In May, I attended the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium in Anchorage. During the event, I listened attentively to Governor Mike Dunleavy’s second annual address, aiming to align my keynote remarks with his speech.

Governor Dunleavy delivered a captivating speech, but to everyone’s surprise, he revealed that the speech was created by artificial intelligence (AI). He emphasized the increasing importance of literacy in light of rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and their impact on the workforce.

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Alarmsingly, one in three adults in Houston struggle with functional illiteracy. Systems must be transformed. We have the potential to make a profound generational impact in our country. Ideally, our focus should be on preventing literacy failure in schools, rendering our adult literacy program unnecessary.

The rise of AI poses a fundamental question: If we fail to instill literacy in today’s children, how will they navigate the demands of digital, financial, and health literacy? The ability to read, write, and effectively utilize AI as a tool will be crucial for opportunities in an information age.

At Neuhaus, we need your support to navigate this new era of AI. We are facing a literacy crisis, and addressing it requires collective effort. Every government official should advocate for Literacy for All. Business owners, parents, grandparents, educators, and university leaders can serve as ambassadors of change.

In the city I call home, Houston, there is a well-known quote: “Houston, we have a problem.” It’s time to update that quote to “Houston, we have a solution.” This solution motivates the Neuhaus team to persevere, believing that members of our community will invest their time, talent, and resources in our life-changing work. We seek your support so that, together, we can provide every child and adult with the superpower of literacy, illuminating the path towards a brighter future for all.
Gather at Annual Literacy Lights the Way Luncheon

Neuhaus Education Center’s 2023 Literacy Lights the Way Annual Benefit Luncheon took place Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. Over $475,000 was raised, thanks to the generosity of our donors and the 500 individuals and educators who attended the event.

Luncheon chairs Ethel and Chap Hutcheson and Laura and Chris Hutcheson highlighted the importance of literacy as a human right and its ability to combat poverty and transform communities. The event featured keynote speaker Ameer Baraka, an accomplished actor, author, and literacy advocate who shared his inspiring story of overcoming social and economic barriers due to his inability to read, and his subsequent championing of prison reform and dyslexia awareness. Marjoria and Palmer Hutcheson were also honored for their commitment and leadership to Neuhaus Education Center.

This event would not have been as successful without the hard work of luncheon host committee members Leslie Blanton; Laura and Seth Borland; Lucia and Louis Brandt; Kathleen Noel Camp; and Eric and Bob Phillips; Lenox and John Reed; Eloise and David T. Sears Jr; Kristen Osch; Stubbs; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Taylor; Leslie and Eric Wade; Elizabeth and Peter Wareing; Jenna and David Webber; and Gabrielle and Rallin Welch.

Thank you to our supporters and friends as we continue to promote Literacy for All in Texas and beyond.

New Dyslexia Law
House Bill 3928

On June 10, 2023, House Bill 3928 by Representative Steve Toth and Senator Tan Trung was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott.

This law relates to dyslexia evaluations and services for Texas public school students, the provision of services for students with dyslexia and related disorders, and certain parental notice regarding the rights of parents of public school students with disabilities.

To implement this new law, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be creating policies and procedures.

Upcoming Classes

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EXPERIENCE THE NEUHAUS DIFFERENCE

Our customer service and research-based resources are tailored to a school system’s needs for strengthening its inventory of learning tools, adding valuable knowledge for achieving literacy goals across each grade level.

Upcoming Classes

Accurate and Automatic Reading: First Instruction
August 2 & 3, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Registration Deadline: July 20, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build essential foundational word identification skills through explicit, systematic instruction of the structure of the English language with supporting reading practices and focus on how to teach decoding skills and strategies.

Reading Readiness
August 4, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

September 26, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

October 26, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach reliable patterns for spelling.

Language Enrichment
October 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 3, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach direct, systematic decoding instruction.

Language Enrichment for Older Students (LEOS)
October 10, 17, 24, Nov. 21, 28 & Dec. 5, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 3, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach direct, systematic decoding instruction and provides teachers with lessons on how to build foundational and higher-level comprehension skills using lessons with a range of text.

Oral Language & Listening Comprehension (OLLIC)
October 19, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 5, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build foundational and higher-order thinking skills at the oral level guided by structured lesson plans.

Basic Language Skills (BLS)
Introduction
September 26, 27, October 3, 4, 10, 17, 18, 24, 25, & 31
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. (CST)

This course trains instructors to work with students with dyslexia and related disorders.

Preview session participation and acceptance are required before registration in the BLS Introduction class.

Register now to attend a preview session.

Teaching, Reading, Reaching.

Neuhaus Education Center gives teachers the knowledge to identify why students are struggling and how best to reach them.

We offer courses that describe the foundational reading skills necessary for reading instruction and how they support better reading outcomes for all students.

Language Enrichment Review
September 21, 2023
Registration Deadline: Sept. 7, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Structured literacy curriculum that enables teachers to teach successful decoding for students in grades 1-3.

Unexpected Underachievement
October 3, 2023
Registration Deadline: Sept. 18, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Explore the causes of dyslexia.

Scientific Spelling
October 5, 2023
Registration Deadline: Sept. 21, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach reliable patterns for spelling.

