

SARAH BLAKELOCK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, CONROE ISD



Sarah Blakelock currently serves as the Director of Communications for Conroe Independent School District. She began her career with Conroe ISD in 2010 when she was hired as the Early Childhood Specialist for the Curriculum and Instruction Department. During her time in Conroe ISD, she has also served as the Gifted Programs Specialist.

Mrs. Blakelock began her career in education in 2002 as a kindergarten teacher for Lubbock ISD followed by Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. During this time, she earned her National Board Certification as an early childhood generalist. Upon leaving the classroom, Mrs. Blakelock was an education policy analyst for the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

In addition to serving in CISD, Mrs. Blakelock is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery County Class of 2016 and the current chairman of the board. In 2022, she was named a Woman of Distinction for Leadership Montgomery County. Mrs. Blakelock is a member of the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, Executive Women's Alliance, Texas School Public Relations Association, and National School Public Relations Association. She also served on the Montgomery County Community Foundation Distribution Committee.

Mrs. Blakelock received her bachelor's degree in education from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma; her master's in education policy from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Houston.

Mrs. Blakelock's husband, Matt, is chief of the Conroe ISD Police Department. Together, they have a son, Beckett.



DR. BETHANY MEDFORD, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, CONROE ISD



Conroe ISD Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Bethany Medford is a dedicated leader with deep roots in the Conroe community. She has spent 20 of her 23 years in education in CISD. Dr. Medford began her teaching career in Pasadena ISD where she taught second and fourth grades before moving to Conroe in 2002.

She began her career in Conroe at Peet Junior High where she taught and coached volleyball, basketball, and track. She has also served as Assistant Principal at Runyan Elementary, Principal at Bozman and Cryar Intermediates and Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools.

Dr. Medford earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1999 and was a member of the volleyball team. She then attended Lamar University where she earned her master's degree and doctorate degree in Educational Leadership.

In addition to her leadership in Conroe ISD, Dr. Medford has served in many volunteer capacities at Stonebridge Church where she's been a member since 2008. Dr. Medford has twin daughters, Kenedi and Kaiden, who are seniors at Conroe High School, a nephew at Galatas Elementary and a niece who is a Lil' Lander at The Woodlands High School.

## DR. CURTIS NULL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, CONROE ISD



Dr. Curtis Null became Superintendent of Schools in June of 2018. He has served 23 years in education with 21 of those years in Conroe ISD.

Dr. Null earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1998. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he attended the University of Florida and earned a master's degree in 2000 with an emphasis in Sports Medicine while working directly with the Florida Gator football team.

In 2000, Dr. Null began his career in Conroe ISD at The Woodlands High School where he served as a teacher and athletic trainer for three years. During this time, he continued his education at Sam Houston State University earning his principal certification. In 2006, Dr. Null was named principal of Peet Junior High. In 2010, he was named principal of Conroe High School. That same year, he also

completed his superintendent certification at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Null earned his doctorate degree in professional leadership from the University of Houston in 2012. In December of 2013, Dr. Null was named Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. He became the Deputy Superintendent of Schools in January of 2016.

Under Dr. Null's leadership, Conroe ISD has continued to receive the highest rating from Texas Smart Schools, formerly known as the FAST report, for high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations. Conroe ISD is one of only two districts in the State to receive this recognition for 13 consecutive years. The District has also received the highest recognition for transparency from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for 11 years in a row. According to the Education Resource Group, Conroe ISD ranks in the top 10 of the 200 largest school districts in Texas for academic and financial performance, ranking held for over a decade, and has one of the lowest tax rates in the Houston metropolitan area. In 2020, Conroe ISD was recognized The Rotary Club of The Woodlands with a Community Hero Award. In 2021, Conroe ISD was named a Top Workplace by the Houston Chronicle. Forbes named Conroe ISD as one of America's Best-in-State Employers for Texas in 2022. Conroe ISD was also named a 2023 Hometown Hero by Interfaith of The Woodlands.

