



NISD Celebrates Class of 2012, Grads Earn \$14M in Scholarships

2012 marks the first year for Northwest ISD to graduate seniors from three high schools. On June 5, parents, friends, and faculty watched as 383 Byron Nelson High School seniors and 463 Northwest High School seniors crossed the stage at the University of North Texas Coliseum in Denton.



BNHS valedictorian Rebecca Ryan (left) will attend Villanova University, and salutatorian Rachel Fusselman (right) will attend Austin College in the fall.

Byron Nelson High School valedictorian Rebecca Ryan reflects on the Bobcat's first graduating class. "It's an honor to be named the first valedictorian for Byron Nelson High School," Ryan says. "We really

built this school together the past four years, and I feel close to all the students. I'm truly honored."

James M. Steele Accelerated High School held its commencement ceremony honoring 25 graduates on June 4. Steele was established for students with a desire to accelerate their degree plan, and since opening its doors two years

ago, the campus has graduated more than 75 students.

Seniors from the three Northwest ISD high school campuses earned a combined total of more than \$14 million in scholarships.

Northwest ISD'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.



Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. congratulates Northwest High School valedictorian Anthony Cava. Cava will attend Carleton College in Minnesota.



NISD School Board President Mel Fuller presents Steele Accelerated High School top graduate Micah Larsen her diploma.

Congratulations to the class of 2012 for completing an important step toward the future and for continuing the journey to pursue lifelong learning.

Northwest ISD Promotes Talented Staff to Lead Three Schools

The Northwest ISD administration and Board of Trustees named principals for three schools: Northwest High School, Medlin Middle School, and J.C. Thompson Elementary School



Jason Childress
Principal
Northwest High School

Northwest High School

Jason Childress, the new principal of Northwest High School is very familiar with NISD expectations. He currently serves as an assistant principal at NISD's Byron Nelson High School, and he was the eighth-grade lead science teacher at NISD's Chisholm Trail Middle School.

He has also taught and coached in Sanger and in the Carroll school district where he was recognized for teaching excellence and won three state championships as a football coach.

"I look forward to developing relationships with the staff and community, and I can't wait to begin building on the already strong foundation that's in place," said Childress.



Eric Drewery
Principal
Medlin Middle School

Medlin Middle School

Eric Drewery will take the helm at Medlin Middle School where he has served as an assistant principal since 2008. "I know the staff, the parents and most importantly, I know the students," said Drewery. "This will be a smooth transition for everyone."

He has previously worked in Katy ISD and Stafford Municipal School District. Drewery has a background in social work and counseling.

J.C. Thompson Elementary School

Prior to her assistant principal positions, Leigh Anne Romer was the Campus Instructional Teacher at Medlin Middle School where she had also worked as a special education teacher. She also taught in Dallas for seven years.

"I look forward to building strong partnerships with each member of the Thompson learning community," said Romer.



Leigh Anne Romer
Principal
J.C. Thompson
Elementary School

NISD Schools Lead by Example

Three NISD Schools Recognized as National Model Schools

Three NISD schools have been recognized as Pearson National Model Schools: Chisholm Trail Middle School, Seven Hills Elementary, and Clara Love Elementary.

This program recognizes schools that have successfully implemented school-wide improvement efforts to reduce the achievement gap and make high academic standards a reality for all students.

Schools designated as National Model Schools serve as top examples for schools across the country.



Executives from Pearson's national office traveled to NISD to present three schools with the coveted National Model School flag and plaque. NISD's Chisholm Trail is the first middle school in the nation to receive this designation.

Gene Pike Middle School Named Texas "School to Watch"

Gene Pike Middle School is one of six middle schools in Texas named a "School to Watch." Pike Middle School was selected for its academic excellence, being responsive to the needs and interests of students, and a commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.

As a "School to Watch," Pike Middle School was featured at the annual Texas Middle

School Association (TMSA) in March and will be recognized in June at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C.

Texas currently has 17 "Schools to Watch," and Gene Pike and Chisholm Trail middle schools belong to this prestigious group.

NISD officials attribute this honor to focusing on academic growth and achievement of students.



