



Early College Blueprint



CTE ECHS

Marco Zamora, Principal

Welcome to CTE Early College High School. I will be beginning my third year at CTE ECHS as principal and I am excited of the accomplishments our young campus has achieved. I graduated from the University of Texas for both my Bachelor and Masters Degrees. I have been in education for 16 years and this will be my 9th year as an administrator. I look forward to the great things we will accomplish this year.



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Ignacio Cavazos, Librarian

I am a Weslaco High School graduate. I obtained my Bachelor's of Arts degree at UTPA and then my Masters in Library Science at Sam Houston State University. I was a History teacher from 1994-2002 and have been a Librarian since 2002.



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Susan Coffman, Registered Nurse

I am the Health Services Coordinator and CTE ECHS Nurse. I have worked for WISD since 2004 and have been a Registered Nurse for 35 years. I look forward to serving the students of CTE ECHS and the staff of WISD.



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Yvonne Olivarez, Social Worker

I am a Social Worker here at CTE ECHS. I work with students and families. I have over 12 years of experience and have worked in a variety of settings with diverse clients. I graduated from UT-Pan American in Edinburg, TX with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and also earned an Associate's in Medical Records/Transcription for STC. I believe that change happens when people are given the guidance they need to draw on their own strengths and realize their potential to live fulfilling, happy lives.



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Raul Rodriguez, Instructional Coach

I am excited to begin a new adventure here at CTE ECHS. I actually started at this campus over 20 years ago when it was Louise Black Intermediate. I started out as a 6th grade math, science, and social studies teacher. Soon thereafter I earned my Master Technology Teacher certification and worked with instructional technology for 16 years. I have recently transitioned to instructional coaching. I will now focus on partnering with teachers to improve instructional practices.



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Melinda Sosa-Ortiz, Counselor

My name is Melinda Ortiz. I am happy to introduce myself as the academic counselor at Weslaco 21st Century CTE Early College and excited about beginning my third year serving the students here at CTE ECHS. I look forward to meeting all our new incoming freshmen and working with them as they grow and pursue an associate's degree for the next 4 years. Before landing at CTE ECHS, I served as a school counselor at all levels of instruction except for middle school. With 15 years of professional experience, I held school counseling positions at Mercedes ISD and North East ISD.

I grew up in Mercedes and was #8 out of 9 siblings. That's right! A huge family. I was fortunate to learn what hard work is like as we were migrants and picked tomatoes, strawberries and oranges. My parents taught me the value of education and encouraged my brothers, sisters and I to continue our education. I received my teaching degree from UTRGV University back when it was called UTPA. I have spent the majority of my teaching career at Sam Houston Elementary, but back when it was called Sam Houston Intermediate. I have taught 5th, 6th and 4th grades at Sam Houston Elementary/Intermediate, with the bulk of my teaching years of experience spent happily at the 6th grade level.

I received my M.Ed. in School Counseling in 2002. I am enjoying my role in encouraging all students to strive for their personal best as they become college ready, career ready and life ready. It is such a blessing to me to watch them grow and mature into the young men and women God has created them to be. I am thrilled to be working with the students, teachers, administrators, and parents whom I so highly regard.

My theoretical orientation to counseling is a combination of person-centered and cognitive behavioral therapy. While school practitioners like myself can't provide therapy in the school setting, CBT is a framework that analyzes student behavior by looking at the thought processes of children. I apply this philosophy in the counseling setting. For reasons of practicality and application, I also integrate a solution-focused approach when providing individual counseling. In short, I am passionate about working with students, identifying student need and developing programming to ensure student success.

My spare time is spent with my three wonderful children and our dog, Maggie Lou. My son, Aaron, is attending UTRGV pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance, my son Carlo is attending graduate school at Hardin Simmons University pursuing a Master's degree in Divinity and my daughter, Chloe, is a sophomore here at CTE ECHS pursuing an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice. The remainder of my time is spent taking courses at South Texas School of Christian Studies in partnership with Logsdon School of Theology and Seminary pursuing a degree in ministry.

