

Success Center for Learning  
2755 NE Loop 286  
Paris, Texas 75460



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# Focus on Education

Fall 2018  
Serving Northeast Texas and Southeast Oklahoma since 1996

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**The next SAT/ACT Class is Oct. 20.**

For more information, visit the website at [www.successcenter.us](http://www.successcenter.us)

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## What is Reading Fluency and Why is it Important?

Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D. and Professor of Literacy Education at Kent State University, recently wrote a blog for The Robb Review entitled "Making Kids Read Fast is NOT the Goal of Fluency Instruction; Making Meaning Is." In a former blog, he focused on what should be the real goal of phonics instruction—to get students to the point where they don't have to use phonics much in their reading. He says students should be so proficient and efficient at word recognition that minimal attention is given to word decoding and maximum attention directed toward comprehension. In his latest blog, he focuses on reading fluency and says it has been this incessant focus on increasing reading speed that has given reading fluency a bad rap.

Reading Fluency has been called the bridge from word recognition to comprehension. Fluency is the vital link to making meaning while reading. There are two components to fluency. The first is automaticity in word recognition – the ability to recognize words so effortlessly that most of a reader's attention can be devoted to comprehension. Automaticity is the part of the bridge that links to word recognition. The other part of the fluency bridge is called prosody or reading with expression. This is the link to comprehension. When a reader reads with appropriate expression that reflects the meaning of the text, he is striving to comprehend that text. This is the part of fluency that is often neglected in instruction, yet it is critical for comprehension to occur, even when reading silently.

For fluency instruction to truly work, the goal of fluency should be expressive oral (and silent) reading that reflects the meaning of the text. When making expressive and meaningful reading of texts the true goal of fluency (and avoid putting emphasis on fast reading) there will be significant improvements in reading comprehension (as well as reading speed). ("Fluency" cont. on p. 3.)

### SCHOOL YEAR INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

**Monday & Wednesday**  
4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
**Tuesday & Thursday**  
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Friday & Saturday**  
By Appointment

### SUCCESS CENTER FOR LEARNING

is the supplemental education center in Paris, Texas, specializing in Reading, Writing, Math, Algebra, Geometry, and STAAR instruction and ACT/SAT/PSAT preparation classes.

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### Focus on Education

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Alva Mason, B.S.....	Instructor
Yesica Munguia, M.Ed.....	Instructor
Virginia Pry, B.B.A.....	Instructor
Ryan Skidmore, M.S.....	Instructor
Paula Welch.....	Teacher Assistant



Success Center offers 1:1 tutoring/homework support in several specialized areas:

- Algebra I, II
- Geometry
- English, Grammar
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth/Physical Science
- Physics
- Calculus/Pre-Cal
- Statistics
- Geography
- History
- SAT/PSAT/ACT
- Spanish
- STAAR

Subject availability is dependent upon current staff abilities.



*Happy 22nd Birthday to Success Center!*

Thank you to our students, parents, teachers,  
and school administrators/staff for all you have done  
to make this birthday possible!

# Senior Checklist for Students Planning to Go to College

## September-October

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT. If previous test scores aren't where they need to be, seek help to prepare for whichever test you take.
- Take a look at some college applications to make sure you know all the pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Make an appointment with your school counselor to be sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admissions requirements.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Many high schools bring in college representatives to visit with students. Attend local college fairs, and visit college campuses.
- Start working on your college application essay and began gathering recommendation letters from teachers, school counselors, and school employees.
- It's time to narrow down your list of colleges so you can collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school. Some colleges will have deadlines (rolling, priority, early decision, and early action) as early as October. If you cannot afford the application fees that many colleges charge, ask your counselor to help you request a fee waiver.
- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after October 1 as possible. In addition to determining your eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants. (More information about FAFSA can be found on our website.)
- Research scholarships. Ask your counselor, your colleges, and local religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities.
- Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines. Note additional materials you will need such as recommendations or essays you will need to complete your applications.



## November-January

- Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due in November or December. It's always a good idea to have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted. Also, be sure to photocopy all information sent.
- Make sure testing companies have sent your scores directly to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. In January, ask your guidance office to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied.
- Many popular and selective colleges will have application deadlines as early as January 1. Others have deadlines later in January and February.
- Create a post-application checklist and mark off items to make sure you have done everything required.

## February-May

- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices.
- Don't slack in the classroom. The college you decide to attend will want to see your second semester transcript. Also, if you are wait-listed by a college, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- Speaking of wait-listed, if you are wait-listed by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.
- May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit, so send in the deposit by the postmark date of May 1. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Cross everything off your graduation checklist and graduate!

# New SPANISH Options Available

This year, Success Center has new options for students and Spanish. Yesica Munguia has joined the staff and comes with a wealth of Spanish knowledge. She has taught bilingual ELAR and SLAR in 5th and 6th grades and currently is Paris ISD's Bilingual/ESL Coordinator.

She will be available for **Spanish tutoring**. Also, **beginning Monday, October 1, from 6-7 p.m., she will be teaching a 6-week Pre-Spanish I class for 6th-8th graders. The class will be limited to 4 students.** The cost is \$150. If paid by Monday, Sept. 24, the discounted cost will be \$135. For more information, contact Success Center.

**Welcome back to all of our students at Success Center and our Success Center In-School Labs at Crowell, Detroit, North Lamar, Perrin-Whitt, Prairiland, and Quannah. Best wishes for a GREAT year!**

*("Fluency" cont. from p. 1.)*

Reading speed (words read correctly per minute) is an indicator of word recognition automaticity. The more automatic or effortless a person is in recognizing words in text, the faster his reading becomes, and the more attention he can devote to comprehending the text as opposed to analyzing the words in the text. Reading speed is an indicator or consequence of the fluency component of automaticity, but it is not fluency. Reading speed increases as fluency improves, not the other way around.

Success Center uses a reading fluency program called Read Naturally which contains both speed (oral reading) and comprehension components. We have found tremendous benefits of the program's strategy that include building fluency; increasing reading accuracy; promoting comprehension; supporting vocabulary; reinforcing sight words; building automaticity in decoding; motivating students to read; increasing self-esteem and self-confidence; supporting English language learners; differentiating instruction; and providing feedback to students and teachers.

There is no doubt that reading automaticity comes easier for some students. For those it doesn't, much practice is needed. As with anything we want to become fluent at (e.g., speaking a foreign language, playing the piano, cooking), fluency is developed through practice. When practicing reading, the goal should be reading for meaning, and if reading orally, to read with appropriate expression that conveys meaning to anyone who may be listening.

# ACT & SAT TEST DATES 2018-19

## ACT

Test Date	Reg Deadline
Oct 27, 2018	Sept 28, 2018
Dec 8, 2018	Nov 2, 2018
Feb 9, 2019	Jan 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	Mar 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019



## SAT

Test Date	Reg Deadline
Oct 6, 2018	Sept 7, 2018
Nov 3, 2018	Oct 5, 2018
Dec 1, 2018	Nov 2, 2018
March 9, 2019	Feb 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019

## SAT and ACT Class Formats

Students can select the all-day or specific subject option for test prep at Success Center.

### Option 1--All Day Class

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.---7 hours  
\$150 (early registration)  
\$175 (late registration)  
Critical Reading-1.5 hrs; English-1.5 hrs + Essay-30 min; Math 2 hrs; Science-1.5 hrs.

### Option 2--Specific Subject Class(es)

8:30 a.m.-4:00--7 hours  
\$50 per/subject  
Critical Reading-1.5 hrs; English-1.5 hrs + Essay-30 min; Math 2 hrs; Science-1.5 hrs.