

Learning Has No Limits

Northwest ISD is thankful for a community that understands the impact technology has on the learning environment. Community and parental partnerships are a necessary component of the success our district has with the implementation of technology in the classroom. With the passage of the 2012 bond, approximately \$25 million was allocated for the use of infrastructure, technology classroom upgrades, and student devices.

The technology division has created the 1:World website in an effort to create a partnership with the NISD community. In this new resource, you will find answers to frequently asked questions, student device information, acceptable use information, and other resources related to technology. "Our educators and district leaders understand that leveraging technology, both in the classroom and at home, provides the opportunity for students to become progressively active learners, problem solvers, and creative thinkers," shared Director of Instructional Technology Cara Carter. Additionally, the NISD technology division provides resources, relevant information, and educational trends via the 1:World blog. Topics include information about the learning management system, Open DNS options for at-home filtering, and Google Apps for Education. Future postings include Minecraft and education-based gaming, connecting

with your kids, and guiding questions to generate authentic conversations at home regarding digital citizenship.

Since 2009, Northwest ISD has been a 1:1 school district, offering a school-issued device to secondary students. This year, all middle and high school students have access to a school-issued



To view the 1:World website, go to <http://1toworld.nisdtx.org/>. The 1:World logo was created by the students in the Academy of Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Eaton High School.

device or can bring their own. "1:1, also known as 1:World, is not limited to a single device. Rather, it is about the right device at the right time," said Chief Technology Officer Adam Feind, CETL.

At the elementary level, iPads and Windows devices are shared among students to allow them to experience multiple platforms. At the secondary level, students have access to a district-issued device or can elect to bring a device of their choice following the district's Bring Your Own Device guidelines.

"Learning is mobile," Carter shared. "It is no longer confined to the classroom."

In an effort to provide meaningful, relevant opportunities for all learners to engage in communication and collaboration, NISD uses platforms such as Google Apps for Education. This solution allows students to collaborate, provide feedback, and access information from anywhere allowing them to make real-world connections and participate in authentic learning experiences.

As 21st Century learners, the district recognizes students must be prepared with high levels of academic strength including literacy, digital skills, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication. Students at all grade levels have access to an ePortfolio as a way to showcase their abilities and multi-dimensional interpretations of their learning. This tool is also a resource students can take with them when they graduate or leave NISD. ePortfolios allow students to personalize their learning and evidence of growth. Students are currently using the ePortfolio to apply for college, awards, scholarships, and jobs. To learn more or to find out if your child has an ePortfolio, contact your child's teacher.

"The district will continue to seek out the most appropriate technology to ensure students are prepared to thrive in a world where technology is a non-negotiable component of daily life," Carter said.

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Vision



Keeping You Connected to Northwest ISD

Winter 2016

NISD Enrollment Climbs to 21,000

As one of the fastest growing school districts in the area, enrollment for Northwest ISD during the 2015-2016 school year has reached 21,025.

"The growth is exciting in Northwest ISD," said Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.

"The growth is attributed to the economic development in the area, population increase, and rise in housing developments in the district. All of these factors prove for a promising future for the school district."

The Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex continues to lead in job and population growth. Templeton Demographics projects Northwest ISD will increase by approximately 5,500 students in the next five years, bringing the enrollment to just over 26,000. The school district is expected to have more than 33,300 students for the 2024-2025 school year.



Eaton High School), updates and additions to existing schools, as well as upgrades to technology, safety and security, program enhancements, and classroom space. With more than 1,000 new students enrolling each August, NISD has experienced growth that has ranged from eight to 19 percent annually over the last 10 years.

"Our community members recognize the district's fast growth and the need

to create seats for new students in quality facilities with up-to-date security systems and technology," said Rue.

"Their support is what makes our district able to continue to provide the same quality of education in facilities and programs that meet each need."

In November, NISD hosted an official dedication for the district's third comprehensive high school, V.R. Eaton High School, named after a district leader remembered for his contributions to making NISD what it is today. Mr. Eaton was a member on the very first NISD school board. In August, Eaton opened its doors in Fort Worth welcoming approximately 1,000 freshman and sophomore students. Located in one of the fastest growing areas in Northwest ISD, Eaton is situated in the Willow Springs housing development and serves students from Fort Worth, Newark, and Haslet. The campus will add a grade level each year until it serves ninth through twelfth grade students in the 2017-2018 school year.

Northwest ISD encourages all residents to become registered voters and stay informed about school district and community issues. To learn more about the 2012 bond referendum, view photographs and videos, and receive voter registration information, go to www.nisdtx.org/bond.



Celebrating our School Board Super-Heroes

January is School Board Recognition month, and NISD would like to say 'thank you' to its seven-member Board of Trustees. The Texas Association of School Boards has established this year's theme Super-Heroes for Schools. Each school board member is committed to the district's vision and beliefs, putting kids first in every decision.

