

Welcome to our bi-annual “**RAISING the BAR**” newsletter.

This newsletter is intended to keep you up to date on the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** expansion initiative.

RAISE^{UP} Texas Principal Profile:

Jorge Franco: Westview Middle School (Pflugerville ISD)

Principal Franco attending Raise Your Hand Texas’s summer institute for leaders at Harvard’s School of Education.



I am an immigrant who was born and grew up in Juarez, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at age 21. Like many other immigrants, I came to this country in pursuit of the American dream (or at least to buy my own car). Nonetheless, I soon discovered that with no English and no education it was going to be a difficult challenge, even to buy a decent car. My first job in the U.S. was in a fast food restaurant and then in a Golden Corral washing dishes and waiting tables. After a year, I was able to learn enough conversational English to enroll in college at The University of Texas at El Paso. After a year in college I enlisted in the United States Army and have continued to serve through the present day, being promoted to Captain

in 2015. Upon finishing my Degree in Criminal Justice and Spanish, I started my career in education as a Spanish teacher at Hutto High School. I was blessed to continue my education, complete my Master’s Degree in Education in 2011 with a concentration as an Instruction Specialist in Bilingual Education. I currently have 7 years of administrator experience. For the past 3 years, I lead Farley Middle School in Hutto ISD as they implemented **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. I was hired to lead Westview Middle School soon after the beginning of this school year.

It has been a great learning experience to serve a different community and campus. Joining Westview Middle School three weeks into the school year, I felt like a new student or teacher walking into a class that was already in session. Lots of things were foreign to me but one was already familiar... **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. It was great to see how the consistency **RAISE^{UP} Texas** was evident throughout the campus. I was able to quickly integrate and support our staff as we moved forward to take our campus to our next level. More than ever, I believe the importance of campus systems that help our students be successful. **RAISE^{UP} Texas** has helped bring research-based strategies to our teachers and leaders, developing consistency across our campus. **RAISE^{UP} Texas** has also helped to develop our own systems to ensure sustainability and capacity. We know that regardless the effectiveness of a program or system, it will eventually die without consistent training, coaching and mentoring of teachers by leaders.

Being able to serve our students and my community by developing our teachers and staff members is the most rewarding aspect of my job. Westview is a Title One campus that consistently demonstrates socioeconomic status is not a limitation or disability to perform to the highest standards. Every time I walk into our school and see the faces of our students it reminds me of the struggles that I faced when I was growing up or learning the language, and it is very rewarding when I see the students accomplishing the things that I could not at their age.



Westview Middle School
Pflugerville ISD

Join the *RAISE^{UP} Texas* Learning Community on Twitter!

raiseuptexas
@raiseuptexas

8th grade students at Pflugerville Middle School using a FRAME to support independent, critical thinking and problem solving for surface area and quadratics!



Want to see great things happening on *RAISE^{UP} Texas* campuses? Follow the @raiseuptexas Twitter account and search for #raiseuptexas. Check out a few of these recent posts:

raiseuptexas
@raiseuptexas

7th and 8th ELA students at Elgin MS enhancing their literacy with station learning, higher order thinking questions and purposeful talk. @raiseuptexas



raiseuptexas
@raiseuptexas

Teachers getting their skills on point! Great morning of learning how to lead with the Unit Organizer and Frame @TaylorISDMotal #iteach #studentsuccess

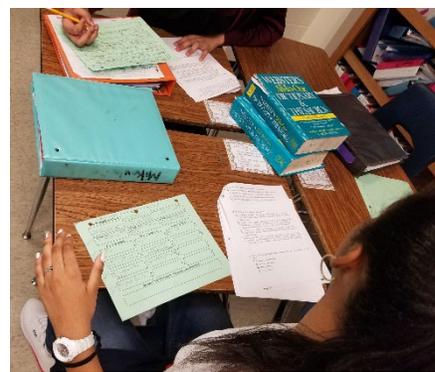


Dobie Academics
@DobieAcademics

Ms. Zamora's 8th grade Math class using the clarifying routine to clarify the term "dilation". They reference their FRAME and Unit Organizer during this routine. #DestinationDobie #AISDProud #TheDobieWay #AISDFuture @raiseuptexas #ContentEnhancement



RAISE^{UP} Texas Students Share What Works for Them!



Students using tools to reflect on an assessment.

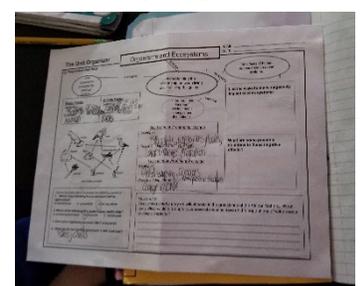
During the Fall 2018 semester, teachers from each campus collected feedback from their students to learn how *RAISE^{UP} Texas* tools helped them be more successful. The Unit Organizer (UO) is a foundational *RAISE^{UP} Texas* tool that guide learning throughout a unit of study. Teachers develop Unit Organizers through deep study and collaboration before presenting them to students. Students reported being excited to use the UOs for studying. They like how everything is laid out. One student remarked, "I like that it is really portable, It's not, like, some giant binder. It's just one piece of paper that organizes the whole unit. This year I'm more organized, since all of my papers are in one area and each UO tells me which area that is. Last year it was just like, papers everywhere."

Many students said that they used to not study at all because they didn't know what to study. Now when they are struggling with something they can look over the UO and to find what they need. One student said that with the UO, he knows exactly what to study and that has led to his grades going up this year. Another student explained that she looks at her Unit Organizer every day and uses it to figure out what she has done wrong on a particular topic. In addition, students who for whom English is their second language have stated that UOs help them because they get to read vocabulary ahead of the lesson and get to talk about what they will be learning. This helps them prepare for the topic.



Students using Unit Organizers to study.

In addition to tools like the Unit Organizer that are used in every class, *RAISE^{UP} Texas* campuses also offer specialized reading instruction to struggling students. One student reflected how this reading instruction has helped her, "I slow down now and think about what I'm reading. DISSECT and Self-Questioning have helped me by giving me strategies to use when I'm stuck. Now I slow down and understand what I read. I definitely feel more confident as a reader"



The *RAISE^{UP} Texas* initiative is led by E3 Alliance, an education collaborative that works to support schools across Central Texas. It uses the Strategic Instruction Model, which was developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. To learn more about the program, please visit the following websites:

<http://raiseuptexas.org/>

<http://kucl.org/sim/>

<http://e3alliance.org/category/topic/initiative-raiseup-texas/>