In addition to his District responsibilities as superintendent, Dr. Null volunteers on numerous educational and civic boards and committees, including the Junior Achievement Board of Southeast Texas, the Montgomery County Food Bank Board of Directors, the Montgomery County Public Health District Board, the Conroe/Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce, The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce, the Conroe Economic Development Council, and the Education for Tomorrow Alliance. Dr. Null is a graduate of the Leadership Montgomery County class of 2015, and, in 2020, was named Texas Counseling Association Layperson of the Year. In 2021, he received Leadership Montgomery County's Distinguished Alumnus Award. In 2022, Dr. Null received the Community Citizen of the Year award from The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Null is married to Tanya, who teaches prekindergarten in the District. They have two children, Travis and Kailey, who are both graduates of Conroe ISD.



DR. JASON BULLOCK, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, MAGNOLIA ISD



Dr. Jason Bullock joined Magnolia ISD as Assistant Superintendent for Administration in 2012. He was named Deputy Superintendent in 2020. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the district and oversees district administration. He is also responsible for district policy, principal mentorship, and leadership development.

Dr. Bullock previously worked in Temple ISD serving in several positions during his time there including high school history teacher, department chair, advanced academic coordinator, Principal of Temple High School, and finally Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. He was named the Texas Foreign Language Association Secondary Administrator of the Year for 2011.

Dr. Bullock was born in Houston, Texas, and grew up in Jackson, Mississippi. He holds BA and MA Degrees in History from Abilene Christian University where he also played baseball. He later graduated with a doctorate in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. His dissertation research focused on college preparatory programs in Texas public high schools.

He lives in Magnolia with his wife, Kendra, who works as a nurse in the district. They have three daughters. Claire is a current MISD student. Brooke and Emma are Magnolia ISD graduates who both attend Abilene Christian University.

DR. AMY BUSBY, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MONTGOMERY ISD



Dr. Amy Busby is best described as a servant leader with a deep desire to be of help to others. This innate desire to serve has laid the foundation through her career as a team leader while teaching, Assistant Principal in Conroe and Montgomery ISD and then the Principal of Montgomery Middle School. In 2015, Busby made the move to district administration as the Director of Instructional Technology and Testing Coordinator for Montgomery ISD, where she was able to support and serve new teachers, managed all technology programs and district assessment programs, coordinated the district's Master Teacher program and assisted with the openings of Keenan ES and Oak Hills JH regarding staffing, curriculum needs and administrative decisions.

In 2020, Busby continued serving through the instructional changes that came with remote learning, leading the technology integration, training and support for all district employees. She launched new programs and managed online learning while also leading the process of creating Covid protocols, organizing opportunities for community and employee testing and prepared MISD's return to school plan that supported MISD's success in getting students back for in person learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year.

Since 2020, Dr. Busby served as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Innovation and prioritized the role of leading by focusing on supporting department directors in Technology, Specialized Learning, Community Services, PEIMS, MTSS and district testing and ESL services. She also oversees and provides leadership to all district Librarians and Nurses. Her desire to support families and students led her to implement the district's first SOS Committee, leading the process for student surveying and parent information nights regarding substance use, mental health and growing up in the digital age.

Dr. Busby received her bachelor's degree in Academic Studies from Sam Houston State University in 2001 and continued her education with a master's degree in educational leadership in 2004 and Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership in 2019, both from Sam Houston State.

Amy finds her greatest joy in time with her family and relying on her faith as she continues to serve the employees, students, and parents in Montgomery ISD. She is married to her junior high sweetheart, Bobby. Together they have three children, Ashley, Becca and Brock, and two grandchildren, Elliot and Emmy.

## MR. MATT CALVERT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, NEW CANEY ISD



The New Caney ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Matt Calvert as superintendent of schools, April 6, 2021. Mr. Calvert has served New Caney ISD since 2015 in the roles of deputy superintendent and executive director of finance.

Mr. Calvert began his career in 2004 as a science teacher and coach and later served as an elementary assistant principal, elementary lead principal, and assistant superintendent of business and financial services before coming to New Caney ISD.

