

Bell's Hill Elementary



Waco, TX



Demographics

775 Students

100 faculty members

Public School

PreK-5th Grade

Waco ISD



Apple Products & Services

Students:

- 1:1 iPad
- iMac Lab
- MacBook Air Mobile Cart
- Apple Pencils

Teachers:

- 1:1 iPad
- 1:1 Apple Pencil
- 1:1 Macbook Air
- 1:1 Apple TV



Students using Numbers to code a picture during Apple's 12 Days of Creativity.

Today

Bell's Hill Elementary is a campus that is deeply rooted in the community. In some cases, students attending Bell's Hill are the second or third generation to attend this school. Their parents can see the technological advancements we have made since they attended Bell's Hill.

We are a 1:1 iPad campus for students and staff. We continuously work together to ensure that students are successful and are showing improvement with technology usage. Our learning, centered on providing student voice and choice, encourages students to be creative and collaborative. We actively seek out ways to innovate and provide professional development that improves teaching strategies and models best practices with technology.

The Instructional Specialist of Technology was recently accepted into the Apple Learning Coach program to further our campus goals by coaching teachers throughout the years.



91.8%

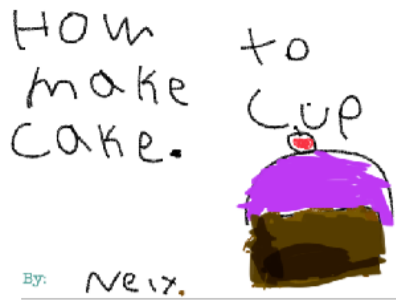
Hispanic student population.

47.4%

Students identified as English Learners.

95.9%

Students identified as economically disadvantaged.



Kindergarteners published their How-To stories in Pages.



Animal Report published by a second grader using Keynote and Clips.

Vision

Bell's Hill Elementary shares our district's vision to grow students and staff to create a better future for all and empower our learners. Our mission is to ensure a safe environment by educating, supporting and motivating young minds through innovative and technological learning to foster the character and leaders of tomorrow. Most of our students do not have technology readily available to them at home due to their low socioeconomic status. Since becoming an Apple Distinguished School in 2018, we have been able to sustain and provide technology to support teaching and learning initiatives. This past year, we successfully provided students with devices and tools to enhance remote instruction. With the use of the *Everyone Can Create* books, we hope to instill a love of learning and creativity.

Learning

At Bell's Hill, we cultivate creativity to build sustainability in student success. Throughout our campus, administrators have observed more opportunities for student creativity due to teachers providing more voice and choice in their lessons. Teachers often utilize differentiated digital choice boards that lead to a common learning objective. Students choose how they will present their knowledge using Keynote, Numbers, and Pages. The Instructional Specialist of Technology co-teaches in the classrooms as students learn how to use each application. At our campus, the writing workshop model has become a big push for teachers and students. At the end of the writing process, students publish their work. Some chose to publish

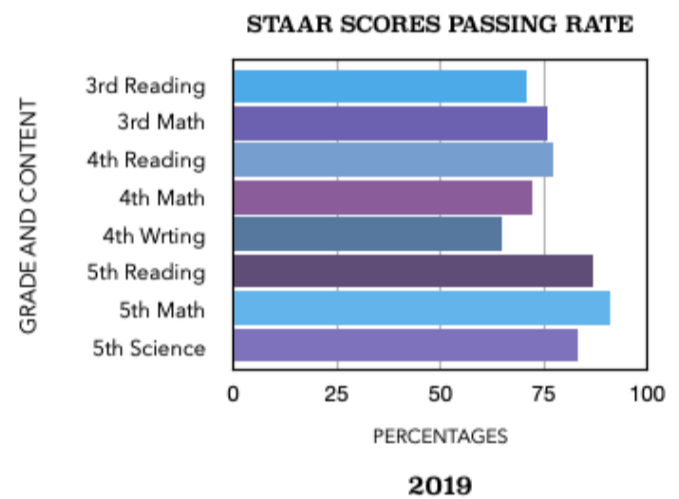
with Keynote to create a movie with Clips, while others published in Pages to export to the Books app to share with the class. Allowing students to publish their work in a digital format encourages them to take ownership of their work and make learning with technology meaningful and purposeful. When planning for an upcoming unit, teachers find unique ways to connect student learning to the world around them and build background knowledge

through literacy. After reading a story about finding letters from the sky, students began to discover the alphabet around our community utilizing the Apple Maps app. Students took screenshots and uploaded them into Keynote. Using the drawing feature, students traced the letters they found and created an alphabet book. Allowing students to explore their community in this way helped make their learning personal.



Success

Teachers meet with instructional specialists regularly. They plan for upcoming units and discuss data from recent assessments and how to grow our students. The Instructional Specialist of Technology also meets with teachers to plan technology projects that support our vision for creativity. When the administrators observe the classrooms, they have seen more student-centered learning that inspires our students to be lifelong learners and critical thinkers. When looking at the state accountability ratings, which focus on four performance indexes: Student Achievement, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, and Post Secondary Readiness, we have shown growth year after year. From 2017 to 2019, we have seen an increase in STAAR assessment scores in reading, math, writing, and science (as shown in the graph below).



Click on the image to see growth from 2017-2019.



➔ What's Next

Bell's Hill is in the process of converting part of our library into a STEAM Lab. The Instructional Specialist of Technology will teach students new technology skills when they visit the lab. We have purchased a ClearTouch Interactive display with a Mac mini to enhance instruction and work seamlessly with our Apple devices. Utilizing the *Everyone Can Create* and *Everyone Can Code* curriculum, we will increase student readiness and create a community of lifelong learners. Our new STEAM Lab will enhance project-based learning opportunities while also developing confident risk-takers that learn to collaborate, communicate and explore. Student voice and choice are essential to the creative process. Allowing students to be stakeholders in their learning will prepare them for lifelong success.

Links

- [The History of Bell's Hill](#)
- [Creativity in Art Class \(PreK-5th\)](#)
- [Building Community Connections with Art](#)
- [Stories of Success: Blended Learning at Bell's Hill](#)
- [Collaborating with Class Books in PreK](#)
- [5th Grade Techsploration](#)