District officials, campus leaders, and students are pictured holding the Texas "Schools to Watch" banner at Gene Pike Middle School. The campus celebrated being a 2012 "Schools to Watch" with a special assembly in May.

NISD Student Wins Chevy Camaro

24 Students Win Dell Inspiron Laptops

Northwest High School freshman Matt Boyd won a 2012 Chevy Camaro at the annual Strive N Drive Car Giveaway. Boyd's ticket was one of 25 drawn from the hopper. The other 24 students received new Dell Inspiron laptops. Students earned tickets throughout the year for academic success and good attendance. From the 237,811 tickets issued, 3,936 students qualified for the drawing.

The 2012 NISD Strive N Drive Car Giveaway was made possible through a cooperative relationship between Moritz Chevrolet, Dell, IESI, and the NISD Partners in Education program.



Northwest High School freshman Matt Boyd gives a thumbs-up in his brand new 2012 Chevrolet Camaro at the 2012 Northwest ISD Strive N Drive Car Giveaway.

NISD Leads Nation in Technology, Named Among Top 10 Digital School Districts

As the recipient of numerous technology awards, Northwest ISD is considered an innovative leader across the nation in its uses of technology, providing students with college-and career-ready opportunities.

Northwest ISD recently placed seventh in the large student population district category for the Digital School Districts Survey Awards. The study examines and documents school boards and districts' online presence, interactive technology applications with school board members, administrators and teachers, as well as their access to information such as school board meetings, policies, and technology use in classrooms.

NISD was recognized at a reception in Boston during the National School Boards Association Annual Conference.

Techno Expo Proves Successful

In March, the district hosted the second annual Techno Expo providing more than 600 students an opportunity to showcase their technology skills and innovative designs.

From digital video to website design, selected student work was presented to the community during more than 250 breakout sessions. In addition, 30 teachers presented model lessons and showed examples of student work in the classroom.



Kay Granger Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Roy Peacock demonstrates his use of netSchool, NISD's online classroom management system.

Northwest ISD Recognizes 600 Students at Board of Trustee Awards

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees honored the district's top students for their achievements in regional, state, national and international competitions on May 24. More than 600 students received awards for their efforts.



NISD Board Member Daryl Laney, D.C., presents Northwest High School student Megan Graves with a Trustee Award of Excellence medallion. Graves was selected as an All State Choir member this year and is the first female freshman to make the All State Choir at Northwest High School.



Byron Nelson High School Speech and Debate Coach Brian Simpson is pictured with Matt Marxer (left) and Eric Pool (right) at the annual Board of Trustee Awards. Pool is the persuasive speaking state champion, and Marxer is the state champion in the Lincoln Douglas Debate. The BNHS debate team won the 4A state championship in May.

Top Educators Honored at Inspire Celebration

Meredith Cunningham from J.C. Thompson Elementary School was named Elementary Teacher of the Year and Amy Jo Wagner from Byron Nelson High School was named Secondary Teacher of the Year at the district's second annual Inspire Celebration in April. Cunningham and Wagner will compete in the state Teacher of the Year contest this summer.



Secondary Teacher of the Year Amy Jo Wagner (left) poses with Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. and Elementary Teacher of the Year Meredith Cunningham (right) at the annual Inspire Celebration.

"I would challenge anyone to try to find better teachers anywhere in the United States, because that's how talented and dedicated you are," Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. said to an audience of about 200 people at the celebration.

The Inspire recognition program was designed to recognize and celebrate dedicated educators and support staff for the important contributions they make

to the students and community of NISD. Exemplar Educators were selected from 23 campuses based on their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom.

"I am so proud of these 23 Exemplar Educators and the work they do, which sets an example for us and inspires us all," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Edward Chevallier.

Northwest ISD also recognized its three Employees of the Year, retirees, and 25-year and 30-year service award recipients.



Teachers of the Year Meredith Cunningham and Amy Jo Wagner (front row) are pictured with Exemplar Educators representing 23 campuses in Northwest ISD.



NISD employs more than 1,800 talented staff members and the Employees of the Year are selected for a number of criteria after being nominated by their peers or supervisors. Pictured from left to right are NISD School Board Secretary Mark Schluter, Support Services Employee of the Year Jami Alford, Instructional Support Employee of the Year Mario Rondon, Administrative Support Employee of the Year Julie Meek, and Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.