Calvert has played an integral role in managing New Caney ISD's fast enrollment growth and leading the district's long-term strategic planning and capital improvement processes. Under his leadership of the business office, the district adopted balanced budgets, improved the district's credit rating, and completed multiple bond refunding processes. He has also provided guidance to executive directors in the areas of finance, human resources, student services, instruction, operations, athletics, and public relations.

Calvert graduated from East Texas Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and he earned a master's in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University. Calvert and his wife, Molly, have lived in the school district since their arrival in 2015. They have two children, Canon and Maggie, who attend New Caney ISD schools.

## DR. JEFF BURKE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SPLENDORA ISD



The Splendorra Independent School District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Jeff Burke as Superintendent of Schools in January 2017. Previously, Dr. Burke was the assistant superintendent of academics at Georgetown ISD in Georgetown, TX, for two years, was the Executive Director of Professional Learning and Student Engagement at Alvin ISD and was the High School Principal at Anderson-Shiro CISD in 2010.

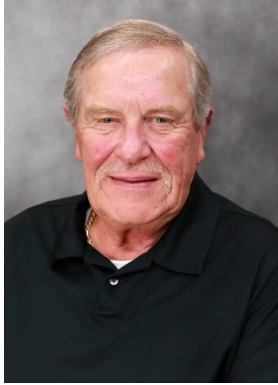
Born in Orange, Texas, Dr. Burke graduated from Hardin Jefferson High School and attended Houston Baptist University and Lamar University before starting his teaching career in 1995 at Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD.

Dr. Burke received his doctorate in educational leadership from Texas A&M University in 2015. Currently, Dr. Burke serves at the state level as a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Legislative Committee, is on the board of the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools and is a member of the TASA Strategic Transformation Network reboot focus group. Additionally, he serves on the board of the Fast Growth Schools Committee. In 2022, Dr. Burke was named the Region VI Superintendent of the Year. He is also a local member of the East Montgomery County Rotary Club and serves on the board of the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber, where he is past chair.

Dr. Burke began his career in public education in 1996 and is focused on creating and facilitating systems that focus on student engagement through positive relationships and the design of meaningful learning experiences. As the child of two public school educators, Dr. Burke holds true to the belief that public schools are the foundation of our democracy and that it is our responsibility to look beyond state test scores to the talents, hopes, and dreams of every child. He is honored to serve Splendorra ISD as Superintendent of Schools.

He and his wife, Kim, also an educator, have two children: their daughter Tylee, who attends Timber Lakes Elementary, and son Beckett, a future Wildcat.

MR. TOM CROWE, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, WILLIS ISD



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KELLY LOCKE, DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING, WILLIS ISD



Kelly is currently the Director of Guidance and Counseling for Willis ISD.

Kelly began her career in education as a Special Education teacher in Klein ISD in 2005. While teaching in Klein, Kelly went back to school and earned her Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Counseling. After three years in the classroom Kelly accepted a position as a high school counselor in Willis ISD. Upon graduating with her master's degree, Kelly completed a 3,000-hour internship and became a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Texas as well as a Board Certified National Counselor. Kelly worked in Willis ISD for 6 years as a high school and middle school counselor before moving to Conroe ISD in 2014. Kelly was the campus counselor at Wilkinson Elementary from 2014 – 2018. During her time at Wilkinson, Kelly began presenting around the district in one her specialty areas, anxiety. In the summer of 2018 Kelly became the first LPC/Mental Health Specialist for Conroe ISD. As the Mental Health Specialist Kelly provided mental health education for parents, students, staff and community members, built community partnerships and provided mental health consultation for all 65 Conroe ISD campuses. Kelly also became a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and began the certification process to become a Certified Prevention Specialist for substance use. In 2021 Kelly was able to return, not only to the district where she 1<sup>st</sup> became a Professional School Counselor, but also to her alma mater, Willis ISD.

As Director of Guidance and Counseling Kelly oversees Campus Counselors, Social and Emotional Learning, Substance Use Prevention, Human Trafficking Prevention and Mental Health.