The NISD Board of Trustees dedicate countless hours to serving and leading the school district, while providing a place where students can thrive and be prepared for their futures. The 2015-2016 Board of Trustees are President Josh Wright, Vice President Mark Schluter, Secretary Devonna Holland, and members Anne Davis-Simpson, Ph.D., Judy Copp, Lillian Rauch, and Mel Fuller.

"Serving on the Northwest ISD Board is an honor and a privilege," said School Board President Josh Wright. "I get to work with a group of fellow board members that are truly exceptional and always put our students first. NISD is blessed to have a supportive and engaged community. As a trustee, that is what you hope for."

Board members were recognized at the January 11 school board meeting and were presented an e-portfolio with work created by Northwest ISD students.



In 2015, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees received the Dr. John R. Hoyle Memorial Administrative Leadership Institute's Texas School Board Excellence Award. NISD has served as a model in Texas for vision-driven leadership through the use of a community-based accountability system.

How is Success Measured?



That very question was debated and discussed in a series of committee meetings as community members, parents, teachers, and staff gathered to define community values and proposed measures of success in Northwest ISD. In the 2012-2013 school year, the NISD Board of Trustees approved the Community-based Accountability Measures of Success. In 2014, the district unveiled the Community Dashboard, a tool providing student achievement data measured by Community-based Accountability including SAT/ACT scores, community service hours, internships, college scholarships, dual credit courses, and more. The dashboard can be accessed at www.nisdtx.org/communitydashboard.

The dashboard is featured in the 2016 NISD Annual Report. Key information is provided as an overview in the district snapshot. More detailed information can be found on the district's community dashboard.

Upcoming Events
 2016
 • February 15 - Student Holiday/Staff Development (Bad Weather Make-up Day)
 • March 14-18 Spring Break
 • April 22 - Student Holiday/Staff Development (Bad Weather Make-up Day)

The Northwest Vision is published by the NISD Communications Department



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Northwest ISD appreciates the feedback from the community on the 2016-2017 school calendar. The primary change on this year's calendar options included adding language to provide 75,600 minutes of instruction instead of 180 days. This change was made during the 84th Legislative Session allowing school districts to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by inclement weather.

Administration will present the results from the survey to the District Education Improvement Council, made up of parents, teachers, and community members, in January. The committee will review all input in developing a final recommendation for school board approval and will take a calendar to the board for approval in February.

Future Ready

Connecting Families to the Road Ahead

NISD's vision is to be the best and most sought-after school district where every student is future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace, and ready for personal success. The road ahead brings about much anticipation, so preparing for that next step early allows for ample time dedicated to making important decisions that will impact students' futures.



This year, NISD seniors are using Naviance Family Connection, a comprehensive, campus-customized website, to complete certain college tasks as needed for post-secondary planning. Through an account, senior students are able to:

Request for transcripts to be sent to colleges	Request for letters of recommendation from staff and teachers
Search for scholarships	Communicate college acceptance(s) and college attending
Complete the Common Application	Explore colleges and careers

Who Can Benefit from a Naviance Family Connection Account?

With an account, sixth through twelfth graders have the opportunity to research colleges and careers, track community service hours, build a resume, and take personality and career assessments. High school students may also track college applications, view deadlines, and use the personalized TestPrep course for the SAT test or ACT test. A student's account is linked with their campus so that counselors, teachers, and principals can share information with students about meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, and other web resources for college and career information.



"Not only does the Naviance Family Connection allow students to research colleges and careers, it provides a springboard to the next step," said Director of College

NISD Named Again to National AP Honor Roll



For the second consecutive year, Northwest ISD has been named to the national College Board AP Honor Roll. Districts are selected based on increased participation in Advanced Placement courses and performance. NISD is one of 23 districts in the state to receive this recognition.

Making the decision to take an Advanced Placement course signals to college admission officers your child has taken the most rigorous class a high school has to offer. To learn more about Advanced Placement and college and career readiness in Northwest ISD, go to www.nisdtx.org/collegeready.

"Naviance Family Connection provides increased communication among students, administrators, registrars, and teachers through the planning process," said Director of Counseling Jamie Farber. "This program directly aligns with the district's vision for each student to graduate college ready. We believe planning for the next step is a joint partnership between the child's campus and the family."

and Career Readiness Kyle Seipp. "The program has a large impact on the college admissions process allowing students to explore, select, and then follow their colleges of choice. As the data grows, future NISD students will be able to see the academic profile of students from NISD who have been admitted to colleges all across the nation."