NISD Academy Students Win National Championship

"Son of a Biscuit!" - It's the casual dining restaurant concept featuring breakfast foods that has the restaurant nation talking. Teams from 47 states and territories participated in the National ProStart Invitational Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management competition this spring in Maryland, and the Byron Nelson High School restaurant management team was named National Champions.

Nathan Hall, Agron Mena, and Trenton Shank designed a hypothetical restaurant, "Son of a Biscuit," which serves only breakfast and lunch. This unique menu with fair prices would feature items like southern eggs benedict, fit as a fiddle omelets, and cinnamon son of a biscuit. The team developed a written proposal, visual display, and a verbal presentation to a panel of judges. The team has already received numerous scholarship offers ranging from a few thousand dollars to \$45,000 from New England Culinary Institute and a full scholarship at

any Le Cordon Bleu in North America. The young restaurateurs will appear in Austin to be recognized by the Texas Restaurant Association Board of Directors this summer and will travel to Washington, D.C. in June to meet elected officials and tour the nation's capital.

Facilitator Steve DeShazo has been named the 2012 Educator of the Year by the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Chefs Association. In August, he will be recognized during the chapter's annual awards luncheon in Tyler.

The Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality is one of four career academies offered in Northwest ISD. The Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality and the Academy of Medical Professions are offered at Byron Nelson High School, while the Academy of Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics and Academy of Media Arts and Technology are housed at Northwest High School. A fifth academy focusing on cosmetology will open

at NISD's James M. Steele Accelerated High School in August. The district's newest academy is available for incoming ninth and tenth-graders and is currently seeking applicants. For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/cosmetology.



Byron Nelson High School Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality students (from left to right) Trenton Shank, Agron Mena, and Nathan Hall are pictured at the National ProStart Invitational Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management competition.

NISD Opens 5th Middle School in August, 3 Elementary Schools Receive Additions

Wilson Middle School



NISD's newest campus, Truett Wilson Middle School, will open in the Sendera Ranch development to relieve growth at Chisholm Trail Middle School. The district's fifth middle school, named after former NISD superintendent Truett Wilson, is just over 184,400 square feet and features state-of-the-art classrooms, collaborative instructional areas, a large courtyard, three gymnasiums, and a full-sized football field with artificial turf and a track.

The mascot and school colors – purple and black – were chosen from committees made up of incoming Wilson Middle School students and parents.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of a neighborhood and community school," said Principal Mike Blankenship. The construction is near completion, and Wilson Middle School is on schedule to open in August.



Wilson Middle School, the district's fifth middle school campus, will open in August with approximately 615 students.

Elementary School Additions

During the next four years, nine elementary schools will receive building additions to accommodate the growing enrollment throughout NISD.

In October 2011, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees re-established the optimal capacity of elementary schools with 450 students to 650, and elementary schools with 650 students to 850, beginning this school year.

Building additions at Beck, Granger, and Roanoke began this spring. Each building addition includes new classrooms, and the additions at Roanoke and Granger include expansions to the cafeteria, gymnasium, and playground, as well as new fine arts classrooms and storage space. Completion is expected before the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Granger and Roanoke elementary schools will start the new school year with student capacity at 850, and the Samuel Beck Elementary School student capacity will grow to 650 students.

Designated funds for elementary schools 18 and 19 have been re-established for construction at these nine elementary schools, saving the district over \$3 million in operating funds.

With plans for a new elementary school in the Roanoke area, NISD plans to purchase property near Litsey Road by 2013.

Granger Recognized as Top Volunteer Campus for 2nd Consecutive Year

Granger Elementary School has been named the Northwest ISD Partners in Education (PIE) Campus of the Year for the second consecutive year. The campus logged approximately 12,280 volunteer hours from August 2011 to March 2012.

"We value the time and service spent in our building by the Granger Elementary volunteers," said Principal Kimmie Etheredge. "When I see the volunteers witness the success of our students – that is what it's all about."