I look forward to continue to meet and develop relationships with our great students and their parents as it is important to work together along with the community as a team in educating and guiding our students. Please feel free to contact me for assistance. I thank you in advance for your involvement and support. Wishing everyone a great and blessed 2018-2019 school year!



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Andrea Avila, Teacher

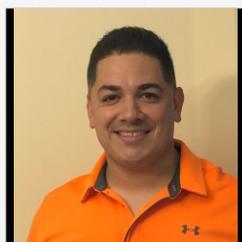
I am a Weslaco High School graduate. I obtained an Associate's degree at South Texas College in Psychology then transferred to former UT Pan American, now UTRGV, where I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitative Services. This is my 4th year as a Special Ed. monitoring teacher here at CTE ECHS.



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Eunice Chihuahua, Teacher

My name is Eunice Chihuahua and I teach Pre-AP Biology and Forensic Science at ECHS. I was born and raised in Weslaco and graduated from Weslaco High School in 2007. I live in Weslaco with my husband and son. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Biology and another Bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. I am certified to teach Science 8-12 and have six years teaching experience; having taught a variety of science courses, including Chemistry, Physics, IPC and Biology. I am passionate about science and love to teach what I know. I aspire to spark my student's interest in the amazing science all around us and within us. I look forward to teaching at ECHS and know this will be a GREAT year!



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Andrew Contreras, Teacher

My name is Andrew Contreras and this is my 9th year teaching for WISD. I am the Physical Education (P.E.) teacher here at CTE ECHS. Born and raised here in Weslaco, I am a graduate of Weslaco High School class of 2002. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and minor in English from the University of Texas Pan American (UTRGV).



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Domingo Fabela, Teacher

My name is Domingo Fabela. I teach English II, IV, and the OnRamps Rhetoric courses at CTE ECHS. I am a graduate from WEHS, and while I used to be a Wildcat, and I still have a place for them in my heart, I now identify as a Leopard, through and true! After high school, I went on to pursue a B.A. in English from The University of Texas Pan-American. I am starting my third year now as a teacher and it has been an interesting journey to say the least. I anticipate another successful year here at CTE ECHS and look forward to getting to know my new students, where I hope to help them grow along the way.



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Gael Figueroa, Teacher

I'm a Social Studies teacher here at CTE Early College High School. This 2020-21 school year will be my 3rd year here at CTE ECHS. I am originally from PSJA and graduated from PSJA Memorial HS. I then went on to graduate from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) with a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies. I'm currently enrolled in a Master's in Political Science program. I believe Social Studies is important for every student to know so they may understand how the past has shaped the present and how the present will one day shape the future. Social Studies is also important in informing today's students on how the world works so they may be able to become productive members of their communities.

Dora Hinck, Teacher

Hi, my name is Dora Delia Hinck and I am honored to be your child's Spanish teacher. I am a Spanish literature enthusiast, a mother of three gorgeous sons, and married to a wonderful man. I am currently teaching Spanish I, Spanish II, and 2313 *Spanish for Spanish Speakers*. Apart from proudly calling myself a 1996 Panther graduate from Weslaco High School, I am fortunate enough to be teaching at my former elementary school as I have the same connection to my hometown and schools as every child that enters my classroom. After completing my high school career, I sought a higher education; this desire has led me to earn an Associate's degree of Arts from South Texas College, a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, and a Masters of Arts in Spanish Literature, Language, and Culture from the University of Texas-Pan American. I look forward to continuing my teaching profession at Weslaco CTE ECHS and hoping to leave a lasting learning impression on all my students by providing them with the necessary tools in order to become lifelong learners of our beautiful Spanish language and culture.



