Each of you plays a vital role in transforming lives and safeguarding futures every day when you engage with Neuhaus Education Center.

Being catalysts for change requires a profound level of determination, courage, and resilience, especially in the turbulent times we live in. Yet, the satisfaction we derive from hearing success stories is immeasurable. We hear from principals who have transformed their schools through our work and from parents whose children have transitioned from struggling and despondent students to successful and joyful learners.

If you haven’t had the chance to visit one of our adult literacy classes, we invite you to do so. It’s an opportunity to listen to inspiring stories and witness our dedicated instructors in action. Every member of the Neuhaus ecosystem holds a critical leadership role within their sphere of influence.

Much like salmon swimming upstream against formidable currents, we persevere in the face of teacher shortages, substitute shortages, funding challenges for schools, and the task of integrating the science of reading into education. Our mission is to provide a nurturing environment for the next generation to thrive by imparting the gift of literacy. Together, we ensure the survival and success of our offspring.

We are proud to be on this journey alongside the educators we deeply respect and honor. Together, we navigate the complex waters of illiteracy, ensuring that every child, regardless of their location, has the opportunity to become literate in this information age. Thanks to your support, teachers are empowering students with the most fundamental human right of the 21st century – the right to read.

Our team is a source of inspiration and admiration. Together, we are committed to bringing literacy success to every community, both locally and beyond, that we touch.

As we acknowledge National Dyslexia Month this October, we want to express our gratitude for your unwavering dedication to prevention and intervention. Your commitment is making a generational impact on the lives of many who would otherwise be left to struggle in an ocean of illiteracy.

With gratitude,

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Message from the President & CEO
Dr. Tracy White Weeden, Ed.D.
The literacy crisis is huge, but together we can solve it.

What if Houston became the most literate city in the nation? What if children with dyslexia were identified before they experienced reading failure? What if systems were designed in every public, charter, and private school to ensure a literacy safety net was in place for educators to get reading right the first time?

These compelling questions underscore a problem that many may not be fully aware of: Houston, like our nation, is confronting a literacy crisis.

The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) provides a nationally consistent measure of our literacy progress. Despite abundant scientific knowledge on effective reading instruction, a staggering 68% of U.S. fourth graders are not proficient in reading. The challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022 have only worsened this decline, and the consequences are profound.

As we prepare our children for a knowledge-based economy and an information age, their decoding and fluency skills must be strong to enable them to build knowledge effectively. Beyond childhood, digital, health, and financial literacy are vital skills. Failing to equip our children with these competencies will leave them ill-prepared to navigate the complex web of literacy in a world that continually evolves. We must recognize that we are all in this together – we either collectively swim toward literacy excellence or sink as a society.

Join us Neuhaus Education Center at Unlocking Literacy: Houston, We Have a Solution! sponsored by Gulf Coast Workforce Board – Workforce Solutions.

This event will include the screening of two impactful films that aims to raise awareness about the importance of literacy. Following each film, we have organized engaging panel discussions featuring educators and literacy advocates, and moderated by Jenn White, host of 1A, a daily program from WAMU (public news/talk station) in Washington, D.C.

Reserve your seat today and join the conversation in transforming the lives of children and adults where literacy leads the way.
EVENT DETAILS

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
Jones Hall, St. Thomas University
3910 Yoakum Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

THE FILMS

The Truth About Reading
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CST)
View Trailer

Aims to change the conversation around literacy by highlighting illiteracy, sub-literacy, and learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

The Right to Read
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (CST)
View Trailer

Directed by Jenny Mackenzie. Executive produced by Levar Burton. The stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

BOOK SIGNING WITH AMEER BARAKA
Following The Right to Read viewing and panel discussion

UNDIAgnOSED: The Ugly Side of Dyslexia

Born to humble beginnings in New Orleans, Ameer Baraka’s early life was as gloomy and as ill-fated as a young life could have been. In and out of the prison system as a kid for transgressions ranging from youthful indiscretions to major crimes, he was seemingly on a one-way trip to oblivion.

Almost illiterate when he went to prison, he was diagnosed with dyslexia and learned to read in his mid-twenties while behind bars. His book, UNDIAGNOSED: The Ugly Side of Dyslexia promotes early detection of the learning disability in schools and awareness and support for prison inmates in the United States.

Ameer Baraka is an Emmy® Award-nominated and daytime actor, author, and dyslexia advocate. He is currently working on Tyler Perry’s number one tv show Zatima on BET-plus.

