



School History

Benignus Elementary School was named for Johann Ludwig "Louis" Benignus. He was born April 18, 1839 in Oberdorf, Wuerttemberg in Germany, and married Katherine Helene Friedricka Kuterof. They had eight children, and arrived in Texas through the Port of Galveston in 1874. Louis was granted citizenship in 1887, and worked as a farmer and vine dresser. He made wine from the grapes and sold it to area churches and community. He was a founder of the Immanuel United Church of Christ. The Benignus house was moved from the homestead on Kuykendahl Road to Old Town Spring where it stands today. Through the generations, the 116 acre farm was remodeled as a Victorian style then into a modern style home. The property was eventually sold and the subdivision WindRose was built.

School Rating

Benignus Elementary is rated as a Met Standard campus for 2015.

Counseling Program

The goal of our counseling program is to help students experience success academically, emotionally and socially. This is done by working with students through classroom guidance both in small groups and individually. Topics of discussion include problem solving, bullying, self-esteem and social skills. Our counselor is also a resource for both parents and faculty.

Parent Involvement

The Benignus Elementary School PTO would like to welcome you to our school. For those of you who are unfamiliar with us, we are a volunteer organization made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff who are all dedicated to the successful education of our children. The Benignus PTO works hard to help make the school year both enjoyable and exciting for students, teachers, and parents.

The purpose of our organization is to aid the students and staff by providing support for educational and recreational needs; to promote open communication between administration, teachers, and parents and to encourage Benignus school spirit and pride. The PTO uses its resources, both manpower and monetary, to support all the efforts of the staff of our school. We are looking forward to meeting families, parents, and grandparents that would like to get involved with our PTO this school year. We encourage you to not only join our organization, but get involved as well! Everything we do is based on volunteers and we are always looking for those of you to help make a difference in the lives of our children. Every positive imprint we make on our children can go a long, long way. If you are able to give some time, please join us! Many hands make the job easier. We in the PTO believe that it is the ultimate importance that we do everything we can to enhance the learning environment of our children as they truly are our future. It will take all of us working together to ensure that this happens. We look forward to getting to know you!

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School Hours
7:50 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Rating
Met Standard

Enrollment
900

Mascot
Leopards

Principal
Dawn Proctor

Assistant Principals
Kara Czepiel & Holly Mason

Counselor
Anne Francis

The staff and administration at Benignus strive to provide a high quality of education for every student on our campus. Teachers continuously work collaboratively to differentiation based on individual needs, whether it is a need for enrichment and extension or intervention. In addition to the Klein ISD curriculum and state mandated TEKS, Benignus has begun to implement 21st century learning and inquiry based skills through Maker Space activities, Google Apps for Education, an Engineering Lab, and many other hands-on activities to engage all learners. With the assistance of Chromebooks, iPads, and other digital/technology resources, we work diligently to make all student future ready.

English Language Arts

The ELA program at Benignus focuses on developing authentic readers and writers through the implementation of strong Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop. We use a genre based sequence of learning to ensure all TEKS are met to the depth and complexity needed to demonstrate mastery. The use of Reader's and Writer's Workshop allows students freedom and choice in their books and written compositions which encourages life-long readers and writers.

Math

With the assistance of Singapore Math strategies and district provided resources, Benignus Math teachers build foundations of understanding and development in number sense, operations, quantitative reasoning, patterns and algebraic thinking with geometry, spatial reasoning, measurement,

probability and statistics. Many Benignus students go on to take and excel in advanced math programs and courses in intermediate and high school.

Science

Science at Benignus is a very hands-on experience. Our teachers are able to create experiments and demonstrations of science concepts for our students to explore and learn as real scientists do. They are able to attend lab regularly with their classes and get an in depth perspective on the TEKS at a depth of knowledge preparing them for years to come. As a campus that focuses on STEAM learning, we value the need for rigorous and engaging science instruction to prepare students for future endeavors.

Social Studies

Building a foundation of good citizenship, appreciation of culture and active community partnerships is a focus for all students and teachers on our campus. After foundations of social studies is built, we develop an understanding of the ideas and values of democracy and the American economic system. Students in fourth grade study Texas History in depth to create state knowledge, pride and spirit while also enjoying events like Texas Tea. Our fifth grade students focus on American History with major events such as the colonization of America and the American Revolution. Fifth graders enjoy participating in creative and engaging events, such as Colonial Day.

Special Programs

At Benignus Elementary our students have a variety of special programs available to them that are designed to promote student involvement, leadership, and Leopard pride.

The Benignus physical education department is critical to our students' academic, social and physical development. The teachers plan together weekly to implement the KISD curriculum while adding their own ideas to bring excitement and motivation to our students. Our P.E. teachers provide an exciting program; however, a huge area of uniqueness for them is their dedication to helping with character development. We at Benignus have a lot of pep rallies with varying themes to motivate the students. Our P.E. teachers orchestrate and conduct the pep rallies. They put on skits, sing songs, perform dances, and rally our students to keep the commitment and motivation high among our students and staff. They also implement academics in their daily lessons to support the regular classroom teachers. Benignus physical education teachers, music teachers and art teacher meet daily with various students in goal setting groups.

Benignus has several curriculum-based clubs for students. The music department has The Benignus Choir and Rapid Paw Percussion Ensemble, and they have the opportunity to perform locally throughout the year. The Striders running club promotes good health and the benefits of exercise, and have participated in many child oriented marathons. The Student Council does community work as well as serving as Ambassadors for our school during activities. Our teachers use technology including interactive Starboard activities, Google Apps for Education, and much more. Benignus was the first KISD elementary school to provide a mobile lab for every grade level consisting of 24 laptops. Over the past couple of years our students have also benefited from gaining an iPad mini cart, and iPad cart, and three Chrome book carts. Having this technology available for

our students has truly allowed technology to be implemented and used very naturally throughout the day. This year we are excited to add our new technology club is designed to "integrate technology into the lives" of our students. During their time together, Tech Club members explore the world of technology through a variety of innovative lessons. Our Coding club is another club that develops activities designed to teach the basics of coding to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who have no prior knowledge of programming. Our Destination Imagination teams is another great program designed to build teamwork and pull creativity from our students. Last year one of our teams advanced all the way to Global Competition in Knoxville, TN where they placed 2nd.

We also offer the BIGS, Benignus Institute of Global Studies, Spanish Club, S.T.E.M. Lego Engineering, Math Club, and Watch D.O.G.S., Student Ambassadors, Safety Patrol, and Student Greeters.

Benignus has a motivational incentive called Power and Pride. On these teams the students work weekly on library behavior, cafeteria behavior, specials behavior, and attendance. Thursdays are Power/Pride day. Each team has a song to represent them and every Thursday we play the song that represents their team indicating who won for the week. You can hear cheers through the halls for the winning team. When we opened Benignus, our goal was to bring the three feeder schools into one school community. Therefore, we play "We Are Family" every Friday to promote teamwork and school loyalty as teachers and students dance and sing.

Benignus is a school that celebrates the many talents our students possess and our clubs are a great outlet for these talents to shine.