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Anna Mena Ortega, Teacher

My name is Mrs. Anna Mena Ortega, and I have been teaching for 12 years. This is my 3rd year at Weslaco CTE ECHS. I live in Weslaco, TX with my husband Rene, an Algebra I teacher in Santa Rosa HS, and my son Jacob. My education consists of a High School Diploma (Progreso HS), Associate of Science in Mathematics (STC), Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (UTPA), and a Master of Science in Mathematics for Teaching (UTPA). I am certified to teach Mathematics 6th-12th grades, and have taught a variety of courses, including Algebra I Pre-AP, Geometry Pre-AP, Algebra II Pre-AP, College Algebra, College Precalculus, ACT Mathematics, and TSI Mathematics. I enjoy serving others, and making a difference in this world through teaching. Mathematics is not an easy subject for many, thus I draw my strength for teaching from someone greater. I have a big passion and a great relationship with my God Almighty, and it is because of Him that I am where I am today. He blesses me with the strength and determination to get through each day, and to find a variety of methods to help my students better understand mathematics in high school.



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Mayra Montiel, Teacher

I have lived here in Weslaco with my husband, SFC Montiel, and our 5 children since 2002. This is my 12th year as an educator and am excited to be teaching English I and English III. Prior to CTE ECHS, I worked for Donna I.S.D. and served as an English teacher, English Department Head, and Curriculum Writer. I have also worked as the ESL Coordinator for Nixon-Smiley C.I.S.D. located about 50 miles SE of San Antonio. I am a three year graduate of Progreso High School and a veteran of the U.S. Army. My post-secondary education includes a Bachelor's degree in English from The University of Texas- Pan American, an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in ESL from Concordia University, Portland and 21 graduate hours in Psychology. I look forward to facilitating student learning at CTE ECHS in order to bring about students' full potential and inspire a love for reading and writing along the way.



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Noe Rico, Teacher

I am a graduate of both Weslaco High School and Pan American University. I am an Eagle Scout and received Order of the Arrow at Camp Perry in Rio Hondo. I am married and have a son and daughter. In addition, I have five grandchildren. I like to spend my free time with my family and enjoy working on my yard on the weekends. I have enjoyed teaching at Weslaco ISD for 35 years. It is sincerely rewarding to see my BIM 1 (Business Information Management 1) students improve their keyboarding and computer skills, during the school year.



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Lynnette Suarez, Teacher

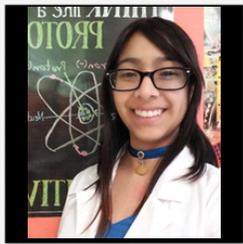
I am the Floral Design teacher here at CTE ECHS. I have been teaching Agriculture and Floral Design for 8 years. This is my 2nd year at Weslaco ISD. I am married and have a daughter and 3 dogs. I graduated high school at Hendrickson HS in Pflugerville, Tx and I furthered my education at Texas A&M University where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Science. Teaching has many challenges but has been a fulfilling career.



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Rosalinda Treviño, Teacher

My name is Rosalinda Trevino, I have been teaching Social Studies for 9 years. I began my teaching career in Mercedes and two years ago decided to apply at Weslaco ISD. I graduated from Mercedes in 2000, followed by my Associate of Arts Degree from STC in Criminal Justice. I have always been fascinated with the past and decided to pursue my Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from UTPA. I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree in History from SNHU. I am certified to teach Social Studies 4-8 and History 7-12, I have taught World Geography, World History, Special Topics and U.S History. Teaching has many challenges but has been a fulfilling career. It's rewarding to observe the growth student's have made throughout their high school years.



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Cynthia Valle, Teacher

My name is Cynthia Valle and I am a second year science teacher at CTE Early College High School. I went to Texas A&M University and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science while double majoring in both Biomedical Sciences and Entomology. I worked as a veterinary assistant for 2 years before moving on to obtain my teaching certificate for Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Born and raised in Donna, I strive to educate the students of the Valley on how important and fun the sciences can be.