



Dear ELA Family!

I am excited about the 2023-2024 school year with such a wonderful group. Your awesome reputation precedes you, so I know great things are in store for our school. As your new superintendent, I look forward to working with each of you to build our team, maximize student learning, and creating a positive, worthwhile environment where we all can thrive.

Commitment to excellence begins with leadership and I want to model that for you as I lead our district, so I want to share my career highlights with you. I am a 1992 graduate of Med High and a 1996 Baylor University alumnus, with a Bachelor's degree in Pre-Med Biology. I taught Chemistry and Biology for 11 years at Donna ISD where I ended my teaching career as Teacher of the Year in 2007. I served Med High for seven years as Assistant Principal and another 7 years as Principal at Science Academy, where I was a National PLTW Finalist for Principal of the Year in 2017. During that time, I finished my Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at UTRGV in May 2016. As well, my doctoral dissertation research was published in the American Journal of Superintendents in 2021. Most recently, I served as Principal at Jubilee Brownsville, a pK-12 campus, with great success. More than anything I am grateful for many personal blessings including my 26-year marriage and our four great children- God is good!

Our entire ELA team works diligently to prepare powerful learning experiences for each student that we are blessed to serve. Thank you for all you have done for ELA and I know we will continue to unite in order to ensure an outstanding school year, so let's have fun as we learn and grow together. GO EAGLES!

Your partner in education,

*Dr. Irma Castillo*

ELA Superintendent