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PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to attend the Ortega Elementary presentations, please RSVP with your name, title, and affiliation to be allowed entry into the school.

Reading Rock Stars program hosts children's book authors at six Title 1 Central Texas schools—Friday, Oct. 25

Authors Bob Shea, Adam Rex, Kate Hosford to present at Ortega Elementary School

WHAT

Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars, a dynamic program that brings books to life for children in low-income schools, will host authors from across the country at six local Central Texas schools, where they will present their literary works, give each student an autographed copy of their book, and provide the school library with a new set of books. Media are invited to cover the event at Ortega Elementary School in East Austin.

WHO

Ortega Elementary School—this year's featured Reading Rock Stars media school; and children's book authors Bob Shea (*Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great*), Adam Rex (*Moonday*), and Kate Hosford (*Infinity and Me*).

WHERE

Ortega Elementary School, 1135 Garland Ave. Austin, TX 78721

WHEN

Friday, Oct. 25, 8:15- 10:30 a.m.

- Bob Shea, *Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great*, in the library at 8- 8:30 a.m. for grades pre-K; and 8:45-9:15 a.m. for kindergarten
- Adam Rex, *Moonday*, in the library at 9:30- 10:15 a.m. for grades 1-2; and 10:30-11:15 for grade 3
- Kate Hosford, *Infinity and Me*, in the cafeteria at 1:30-2:15 p.m. for grades 4-5

**Note: book distribution and signing will take place directly after authors' presentations.*

VISUALS

Children of all ages; famous children's authors; large hand-made banners and welcome signs for authors plastered all over the school's hallways, library, and cafeteria; stage with book-themed setting/scenery including podiums, posters of the authors' book covers, and large projector screen used during interactive parts of the presentations.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Book Festival brings books to life for young readers through Reading Rock Stars, a dynamic program in which selected authors from across the country are invited to present their works to students in economically disadvantaged public schools. At the end of the presentations, each child receives an autographed copy of the book, and a set of books is also given to the school library.

Originally created to serve children in the Austin area, the Reading Rock Stars program is expanding each year. With support from H-E-B, The Wright Family Foundation, and other generous donors, Reading Rock Stars is now serving Austin and the Rio Grande Valley. The program is a three-year commitment, in which different authors are brought in to the selected schools for three years in a row.

Half of this year's Reading Rock Stars schools are from Del Valle ISD: Hillcrest, Baty, and Smith; the other half of this year's Reading Rock Stars schools are from Austin ISD: Cunningham, Zavala, and Ortega, which will be featured as this year's media school.

"We chose Ortega Elementary as this year's featured school because it's a large school and Reading Rock Stars can make a really big difference here," said Kendall Miller, the Texas Book Festival's logistics and outreach coordinator. "To be chosen, a school must be classified as Title 1, which means that at least 50 percent of children in the school's population qualify for free or reduced lunches."

For more information about Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars program, please visit <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/welcome-reading-rock-stars/>.

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About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival is a nonprofit organization that celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of dedicated volunteers, the Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol every fall. The Festival features author readings from more than 225 renowned Texas and national authors, panel discussions, book signings, musical entertainment, live cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. The TBF supports Texas public libraries and literacy through its Library Grants and Reading Rock Stars programs, and also hosts events year-round. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook and Twitter @texasbookfest.