency.

Steps we are undertaking *now*:

- Evaluating our mission statement for a deeper understanding of our organization’s core values in relation to current dynamics.
- Exploring the resources of other organizations that will give Neuhaus the tools to play a vital role in racial reconciliation.
- Most importantly, we know our work is a crucial component of creating equity and access for black children and all children. We will continue to advocate for literacy as the solution to closing the opportunity gap.

We still have work to do. At Neuhaus Education Center, our leadership team and staff will continue to act on our commitment in promoting literacy success for all and fighting discrimination as we all work together to become better and more active allies.

With hope for the future,



President/ CEO



## VIRTUAL LEARNING THAT WORKS FOR YOU

We're offering our in-house Professional Development Classes virtually!  
Classes are available for educators and take place live, offering you the opportunity to interact with our expert Instructional Staff and other participants from the comfort and safety of your home.

[View our Summer/Fall Class Schedule](#)

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# Transitioning from the Traditional Classroom to Virtual

The disruption to most American lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been drastic and sudden -- and the most dramatic shift was education's move to a virtual setting.

In a new world of social distancing, K-12 schools have had to quickly adapt to an online learning model, often with far less experience and fewer resources for teachers and students. We spoke with teachers [Danielle Engelking](#) and [Caitlin Woods](#) about their experience moving learning online, how Neuhaus has impacted their teaching, and what they hope this crisis will teach us about strengthening education systems.

## What practices as an educator can you share about how best to promote learning in an online environment?

**Engelking:** Teaching online is a very tricky thing. For me, it is essential to maintain the teacher/student relationship and keep a consistent routine. I continued learning by creating video lessons through iMovie and sharing them on Google Classroom. Zoom is great for seeing faces and doing quick check-ins, but I was more effective using pre-recorded videos.

**Woods:** This was my first time teaching online and it was a learning experience. Being consistent, flexible, and understanding helped me navigate this new teaching environment. I had daily video chats and a weekly "Lunch Bunch" with my students. On Fridays, we would do Directed Drawings and GoNoodle videos. Sometimes the students just wanted to talk to me and show the puzzle they were completing, their pet hamsters, or the picture they were coloring!

## How do you implement Neuhaus curriculum/activities in this remote learning environment?

**Engelking:** I continue to implement Neuhaus curriculum through pre-recorded Reading Readiness review videos. I do not introduce new concepts, but highlight the valuable skills that we previously learned in the classroom. I also enjoy guiding my students through phonemic awareness activities and receiving videos from parents of my students working and reading with me!

**Woods:** I reviewed past lessons learned in the classroom as a way for the students to refresh their memory. My team also sent home a weekly newsletter with phonic activities students could do quickly with very little prep work for parents.

A big concern is how the current crisis may lead to even greater gaps in student learning. For example, there are families that don't have access to internet or devices at home and school systems that can't provide them. What are some lessons that we may share with others around the world experiencing this?

**Engelking:** I think we are looking at large gaps for our students in the future. Reading to children and exposing them to authentic literature goes such a long way. Our children might not be able to go to a waterpark right now, but they can certainly read a story about one. We can continue to expose our students to new vocabulary and new experiences during all of this through literature.

**Woods:** If we all work together, we can try to keep this gap from getting bigger. We all need to step up for the children who depend on us. We need to build resiliency and be flexible. Let's put forth effort, give the materials and resources to those who need them, and be understanding. Teachers are giving 100% right now and are going above and beyond for their students.

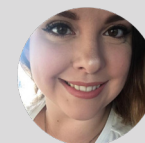
## What can COVID-19 teach us about strengthening education systems?

**Engelking:** Through this pandemic, we have seen that a key factor in making our education system stronger is the importance of encouraging teachers and equipping teachers with quality programs. Having quality programs like Neuhaus equips teachers with the knowledge of what to teach and the tools to meet students where they are academically.

**Woods:** A huge concern is how Covid-19 will create a larger gap in student learning. Not all parents had access to technology and could access materials and join daily video chats. This pandemic has opened doors and created new opportunities for students and teachers by implementing creative teaching and innovation.



**Danielle Engelking**  
Kindergarten teacher  
Woden Elementary, Woden ISD



**Caitlin Woods**  
First Grade teacher  
Lantrip Elementary, Houston ISD



## Meet the Staff: Catherine Scott, M.Ed, CALT, Reading Specialist

### How long have you been with Neuhaus, and what do you do here?

I began working at Neuhaus in September of 2008, right before Hurricane Ike hit. I started on the Instructional Staff; and after four years, I transitioned to the newly formed Innovative Solutions Department under Suzanne Carreker. Now, I am excited to lead the new iteration of Innovative Solutions, the Curriculum and Instructional Design Department as the Vice-President.

