

Credentials of the CVPE teachers
“Opt out of Testing and Opt into Learning” Enrichment Days
Grades 3-8 STAAR Testing Dates (March 30 & 31, April 20, 21 & 22)



As teachers, we have watched the curriculum narrowed by endless test prep and benchmark dates for high stakes standardized testing. We know that children deserve better than this, and, as a parent opting your child out of the test, so do you.

At each of the “Opt out of Testing and Opt into Learning” Enrichment Days, we can guarantee that

- 1.) Your child will be instructed by certified, experienced teachers who have worked with your child’s age group.
- 2.) Your child will have a chance to learn in an environment that promotes democratic citizenship, mathematical and scientific inquiry, writing with power, artistic expression, and reading for pleasure.
- 3.) Your child will not bubble in a single multiple choice question.
- 4.) Since research shows that recess, outdoor play, physical activity, and “brain breaks” make learning possible, your child will have plenty opportunities for all of the above.
- 5.) Your child will have a choice of activities, opportunities for independent learning, and an outstanding student-to-teacher ratio.
- 6.) Your child will have a fun, safe, and respectful place to go for the day while you are at work.

Biographies for Participating teachers:

- **Sarah Rivlin** will be available during all five Enrichment Days. She has a BA in English from Princeton University, an MA in English from NYU, and another MA in Teaching English from Teachers College, Columbia University. She took master’s level courses in elementary education at the University of Houston. She has her Texas Standard Certificate in English Language Arts and Reading for both grades 4-8 and 8-12. She has eight years experience in the classroom, teaching 4th-7th grades and 9th grade. She has tutoring and daycare experience with 3rd graders and was the 8th grade yearbook advisor for two years. She has worked in HISD for three years.
- **Debora Banner** will be available on April 20 and 21 (the math STAAR tests) and may join for other days if attendance is high. She has five years experience teaching elementary school (grades 1-5) and also taught reading for two years to grades 2-7. She spent a year as an elementary assistant principal and worked for 21 years as an assistant superintendent with responsibilities including curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, and teacher evaluation. She is certified in New York for pre-K-6th grade, as a reading instructor for K-12th grade and as a District Administrator. She currently volunteers two to three days a week in a 4th grade classroom in HISD.
- **Verlinda Higgins** will be available on April 20 and 21 (the math STAAR tests). She has a BA in mathematics and a Masters Degree in School Administration. She taught high school mathematics for 19 years at Debakey High School for Health Professions. She also worked two years as a Magnet Coordinator, two years as an instructional coordinator and nine years as a school administrator. Her entire career has been with Houston ISD.

Resumes and references available upon request

More information at http://www.houstoncvpe.org/opt_out
RSVP for specific Opt Out Dates at the CVPE Event Page. houstoncvpe.org/calendar
Email houstoncvpe@gmail.com