

CARROLL



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our vision is to create a learning environment that inspires individual success and responsibility in our global community.

Carroll Senior High
1501 W. Southlake Blvd.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5800

Carroll High
800 White Chapel Blvd.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5600

Carroll Middle
1101 E. Dove
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5400

Dawson Middle
400 S. Kimball Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5500

Carroll Intermediate
1101 N. Carroll Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5100

Durham Intermediate
801 Shady Oaks Dr.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5300

Eubanks Intermediate
500 S. Kimball Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-5200

Carroll Elementary
1705 W. Continental Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-4300

Durham Elementary
801 Shady Oaks Dr.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-4400

Johnson Elementary
1301 N. Carroll Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-4500

Old Union Elementary
1050 S. Carroll Ave.
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-4600

Rockenbaugh Elementary
301 Byron Nelson Parkway
Southlake, TX 76092
817-949-4700

September 19, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our pleasure to write to you in regards to Chris Espinosa. Chris has worked with our fourth graders at Old Union Elementary for the past two years. His love and excitement for writing has had an astounding impact on our young authors. The students are thrilled when they know "Uncle Chris" is coming to work with them. We at Old Union have found Chris to be an amazing resource to our writing curriculum.

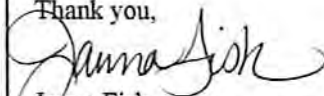
Chris uses humor and his own experiences to engage the learner. Students are actively involved in each writing lesson by this positive male role model. He encourages participation through humor and storytelling. His energy is transferred to the students in their own planning and writing.

Chris has tailored each of his lessons to our curriculum. He uses the same vocabulary and strategies that Old Union fourth grade teachers use in their classrooms. He reinforces the planning and writing techniques that the children are being exposed to everyday. He is willing to adapt all of his lessons to fit in with campus curriculum so that student learning is strengthened.

Another way in which Chris engages our writers is with his props. He often brings visual effects into his lesson in order to reach different learners. An example of this is his paint can labeled, "Vivid Verbs." Students dip a paint brush into the can to choose a verb and then he works with the students to come up with a more vivid form of that verb. This exercise helps them to remember to use good word choice as they write. Students remember that when they write they actually should paint a picture in the reader's mind. Another example that the kids love is when Chris brings in a fishing rod and asks them to fish for types of exciting leads. He focuses on teaching the students how to "hook the reader" in their introduction. This is a visual they don't soon forget.

Student TAKS Writing performance at Old Union Elementary has continued to increase the last two years. Last year, 90% of our fourth grade students received Academic Recognition and half of our fourth graders earned a "4" on their composition. One of the strategies that we have used to help our students achieve this goal is the use of Chris Espinosa in our classes. We highly recommend Chris to any campus looking to encourage and reinforce fourth grade writing concepts.

Thank you,


Janna Fisk
Teacher


Christie Henderson
Teacher


Andra Barton, Ed.D.
Principal