



## NISD Promotes Principals, Grows Leaders Within



Northwest ISD has promoted Rob Thornell, Ed.D., to executive director of curriculum and staff development.

"I am eager to begin this new opportunity," Thornell said. "I am looking forward to collaborating with teachers and principals across the

district and continue to create an environment that challenges staff and students to excel beyond their potential."

Thornell has been the principal of Chisholm Trail Middle School (CTMS) since 2007. Under his leadership, the school was named a "School to Watch" by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) in 2011.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Thornell in his new role, and I'm confident he will help our students achieve great successes," said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.



Todd Rogers has been named the principal of Chisholm Trail Middle School. Rogers is currently the principal at O.A. Peterson Elementary School where he has led the campus since its opening in 2008.

In 2008, Rogers received his superintendent certification and is working toward his doctorate of educational leadership from NOVA Southeastern University.

"Todd's energy and proven leadership skills have made him a successful instructional leader in Northwest ISD," said Superintendent Rue, Ed.D. "The Chisholm Trail Middle School community is getting an innovative, hard-working new team member – a leader who will maintain the pride and traditions at CTMS."

Rogers will transition into his new role and will begin full-time as soon as his successor at Peterson Elementary School is hired.

"I am looking forward to continuing the strong educational foundation and sense of community pride that has been established at Chisholm Trail Middle School," Rogers said. "Together we will continue the success and achievement that has made CTMS a Texas 'School to Watch!'"

## NISD Joins Lawsuit against TX Litigation Designed to Protect Funds for Public Education

Northwest ISD is participating in a school finance lawsuit filed December 9 by members of the Texas School Coalition, which is made up of revenue-contributing schools. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the Texas school finance system, claiming that it fails to provide schools with sufficient funding to meet state educational standards and that the system has become a state-wide property tax.

"We must act today to ensure that our young people will be given opportunities for success in life," says Mark Schluter, president of the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees. "The outcome of this lawsuit will impact our children for years to come. A positive outcome will influence the success of our nation for generations."

Northwest ISD is one of 60 school districts represented by the law firm in connection with the case. The participating districts are members of the Texas School Coalition, which is primarily made up of revenue-contributing schools. These

districts have paid almost \$15 billion in local taxes to the state finance system since 1993 and are projected to pay more than \$1 billion this school year.

NISD Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., says, "This action is in support of children throughout Texas. I'm proud of our board's leadership."

### Stay Informed, Become Engaged

Northwest ISD has created a website to keep the community updated on the state financial situation. Information will be updated regarding community forums and meetings, budget reductions, and resources to stay informed and engaged. For more information, go to [www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance](http://www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance).

The Coalition of Revenue-Contributing Schools is encouraging community members to visit [www.CRCSTX.org](http://www.CRCSTX.org) as a resource that helps explain the facts, latest news from across the state, as well as the opportunity to sign up for updates.



### Northwest ISD Finance Forum

7 p.m.

Thursday, January 19, 2012  
NISD Administration Building  
2001 Texan Drive, Justin

### NISD Finance Forum Open to Public

Parents and NISD staff are encouraged to attend the upcoming Northwest ISD Finance Forum. A representative from Moak, Casey & Associates (experts in Texas school finance) will address the audience and give a legislative overview and update. Northwest ISD Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., and Chief Financial Officer Jon Graswich will discuss Northwest ISD's strategic plan in response to additional reductions in state funding for 2012-2013.

"In Northwest ISD, we are preparing our students to compete in a global marketplace. Our schools have programs and resources in place that our teachers, parents and community have come to expect," said Rue. "Adequate funding is needed to support district-wide programs. All schools across Texas should have the funding needed to equip students with skills needed to compete against graduates from other states and other parts of our globe."

Administration and staff continue to work diligently to protect the quality of teaching and the exceptional educators working in our classrooms.

It is important to learn more about this issue and share the information with others in the community. Go to [www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance](http://www.nisdtx.org/schoolfinance) to keep up with the latest updates.

