



November 18, 2022

# Haslett Public Schools

## Haslett Happenings Around the District from the Center for Educational Improvement (CEI)



### An Example of Excellence: *Ralya Elementary School*

The mission of Ralya Elementary School is “to provide educational opportunities, which enable students of all aspirations and abilities to grow and learn.” The school currently supports about 400 second to fifth grade students, 25% of whom are from diverse and ethnic cultures (primarily Hispanic). It offers multiple programs that emphasize self-sufficiency, effectiveness, and collaboration in learning.

In an exclusive interview with the Center for Educational Improvement, Ralya Principal Erin North agreed to discuss the school’s unique strengths, diversity programs, and future goals and plans.

In the words of Principal North, Ralya Elementary is home to “a very collaborative environment; there is a lot of ownership from everyone in the building.”

- In each grade level, teachers regularly engage in collaborative “plan time” when creating class lessons.
- Also, each week, students and staff members participate in “Walking Wednesdays” to build healthy bodies.

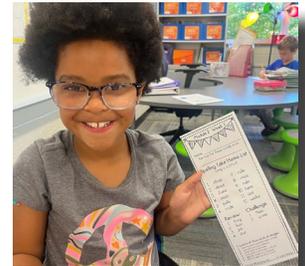


According to Principal North, the school also recently updated their playground equipment in an effort to be more inclusive and accessible for students with disabilities.

**Inclusivity:** Inclusivity is very important in Ralya, and is recognized as one of the school’s key “Equity Plan” principles. In short, Ralya’s Equity Plan aims “to create a school environment that embraces diversity and supports all students with the intention of closing gaps in opportunities that have marginalized and continue to marginalize communities within the district.” In keeping with this plan, the Ralya staff has committed both time and effort in various inclusivity endeavors. Ralya is currently updating classroom libraries so they have more diverse books that feature all types of representation, so that kids “are able to see themselves.”



**The Arts:** Ralya Elementary participates in the Besharat Art Program, which aims to share global diversity in art by working “to nurture sympathy and empathy among children of all ages” (Besharat Arts Foundation). To do this, members of the Besharat Art Program share art pieces with schools in the hopes of helping children learn more about the earth and others. Currently, Ralya is about halfway through the program and has greatly benefited from it.



**Community Involvement:** This year’s service theme for Ralya Elementary School is “Ralya Loves Local,” and it effectively reflects Ralya’s two-way relationship with the Haslett community.

- One way that Ralya supports this relationship is by hosting a “Care Closet” that accepts communal food and clothing donations for underserved students.
- Ralya also consistently partners with a local bookstore that allows student writers to read their own original stories to audiences.
- Further, Ralya students support local associations, such as the Beautification Association and a nearby retirement home through volunteer work.



### Upcoming Calendar Events

- November 18**  
HS Musical (7:30 PM - PAC)
- November 19**  
HS Musical (2 PM and 7:30 PM - PAC)
- November 23-25**  
NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
- November 28**  
Board of Education Meeting (7 PM)
- December 1**  
Band Boosters (6 PM - HS Media Center)
- December 2**  
MS Student of the Month (7:45 AM)
- December 5**  
Murphy/Ralya Holiday Shop
- December 6**  
Murphy/Ralya Holiday Shop  
MS Band Concert (7 PM - PAC)
- December 7**  
Murphy/Ralya Holiday Shop  
Choir Boosters (7 PM - HS Choir Room)
- December 8**  
Murphy/Ralya Holiday Shop  
MS Choir Winter Concert (7:30 - PAC)
- December 9**  
Murphy/Ralya Holiday Shop
- December 12**  
HS Intermediate Choir Winter Concert (8 PM - PAC)  
Board of Education Meeting (7 PM)

### COVID Test Kits

A limited amount of COVID test kits are available in the main office of your child’s school.

*By having high standards, positive collaboration, strong inclusivity, and exceptional community service, Ralya Elementary School has succeeded in helping students grow and learn.*

*Through these efforts, Ralya has served as an example of excellence for other schools and students.*