The current estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$21.91, according to Independent Sector, the nation's largest non-partisan coalition of nonprofit organizations. The volunteers of Granger Elementary have contributed the equivalent of roughly \$269,054.80 to Northwest ISD.

"In Northwest ISD, we have the opportunity to grow communities through volunteerism," said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. "I am so proud of the efforts of Granger Elementary. They have truly raised the bar and are continuing to be a great example for others to follow."

The NISD Partners in Education program values the support of the Northwest ISD community. NISD provides numerous opportunities to engage parents and the community in the education of children. Currently, the district has

more than 8,500 approved volunteers.

For those interested in becoming a volunteer in Northwest ISD, please visit www.nisdtx.org/volunteercheck to complete the required background check.



Volunteers from Kay Granger Elementary School received the "Circle of Teamwork" trophy for their dedication and efforts this school year. Pictured from left to right are Principal Kimmie Etheredge, Volunteer Coordinator Alisha Birch, PTA President Melody Cooley, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., and Partners in Education Specialist Phil Beckman.

2011-2012 Partners in Education



NISD officials commend the following organizations for their commitment to NISD students through a formal partnership with the school district:

1st American Pension Services
Alliance Community Fellowship
Aurora Baptist Church
AXA Advisors
Babe's
Bank of Texas
BARA Church
Barnes & Noble
Belk
C & N Fire Systems
Cheryl Stewart State Farm
Chick-fil-A at Alliance Town Center
Chili's
CiCi's Pizza
Coldwater Creek the Spa
Community Storehouse
Cousin's BBQ
Cross Timbers Church of Keller
Crossroads UMC
DaVinci Medical Group
Devon Energy
DFW Marriott at Champions Circle
Fellowship United Methodist Church
First Investors Corp.
Ford Wellness Center
Fuzzy's Taco Shop Roanoke

Horace Mann
Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail
Lake Cities Church of Christ
Lantzy Children's Dentistry
Mac Churchhill Acura
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services
Mi Cocina
Moritz Chevrolet
Northgate Church
Northwest Metroport Chamber of Commerce
Northwest Retired School Employee Association
Papa Murphey's Pizza
Peggy Nelson
Prosperity Bank
Roanoke Food Pantry
Roanoke Memorial Ladies Auxiliary Post 5074
Senior Portraits Photography
Sonny Bryan's
St. Peter Lutheran Church
Teachers' Benefit Consultants
Texas Motor Speedway
The Solana Club
Verizon Wireless Premium Retailer
Wal-Mart of Decatur
Wal-Mart of Roanoke
Yogurt Story

NISD 'Tools For School' Supply Drive Underway

The NISD Partners in Education program is once again helping to ensure that all NISD students have the tools they need to be successful by holding the annual school supply drive now through July 9. Here's how you can help:



- Purchase and deliver supplies to any of the NISD drop-off locations.
- Organize a school supply drive at your company/organization.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to purchase backpacks and supplies.
- Volunteer to help pack backpacks and supplies July 9-19, or distribute to schools in early August.

Go to www.nisdtx.org/toolsforschool to view a list of needed supplies and drop-off locations.



The *Northwest Vision* is published by the NISD Communications Department.

NISD Launches Mobile Website

Northwest ISD is pleased to announce the launch of its mobile website. The condensed version of the district's website offers convenient access to news, events, back-to-school information, and parent access to student grades and courses. To visit the site, navigate to www.nisdtx.org on your mobile device, or scan with your smartphone to check it out.



NISD Contracts with Champions for After-School Childcare at Elementary Schools



CHAMPIONS.

a member of the Knowledge Universe family

Beginning in August, all on-site, after-school childcare in Northwest ISD will be provided by Champions Extended Learning. Champions has been the on-site childcare provider for seven elementary schools in NISD, and an agreement with the school district now extends their program to all 16 elementary schools. Champions will operate its after-school program on school days from 2:45 to 6:30 p.m. and on other designated student holidays. They may also offer before-school care if there is a need at a particular campus. For more information, go to www.discover-champions.com or call 1-800-350-5034.

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1590
76161

PO Box 77070 | Fort Worth, TX 76177
www.nisdtx.org | 817-215-0000