GUEST PANEL SPEAKERS

Tracy White Weeden, Ed.D.
President & CEO
Neuhaus Education Center

Ameer Baraka
Emmy® Award-nominated and daytime actor, author, and dyslexia advocate

David Chalk
Entrepreneur & Literacy Advocate

Dave DeJohn
Educator & Literacy Advocate
Houston ISD

Debbie Landau
Chief Operating Officer
Lovescaping

Federico Salas-Isnardi
Director
City of Houston Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy

Danielle Shokes-Knotts
Manager, Adult Education & Literacy
Gulf Coast Workforce Board- Workforce Solutions

Ruth N. López Turley, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Sociology
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Rice University

Jenn White
Host
1 A from WAMU/NPR

Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora
Superintendent of Schools
Tomball ISD

EVENT PARTNERS

Houstonia.
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

1 A from WAMU/NPR
CELEBRATING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Join us throughout the month as we spread awareness, share knowledge, and foster a deeper understanding of dyslexia.

Virtual Dyslexia 101
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Noon - 1:00 p.m. (CST)
Virtual Event / Register Now

Gain insight into the challenges individuals face when learning to read, including identifying those who may have dyslexia, and explore the necessary components of reading instruction crucial to their learning process.

Virtual Dyslexia 201
Thursday, October 26, 2023
Noon - 1:00 p.m. (CST)
Virtual Event / Register Now

This session offers participants the opportunity to actively engage in structured literacy lessons for students with dyslexia and gain a better understanding of dyslexia therapy and their child’s experience with it.

Virtual Dyslexia Simulation
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (CST)
Virtual Event / Register Now

This simulation guides you through reading and handwriting activities in a way that allows you to experience a sense of the struggles and frustration that students with learning differences often face. Understanding the difficulties that students face can help us provide more effective support.

The Neuhaus simulation experience creates such important awareness. The fight, flight, freeze response was certainly experienced! When we know better, we can do better and treat other people better with heart energy.

Transforming the family tree through literacy

When a child struggles with reading, the search for answers and specialists trained in detecting learning differences can be difficult and intimidating. Neuhaus Education Center resources and referral services provide families with a welcome first step in unlocking a path to reading success.

Virtual Monthly Information Session
10:00 a.m. to noon (CST) / Virtual Event

This repeating virtual presentation includes information on reading challenges, including dyslexia, multisensory, research-based instruction, and the Texas dyslexia legislation. Sessions are hosted in English.

Upcoming Sessions
- Wednesday, October 4, 2023
- Saturday, October 21, 2023
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- Saturday, November 11, 2023
- Saturday, December 9, 2023
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023

* To register, please click the website link and register. You will receive an email confirmation of your registration.

College Panel
Wednesday, January 3, 2024
6:30 p.m. (CST) | Virtual Event
Register Now

For more than 20 years, Neuhaus Education Center, The Briarwood School, and the Houston Branch of The International Dyslexia Association (HBIDA) have hosted College Panel, an annual event where high school students have the opportunity to hear directly from current college students about how to successfully navigate college with learning differences. These students will share information about their colleges, programs available at their schools, and their strategies for success.

This panel is an inspiration for freshmen and sophomores and a necessity for juniors and seniors in high school who are planning to attend college.
Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Learning

My literacy journey with Neuhaus Education Center
By Tameka Blackshire

Overcoming personal struggles and difficulty with reading, Tameka Blackshire discovered the power of education and found the courage to seek help with support from Neuhaus in her pursuit of a brighter future.

I am delighted to share my transformative journey with Neuhaus, a journey that not only changed my life but also brought a positive shift to my son’s life. It’s a story of facing challenges, seeking help, and discovering the power of learning anew.

To be completely honest, there was a time when I found myself in a low place, struggling not only with my own understanding but also with my son’s challenges. My son had been diagnosed with dyslexia, and the struggles he faced in school echoed deeply within me. I carried the weight of feeling like I had let him down.