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Lenox M. Reed Seminar Inspires Education Community to Prioritize Language Acquisition and Reading Disabilities

Dr. Erin Baumgartner Emphasizes the Benefits of Focusing on Emerging Bilingual/English Language Students for Student Success and Community Development

Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program 2023 Graduates

Program Celebrates Dedication to Supporting Individuals with Dyslexia and Reading Challenges

We are delighted to acknowledge and honor the exceptional graduates of the Neuhaus Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP).

As a highly regarded Tier III program, DSPP offers comprehensive coursework and supervised practical experience, equipping educators and therapists with the necessary expertise to support individuals with dyslexia and other reading challenges.

Basic Language Skills (BLS) is a comprehensive and intensive Structured Literacy curriculum that is the core curriculum of DSPP. These dedicated professionals have successfully completed the rigorous program, demonstrating their commitment to advancing the field of dyslexia intervention.

Neuhaus Education Center recognized 40 graduates at the Lenox M. Reed Seminar. Friends, family, and mentors of the graduates were in attendance, as well as Neuhaus staff and board members.

We proudly present the following accomplished individuals who have earned certification through the Neuhaus Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program.

Reading Therapists

- Misha Alexander - Birmingham, AL
- Joanna Allsup - Irving, TX
- Eunice Banda - Stafford, TX
- Mary Brazelton - Houston, TX
- Mary L. Brown - Galveston, TX
- Kacie Callens - Woodsville, WI
- Cyndi Figura - Katy, TX
- Patricia Garza - Houston, TX
- Angela Gillespie - Birmingham, AL
- Iris Gutierrez - Houston, TX

Dyslexia Therapists

- Nina Berch - Houston, TX
- Keri Coleman - Saraland, AL
- Sherry Drake - Tuscaloosa, AL
- Brookie Dias - Houston, TX
- Cherrie Enmons - Santa, TX
- Robin Ferrara - Houston, TX
- Sarah Finlay - Missouri City, TX
- Lindsay Lefas - Houston, TX
- Rebecca Macedo - Brazil
- Jennifer Money - Houston, TX
- Lola Renee Penny - Houston, TX
- Leslie Pesis - Houston, TX
- Sarah Rozelle - Pearland, TX
- Gladys Schaefer - Birmingham, AL
- Betsy Serrano - Sugar Land, TX
- Jennifer Vees - Montgomery, AL
- Stephanie Villahuerta - Houston, TX
- Kristin Walker - Houston, TX
- Shelley Willison - Moscow, TX

To learn more about this program, visit neuhaus.org/our-services/educators/specialist-preparation/

SAVE THE DATE
2023 Reading Circle

Join us for entertainment, light bites, and drinks as we celebrate our generous donors.

This event is in appreciation for donors who have supported Neuhaus at $500+ in the past year.

A formal invitation will be sent.

Thursday, October 5, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Neuhaus Education Center
(4433 Bissonnet, Houston)

The Lenox M. Reed Seminar welcomed 125 educators, board members and supporters interested in language acquisition and reading disabilities at the Junior League of Houston, Inc. The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Erin Baumgartner, Director of the Houston Education Research Consortium at Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Baumgartner discussed the importance of centering the needs of emerging bilingual/English language students in planning, and consider how doing so will benefit students and our entire community.

Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program

We are excited to celebrate our 2023 graduates who have completed the rigorous curriculum of DSPP.

Family Bingo Night

Get Ready for a Night of Fun and Excitement at our Inaugural Family Bingo Night

Mark your calendars and be part of the start of a fantastic tradition!

You're invited to join us this fall for a late afternoon with games, food, and prizes at Family Bingo Night.

Sunday, November 5, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
SPJST Lodge 88 in the Houston Heights
1435 Bell Street, Houston, TX 77008

All are welcome to attend (including kids).

Tickets and more information will be sent later this summer.

Contact Elizabeth Crockett, Associate Director of Advancement, at ecrockett@neuhaus.org for questions.
Family Support Office & Adult Literacy

Neuhaus believes that reading success has the power to overcome poverty, elevate the allowance of a community, and transform the future of families for generations to come.

You Can Help Your Child Guide

Use this helpful guide to learn more about Neuhaus Education Center, resources available to families, and how families can help their child with dyslexia.

Frequently Asked Questions

Find the answers to the most frequently asked questions the Family Support Office has received for families with struggling readers including those with dyslexia.

Texas Dyslexia Handbook

The Texas Dyslexia Handbook is developed and adopted into administrative rule by the Texas State Board of Education, and contains guidelines for school districts to follow as they identify and provide services for students with dyslexia.

Home is where literacy takes root, and when a child struggles with reading, the search for answers and specialists trained in detecting learning differences can be difficult and intimidating.

The Neuhaus Family Support Office and Adult Literacy resources and referral services provide families with a welcome first step in unlocking a path to reading success.

Adult Literacy Classes

Reading opens doors to better-paying jobs, a hopeful future, and the skills needed in today's digital world.

The Fall Semester of Adult Literacy classes will begin on Thursday, August 28. Currently, adult literacy screeners are needed in today's digital world.

Yin is interested in participating, contact Lara Spilgots, Vice President of Family Support and Adult Literacy at lspegights@neuhaus.org.

For more information about our adult literacy classes, please email NeuhausFSO@neuhaus.org.

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