## MATT BLAKELOCK, CHIEF OF POLICE, CONROE ISD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Matthew Blakelock is a native Texan who has served as a public servant in law enforcement in Montgomery County since 1995 with the last 24 years at the Conroe Independent School District Police Department. Matthew currently serves as the Conroe I.S.D. Police Department Chief of Police. Prior to this, he was promoted to captain in September of 2018 after serving the District as an officer, corporal, and for the preceding 18 years as a sergeant responsible for supervision of every school feeder zone, the Communications Division, Investigations, S.W.A.T. Command, and most recently Administrative Operations of the Police Department. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification, Law Enforcement Instructor License, a School Based Law Enforcement Instructor License, as well as instructor certifications in Defensive Tactics and Use of Force, Crisis Intervention, ALERRT Active Shooter Response for Law Enforcement, School Based Law Enforcement, and various other law enforcement subjects. Matthew, his wife Sarah, and their son Beckett live in Conroe, Texas and are proud to call Montgomery County and Conroe ISD their home.

Matthew worked full time at the Conroe Independent School District Police Department as he attended the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMITE) Leadership Command College (LCC). This program is designed for Texas law enforcement executive development. Matthew attended all three modules and completed his administrative research paper within two years and proudly graduated in 2001 as part of LCC Class #39. In May of 2012, Matthew earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Sam Houston State University. He then went on to earn his Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University in August of 2016.

Matthew Blakelock began serving Conroe I.S.D. as Chief of Police in June 2022 and in addition to his duties as chief, he serves as an executive member of the Montgomery County Special Threat Response Plan Group, a member of the Conroe Independent School District Safety Committee and is an active member of the Texas Police Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.



KAREN GARZA, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, CONROE ISD



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JUSTIN MARINO, CHIEF OF STAFF AND COMMUNICATIONS, MONTGOMERY ISD



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## MIKE KRALL, LONE STAR COLLEGE-OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



Mike Krall has over 25 years of experience in higher education. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. His career background includes working for Texas Instruments and Baker Hughes as a microcontroller and digital signal processor applications engineer.

In higher education, Mike has served as Professor of Engineering, founding the Lone Star College-Montgomery engineering program and acting as department chair of physical sciences. He served as dean at two Lone Star College locations over math, sciences, and health professions, leading faculty and staff in their efforts to educate over 8,000 student enrollments per semester. Mike has introduced processes to improve operational efficiency and to increase evidence-based decision-making. Mike has led Lone Star College academics system wide as Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. In that role, he took on leadership of accreditation and Houston Guided Pathways to Success efforts at Lone Star College, especially working to improve success in developmental education and facilitating student transfer to universities. Mike has served as Special Assistant to the President and Chief Strategist at Lone Star College – Montgomery, providing leadership across the college, with special focus on the acquisition and use of data in all aspects of college operations. Currently, Mike is assigned to the Lone Star College Office of the Chancellor.

In the course of his career, Mike has led teams who have been awarded three multi-million-dollar Department of Education grants to address needs such as STEM education, outreach to traditionally underrepresented student groups, and the establishment of new facilities to address educational needs.

In his personal time, Mike enjoys his family and volunteer work as a Catholic deacon.

AMANDA FRENCH, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Amanda is a lover of Mexican food, mom to Laney and Mattox, wife to Tom, and an unapologetic follower of Christ. As a native Texan, Amanda has invested years serving the public in Montgomery County, specifically in education.

For the past 15 years, she has led in various capacities as an early childhood teacher, Director of Enrollment at The Woodlands Christian Academy, and now, living out her life calling as a school counselor. Amanda's passion for helping students drives her purpose in the daily grind of education, and nothing brings her greater joy.

Amanda is also an ongoing learner. She has earned her Master's in School Counseling and Certificate in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling. Amanda is pursuing a Doctor of Psychology, Psy.D., and credentialing as an RPT (Registered Play Therapist). Anyone who knows Amanda knows she lives in a continual state of smiling- joy is one of her greatest gifts, and she loves sharing that with clients and students!