The turning point came when I stumbled upon the Neuhaus Adult Literacy program. It was a moment of bravery when I thought, “What could possibly go wrong?” I reached out to the staff from the Family Support & Adult Literacy Office and that conversation marked the first time I openly shared my struggles with reading comprehension. The reassuring words were like a lifeline, assuring me that I wasn’t alone in this journey. Several months later, an appointment was scheduled and it was a pivotal step that filled me with excitement. The prospect of learning alongside my 11-year-old son was invigorating. Despite the hardships we were facing, the chance to make our lives better gave me the strength to persevere. As the program unfolded, I found myself surrounded by amazing classmates. The learning environment became a safe haven for growth. My newfound understanding led me to embrace a different approach to teaching my son. I invited him to help me with my studies, a role reversal that nurtured a deeper bond between us.

Among the many impactful aspects of the Neuhaus program, I can hold my head high now, confident in my reading abilities. Most importantly, I can support my son’s reading journey and help him recognize his progress.

My advice to other adults unable to move forward in life because of a struggle with reading is this - if you find yourself doubting, unsure if seeking help is the right path, let my journey be a testament to the power of taking that leap. Neuhaus Education Center took a chance on me, and it changed my life.

Now, I stand proud, armed with newfound knowledge, ready to share it with my son, my grandkids, and anyone else who needs it. Remember that you’re not alone in your struggles. There are paths to transformation waiting to be discovered, just as I found mine with Neuhaus Education Center.

Literacy has been described as the currency of the 21st century. Adults who learn to read make a life-changing deposit in the future of their family by overcoming social and economic limits due to functional illiteracy.

Visit www.neuhaus.org/adult-classes to learn more about our adult literacy programs.

New Dyslexia Law

House Bill 3928

This law relates to dyslexia evaluations and services for Texas public school student, 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.

Learn More
7 MYTHS ABOUT DYSLEXIA

MYTH
Dyslexia is rare.

FACT
The prevalence of dyslexia is estimated to be between 5-20%. Approximately 80% of students in Special Education have a reading-related learning disability.

MYTH
Dyslexia cannot be identified until 3rd grade

FACT
Characteristics of dyslexia can be identified early. In fact, early identification is key so that students receive ample time for appropriate intervention. Many states have enacted legislation requiring all Kindergarten and Grade 1 students to be screened for dyslexia.

MYTH
Dyslexia goes away once children learn to read.

FACT
While appropriate intervention can greatly benefit students with dyslexia in obtaining the necessary skills for reading, dyslexia is a lifelong learning difference.

MYTH
Kids with dyslexia just need to work harder.

FACT
It is not the effort, but the type of intervention and instruction that moves the needle for students with dyslexia.

MYTH
Dyslexia is a vision issue.

FACT
Dyslexia is not a vision issue. fMRI studies of the brain have shown the differences between students with and without dyslexia exist in the pathways where reading develops in the brain. Intervention can help students with dyslexia to create new pathways that enable them to develop necessary reading skills.

MYTH
Dyslexia only occurs in the English language.

FACT
Dyslexia has been studied in most languages and around the world. Given the structure of the language, dyslexia may look a little different; however, it is not identified in English alone.
We’re Here to Help!

Comfort, clarity, and fortified determination are just some of the benefits that come from building a community.

**Families, Educators & Dyslexia Professionals**
The Family Support Office provides resources and referral services to families as a welcomed first step in unlocking a path to reading success.

**Dyslexia Specialists & Professionals**
Neuhaus Education Center offers two Dyslexia Certification Pathways.

**Contact Us**
Connect with one of our Family Support Coordinators at the Family Support Office! Email us at NeuhausFSO@neuhaus.org or call (713) 664-7676.

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**FACT**
**Dyslexia does not discriminate.**
It can be identified in people of all backgrounds, intellectual levels, and stages of life. People with dyslexia can be very intelligent and are often gifted in areas such as art, computer science, design, drama, electronics, math, mechanics, music, physics, sales, and sports.

**FACT**
**Dyslexia can be hereditary.**
Parents with dyslexia are likely to have children with dyslexia.

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**You Can Help Your Child Booklet**
Learn how families can help their child with dyslexia.
- [ENGLISH VERSION](#)
- [VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL](#)

**Texas Dyslexia Handbook**
Dyslexia guidelines for school identification and services.
- [ENGLISH VERSION](#)
- [VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL](#)

**Neuhaus Education Center Research Guide**
Provides guidance on practice-based professional development classes and curriculum components.
- [VIEW GUIDE](#)

**Frequently Asked Questions**
Find the answers to the most frequently asked questions for families with struggling readers.
- [LEARN MORE](#)
A legacy of service

Neuhaus Education Center has built an exceptional reputation for sound stewardship of philanthropic resources. With 75 percent of its funding spent on programming, 15 percent on administration, and 10 percent on fundraising, Neuhaus has earned the confidence of funders as a gold-standard non-profit.