# District Celebrates Employees for Their Years of Service

Northwest ISD celebrates the service and dedication by recognizing more than 180 employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service to the school district. Each campus honored their employees with a reception where staff was presented with a service award pin. Northwest ISD pays special tribute to the six employees who have spent 25 years in Northwest ISD. Five of the six are shown below. Not pictured is Northwest High School teacher Agnes Liu who has also been recognized for her 25 years of service to the students of NISD. To view a list of staff members who received 5, 10, 15, and 20-year service award pins, go to [www.nisdtx.org/ServiceAwards2011](http://www.nisdtx.org/ServiceAwards2011).



**Sonny and Allegra Nance Elementary Principal Anita Chaney (left) and Executive Director of Elementary Education Cathy Gabro, Ed.D. (right) congratulate Nance Elementary teacher Sue Cobb for her 25 years of service to children.**



**Chief Financial Officer Jon Graswich congratulates Sharla Stockard, coordinator of data services, on 25 years of service in NISD.**



**Kevin Lacefield, Ed.D., director of fine arts (left) is pictured with 25-year pin recipient Scott Lewis, the NISD fine arts band coordinator (right).**



**Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Edward Chevallier presents Northwest High School teacher Mary Whittenberg her service award pin.**

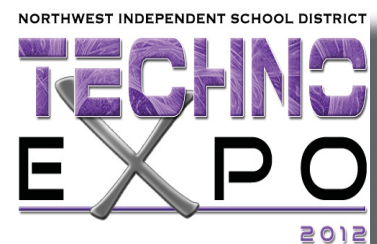


**Prairie View Elementary Principal Sandy Conklin (left) poses with second-grade teacher Pat Smith (right) during a staff service award celebration where Pat was presented her 25-year service pin.**

## Save the Date for Annual NISD Techno Expo

Northwest ISD community members are invited to attend the second annual NISD Techno Expo at Byron Nelson High School on Thursday, March 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. From animation and digital video to multimedia and website design, this event will showcase student use of technology in today's classroom. The showcase is open to all Northwest ISD students and the community.

Selected students and teachers will present and demonstrate their use of technology in the classroom during a series of more than 250 breakout sessions. Refreshments will be served by students in the district's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy, and special music will be provided by NISD fine arts students. Door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the event.





# NISD Responds to Growing Enrollment

## New Middle School to Open in 2012, Attendance Boundaries Set, Elementary Expansions Underway

As the second fastest growing school district in Texas, Northwest ISD continues to experience rapid increases in student enrollment. With more than 16,600 students throughout the district – which is an increase of more than 1,200 students than last year – NISD officials continually focus on having state-of-the-art facilities and qualified personnel ready to meet the needs of the growing school community.

### Wilson Middle School Attendance Boundaries Set

A new middle school is scheduled to open this August in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood, and the attendance boundaries for this new campus were approved at the December 12 school board meeting. Truett Wilson Middle School will serve sixth- through eighth-grade students who live in the following elementary school attendance zones:

- Haslet Elementary
- Sendera Ranch Elementary
- Thompson Elementary

Families who live in the attendance zones for Nance and Schluter elementary schools are still zoned to attend Chisholm Trail Middle School. The Wilson Middle School attendance boundary was based on a recommendation by the Northwest ISD administration and a parent advisory committee. Serving on the advisory committee were parents from the following schools: Chisholm Trail and Pike middle schools, as well as Sendera Ranch, Thompson, Haslet, Nance and Schluter elementary schools. The attendance boundaries for Medlin and Tidwell middle schools are not affected and therefore remain the same as 2011-2012.



Construction is approximately 50 percent complete on Wilson Middle School, on schedule to open this August.

Northwest ISD will allow students who currently attend Pike or Chisholm Trail middle school (and are now zoned to attend the new Wilson Middle School) to complete an intra-district transfer application to remain at Pike or Chisholm Trail. However, transportation will not be provided by Northwest ISD for families who wish to pursue this option. To learn more about the transfer process, please call 817-215-0145 or visit [www.nisdtx.org/studenttransfers](http://www.nisdtx.org/studenttransfers).