To begin using Naviance Family Connection, go to www.nisdtx.org/naviance for links by campus and screen shots of how to use the program. Every middle school and high school student has an account. Log in credentials are – Username: FirstName.LastName (number, if applicable), Password: 6 or 7 digit NISD Student ID number. For log in assistance, contact your child's counselor.



Mentors Matter

Did you know you can make a difference in a child's life in just 30 minutes a week? The NISD mentoring program brings together individual students with caring adults who have made a commitment to meet on the school campus to listen and offer encouragement to students. If you are interested in becoming a NISD mentor, please call 817-215-0172.

Mentors are required to complete a background check, a mentor application, and attend an orientation.



For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/pie. The next orientation is February 18 at noon at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD Offers SAT and PSAT to Students

On March 2, NISD will be administering the new SAT to all junior level students enrolled at each high school. In the fall of the school year, eighth through tenth grade students have the opportunity to take the PSAT. The scores are used as an initial screen to the National Merit Scholarship Program. These tests will be administered at no cost to the students. Many universities use the SAT or ACT as part of the admission process. NISD is committed to ensuring students are college ready. SAT will also connect students with many college planning tools including information about application processes, information on how to access financial aid, and major planning. Naviance Family Connection provides

an online course to help students build math, reading, writing, and SAT/ACT test prep skills. Through your child's campus Naviance Family Connection site, students can complete the PrepMe course and track all of the work completed.

This year, the SAT is implementing some very important changes that will be beneficial to students. There will be no guessing penalty, and questions are related more to content and skills and less on "testing tricks."

For more information on preparing for this test, please visit NISD's College and Career Readiness page dedicated to the SAT: www.nisdtx.org/sat.

Two Schools Receive CREST Counseling Award

Samuel Beck Elementary School and Byron Nelson High School are two of 91 schools in Texas to receive the CREST award. CREST stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas. In 2005, the Texas School Counselor Association began a program called CREST to recognize schools with outstanding counseling programs. The program is



evaluated in seven areas: principal's support, school counseling advisory council, school climate and safety, student results, major achievements, community partnerships and resources, and parent collaboration. The campuses will be honored during the school counselor conferences in Dallas this February.



Northwest ISD believes the success of each student is a shared responsibility of students, families, schools, and communities. Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. encourages you to join in the conversation at Thinking Together. This two-way communication forum is based upon NISD's vision to prepare all students for their futures. Check out the Thinking Together blog, and share your feedback at www.nisdtx.org/thinkingtogether.

New District Leaders



Kim Becan
Principal of Cox Elementary

The NISD School Board named Kim Becan the new principal for Wayne A. Cox Elementary. Becan has served as Assistant Principal at Northwest ISD's Clara Love Elementary. She has worked in Northwest ISD since 2007 where she served students as a first and third grade teacher and a campus

instructional teacher at Prairie View Elementary School. Additionally, she has worked as an elementary math instructional teacher.



Jon Graswich
Associate Superintendent for Business and Operations

Jon Graswich has been promoted to the position of Associate Superintendent for Business and Operations. Primary responsibilities for this position include overseeing financial services, purchasing, payroll, facilities, maintenance, and construction.

Graswich has served Northwest ISD for the last 17 years as the Chief Financial Officer, earning the district multiple national financial awards as well as the School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) 'Superior Achievement' designation for the tenth consecutive year.



Joel Johnson
Executive Director of Athletics

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved Joel Johnson as the new NISD Executive Director of Athletics. Coach Johnson came to NISD as the Offensive Coordinator for Northwest High School in 2009 before becoming the Assistant Athletic Director in 2014. His philosophy of accountability for athletes, both in and out of the classroom, is an important aspect of coaching he has carried throughout his years in education.



Sarah Stewart
Executive Director of Construction

NISD's Sarah Stewart has been named the Executive Director of Construction. Stewart has served Northwest ISD, assisting with more than three million square feet of construction and renovation projects, for the past eight years. Prior to a career in Northwest ISD, she worked for CM Architects and SHW Group. Stewart is a graduate of Northwest High School.



Tim McClure
Architect Planner

The NISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Architect Planner Tim McClure. McClure manages facility planning, development, and operations for Northwest ISD. He has more than 20 years of experience in construction and architecture. He has served as a principal director at Huckabee & Associates. McClure is a resident of Newark and is active in the Northwest ISD community, serving as a member of the Watch D.O.G.S. and as an industry partner with the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics students.

Northwest ISD's Angel Tree

Thanks to your support, Northwest ISD was able to make a difference in the lives of approximately 1,200 students through the Partners in Education Angel Tree. Northwest ISD uses the Virtual Angel Tree as a way for teachers and staff, student organizations, local churches, and businesses to offer their assistance anonymously to any family who needs assistance with clothing and holiday wishes. This year, more than 35 individuals volunteered their time sorting and distributing items.