2023 Teaching. Reading. Reaching. Annual Fund

Make a donation to the 2023 Teaching. Reading. Reaching. Annual Fund today!

Neuhaus Education Center impacts thousands of educators, developing readers, and adult learners annually, and help them on their path to reading success.

Help us reach $150,000 by December 31, 2023 to continue the critical work towards closing reading achievement gaps through our Teacher Professional Development, community programs, and general operations.

Get ready for a night of family fun and excitement! Join us 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, Houston Heights
1435 Bell Street, Houston, TX 77008

Learn more and purchase your tickets here. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Questions?
Contact Elizabeth Crockett, Associate Director of Advancement.

The Neuhaus Reading Circle event celebrates and appreciates our generous donors who have supported us with a donation of $500+ in the past year.

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

You still have time to join us for entertainment, light bites, and drinks by making a donation of $500+ today!

Gift of Literacy

Gift of Literacy holiday cards are back!

Looking for the right holiday gift? Our Gift of Literacy cards support the critical work being done to further our mission to promote Literacy for All.

Let the people in your life know how much you care for them by making a donation to Neuhaus in their honor.

Your donation will help Neuhaus Education Center provide parents and loved ones of struggling readers with important resources to reach success.

Each card is $20 with bundles of 6 cards for every $100. Learn More
Last spring, Neuhaus Education Center celebrated the graduation of ten students from the Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program.

Highlights included students creating a poster outlining their experiences to share with attendees, guest speakers Amir Bar, CEO of UCNLearn; Ameer Baraka, Emmy® Award-nominated and daytime actor, dyslexia advocate, and author of Undiagnosed: The Ugly Side of Dyslexia; and Tamy Perez, and Ashley Gordon; Dr. Tray White Weeden with adult literacy graduates Mary Gordon, Jacqueline Harvey, and Ashley Gordon; and Amir Bar, CEO of UCNLearn.

Many of the graduates opted to enroll in a pilot Alumni class that will focus on using technology to incorporate more complex reading and writing skills. The Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program is free to participants and relies upon generous support from foundations and individuals.

To learn more about the program, please contact Suz Hall, Family Support Coordinator & Adult Literacy Instructor, at SHall@neuhaus.org.

One Houston, One Book

This summer, Neuhaus adult literacy students joined the Houston Citywide Reading Initiative, One Houston, One Book. The weekly book club, led by Linda McKnight, read Reaching for the Stars by José M. Hernandez about his journey to become a NASA astronaut. An event was held at the Houston Library on Thursday, August 31 to discuss with adults from across Houston.

Photo (left to right): Federico Salas-Isnardi, Director of the Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy (MOAL); Natalie Serrano, Neuhaus Education Center Adult Literacy Program Liaison; Lara Speights, Neuhaus Education Center Vice President of Family Support and Adult Literacy; John Lozano, Neuhaus Adult Literacy student.
Literacy solutions that perform and transform

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

LIVE VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Oral Language and Listening Comprehension
Oct. 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.

Reading Readiness
Oct. 26, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 12, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Build foundational decoding and comprehension skills.

Developing Metacognitive Strategies
Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 17, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Provides teachers with lessons on how to build foundational and higher-level comprehension skills using lessons with a range of text.

Multisensory Grammar
Nov. 2, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 19, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Focused on teaching the parts of speech in the English language and activities to use grammar with writing instruction.

Neuhaus Academy: Beyond the Page
Nov. 9, 2023
Registration Deadline: Nov. 9, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
For adolescents and adults to teach decoding and vocabulary skills using words found in academic text, literature, and college-prep tests.

Language and Literacy for Young Learners: Kit 2
Nov. 14 & 15, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 31, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Focused on teaching pre-school learners' foundational literacy skills.

Written Composition
Nov. 16, 2023
Registration Deadline: Nov. 2, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Focused on writing strategies to develop paragraphs.

ON-SITE AT NEUHAUS

Reading Readiness
Oct. 26, 2023
Registration Deadline: Oct. 12, 2023
9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)
Build foundational decoding and comprehension skills.
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Neuhaus Education Center is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting Literacy for All.

We provide evidence-based training and support to teachers, supplies information and resources to families, and offers direct literacy services to adult learners.