### Wilson Middle School Construction on Schedule for August Opening

Truett Wilson Middle School is approximately 50 percent complete. The building is just over 184,400 square feet and features a spacious central courtyard, large windows, three gymnasiums, a full-sized football field with artificial turf, and a track. While the artificial turf increases the usability of the practice field, NISD will benefit cost savings in irrigation landscape, fertilization, and repair. NISD is considering expanding this to other campuses in the future for additional budget savings. The district's fifth middle school is named after Truett Wilson, a former NISD teacher, principal and superintendent. The principal of Truett Wilson Middle School will be named at the January 9 school board meeting.

### Building Additions Scheduled at Three Elementary Schools: Beck, Granger, and Roanoke



Construction will begin in 2012 at Beck, Granger, and Roanoke to expand the capacity of each of these schools.

Currently, the ideal building capacity of NISD elementary schools is either 450 or 650, depending on the design of the school and when it was built. In October, the NISD Long Range Planning Committee, made up of parents, community members, teachers and administrators, recommended an increase to the capacity of elementary schools, and the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees has since re-established the optimal capacity of elementary schools. Schools designed for 450 students will be increased to a 650-student capacity, and elementary schools designed for 650 will increase to 850, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. With an increased elementary school capacity, another new elementary school is not needed until approximately 2015. Instead, nine elementary schools will receive building additions over the next five years. This will save the district more than \$3 million in operational costs. Building additions will begin after January 2012 at Samuel Beck, Kay Granger and Roanoke elementary schools. Kay Granger and Roanoke elementary schools will start the 2012-2013 school year with a new capacity of 850 students and the Samuel Beck Elementary School student capacity will change to 650 students. Although the student capacity will have changed, the buildings will not necessarily meet full capacity in the first year of the change.

Building additions at Granger and Roanoke elementary schools will include six new classrooms with additional flex space, expansions to the cafeteria, gymnasium and playground, new music and art classrooms, and storage space. Beck Elementary will receive 10 additional classrooms, renovation of some existing areas, expansion to the playground, additional restrooms, office space and storage areas, as well as a larger, renovated library. Completion is expected in August 2012.

## District Sets Calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees adopted the academic calendars for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years at its meeting on December 12. The calendars that were approved were based on the recommendation of the NISD District Education Improvement Council, made up of parents, teachers and community members, and input gained from the district-wide survey in October. By adopting two consecutive school calendars, the district hopes to aid parents, teachers and administrators as they plan student and district activities. To view the newly approved calendars, visit [www.nisdtx.org/calendars](http://www.nisdtx.org/calendars).



The Northwest Vision is published by the NISD Communications Department.

## 2011 – 2012 Calendar

Student/Teacher Holiday (Winter Break).....	Dec. 19-30
Student Holiday/Staff Development (Winter Break).....	Jan. 2
Early Release – All Students.....	Jan. 12-13
Student/Teacher Holiday.....	Jan. 16
Student Holiday/Staff Development/Bad Weather Day.....	Feb. 20
Student/Teacher Holiday (Spring Break).....	March 12-16
Student Holiday/Staff Development/Bad Weather Day.....	April 6
Student/Teacher Holiday.....	May 28
Early Release – All Students.....	May 31
Early Release – All Students.....	June 1
Last Day of School.....	June 1

### Early Release Times for January 12 & 13

High Schools - 10:45 a.m.  
 Middle Schools - 11:30 a.m.  
 Elementary Schools - 12:15 p.m.

## Online Community Folder View Events and Opportunities

As a service to Northwest ISD families, the district provides community organizations the opportunity to post information that may benefit or be of interest to students on the district's website. The postings range from community-wide events to information regarding local sports organizations. To view the NISD online Community Folder, go to [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org), click on the community tab on the district's website and select "Community Folder." The postings frequently change, so be sure to check often.

## Volunteers Needed for Northwest READS

March 2, 2012  
 Call 817-215-0172 to volunteer.

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