### What is your favorite thing about working at Neuhaus?

One of things that I enjoy the most about working at Neuhaus is having the ability to create and design new curriculare learning continuously how to become better teachers of reading. I love the challenge of taking research and turning it into something that is applicable to the classroom. I love the puzzle of making learning engaging, yet meaningful, so all of our participants can walk away not only with new knowledge but also with useful information that they can turn around and use the next day in the classroom.

### What is your proudest moment while working at Neuhaus?

I had the privilege of knowing many of the original instructional staff at Neuhaus. They were my teachers and mentors. I am proud to be able to carry on their legacy of ensuring that everyone has access to good reading instruction.

## Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program

This Neuhaus program offers individuals with Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees an informed approach to reading instruction and the skills to provide instruction to dyslexic students in public and private schools and in clinical settings.

Accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC), the program includes 200 instructional hours in a structured, sequential program; 700 clinical/teaching hours under the supervision of a qualified mentor that includes 10 demonstration lessons of clinical work with an individual student or small group; and regular written documentation of a student’s progress.

## Congratulations Class of 2020!

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
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## Advisory Board Member Spotlight: Ané Ebie-Mouton

Ané Ebie-Mouton is a newly appointed Neuhaus Advisory Board Member. Mouton was introduced to Neuhaus in 2003 and immediately found ways to integrate our curriculum in the classroom. We asked her a few questions about her support in promoting reading success for all.

### How did you discover Neuhaus and why is Neuhaus important to you?

As a literary coach, my campus and I partnered with Neuhaus for training which resulted in our school achieving recognition status! I have also been trained in Neuhaus Basic Language Skills and have applied it to my work as well. The work that Neuhaus does has shifted my life-lens on how I view literacy from infant stages to adulthood. Literacy learning NEVER ceases!

### How are you making an impact as an Advisory Board Member?

As a Neuhaus Advisory Board Member, I have been equipped to impact outcomes more broadly and, in doing so, push the Neuhaus work of “changing the family tree.” I get to sow back into a space from which I have so bountifully reaped.

### What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings*.





Join Neuhaus Education Center in our work to promote reading success for all by making a donation.

Here are a few examples of how your donation can help Neuhaus Education Center impact the community.

**\$5,000 PROVIDES 3 DAYS**

of expert Neuhaus coaching support to a campus

**\$2,500 PREPARES 9 EDUCATORS**

to help 180 students learn to read

**\$1,000 ENROLLS 5 ADULTS**

in adult literacy classes to learn to read

**\$750 HELPS 1 STUDENT**

receive one-on-one dyslexia therapy for one month

**\$500 UNDERWRITES 1 INFO SESSION**

for families of struggling readers

**\$250 EQUIPS 1 EDUCATOR**

with supplies for early literacy activities and vocabulary development

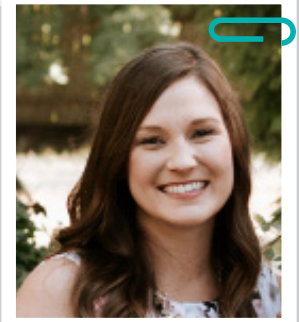
**\$100 PROVIDES 4 BOOKS**

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**Meet the Staff:  
Hailey Hunt, M.Ed**



**How long have you been with Neuhaus, and what do you do here?**

I have worked at Neuhaus as an Instructor since October 2018, but my history with Neuhaus goes back much further. I attended several Neuhaus classes as a new teacher 12 years ago, and continued taking as many classes as I could over the next several years. What I learned at Neuhaus made a profound difference in my understanding of how to help my students succeed.

**What is your favorite thing about working at Neuhaus?**

So much work goes on behind the scenes to make our professional learning meaningful and engaging. I am grateful to be part of a team that strives unceasingly to promote literacy.

**What is your proudest moment working at Neuhaus?**

I am a teacher at heart, so it is a proud moment any time I hear from other teachers that they learned something in a Neuhaus class that positively impacted a child.

**What is your favorite book?**

It might be cliché, but there are too many to count! Reading is one of my favorite ways to spend my time. Several favorites over the last year include *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett and *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim. My aunt, Rebecca Bruff, published a beautifully written historical fiction novel last year to which I return frequently. *Trouble the Water* tells the story of Robert Smalls, born enslaved before the Civil War and his escape to freedom.

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