

# Northwest Vision



Kids come first!



## Enrollment Continues to Climb, New Schools Planned

A growing student population is a continuing trend in Northwest ISD. As expected, district enrollment increased by more than 1,200 students by the start of the new school year and now exceeds 15,360.

“The number of *new* residents now exceeds the number of total residents living here when I joined Northwest ISD five years ago,” said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.

Northwest ISD is the second fastest growing school district in the state, with an annual

growth rate ranging between 8 and 19 percent in the last five years. The district’s demographer, Bob Templeton, recently predicted that NISD would possibly become the fastest growing school district within two years, surpassing Frisco. Projections indicate that total student enrollment could double in five to eight years.

To help accommodate the district’s growing student population and expanded programs, Northwest ISD opened two new schools – John M. Tidwell Middle School and James M. Steele Accelerated High School – and the new facility for the relocated Roanoke Elementary School. With the opening of these new schools, Northwest ISD now operates 23 separate campuses.

Two new elementary schools will open in August 2011:

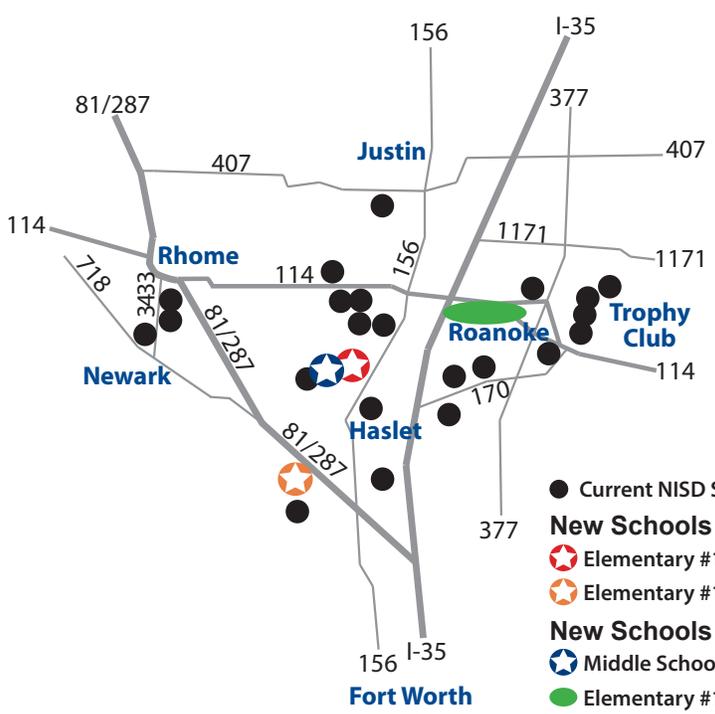
- Elementary #15, located in the eastern portion of the Sendera Ranch development in Fort Worth.

- Elementary #16, located in the Parks at Willow Ridge in Fort Worth.

Northwest ISD is currently evaluating alternatives sites for the elementary campus originally scheduled to open in the Chadwick Farms development in Roanoke. After meeting great resistance from the developer in its attempt to purchase a site, the district will now select property outside of the Chadwick Farms neighborhood to build a new elementary campus to serve students in the North Fort Worth/Roanoke area. This campus is scheduled to open in August 2012.

Ground work is also underway for the district’s fifth middle school, set to open in the Sendera Ranch subdivision in 2012. With the help of the Long-Range Planning Committee, a group of parents and community members charged with evaluating the district’s growth and school needs, Northwest ISD will continue to strategically address increases in student population and open new schools in fast growth areas.

### Northwest ISD Schools



- Current NISD School
- ★ New Schools Opening August 2011
  - ★ Elementary #15, Sendera Ranch
  - ★ Elementary #16, Parks at Willow Ridge
- ★ New Schools Opening August 2012
  - ★ Middle School #5, Sendera Ranch
  - Elementary #17, Projected Area

### Help NISD Name New Schools

You can help Northwest ISD name the two new schools opening in August 2011 and the middle school scheduled to open in August 2012. To view the criteria and recommend a name, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/school-names>, e-mail [schoolnames@nisdtx.org](mailto:schoolnames@nisdtx.org), or call 817-215-0171. Nominations received through November 14 will be considered by the NISD School Board.

## NHS Students Honored in National Merit Program

Northwest High School senior Kirsten Fowler has been named a semifinalist in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. She now has an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million. Seven NHS students were also named Commended Scholars in the program, an honor recognizing the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The National Hispanic Recognition Program also honored seven students as Scholars for achieving great success on the test and maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA.



## NISD Alumni Association Names Distinguished Award Recipients, NEF Recognizes Lead Donors

The Northwest ISD Alumni Association presented the district's first Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Educator awards to Distinguished Alumnus Roy Eaton, a longtime Decatur businessman, and Distinguished Educator Debbie Henry, a retired Haslet Elementary teacher of 31 years. Selected for making a difference in NISD schools and communities, the distinguished award recipients were honored at the NISD Education Foundation (NEF) Annual Drive Kick-Off Luncheon in September.

"This was a historical occasion for the district, our alumni, and the community," said NEF Executive Director Marcia Schmitz. "Representing more than 60 years of exceptional students and educators, Roy and Debbie were selected and recognized for their contributions to Northwest ISD students and staff. The committee was truly honored to recognize them as the district's very first Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Educator recipients."

This was the first time the newly reorganized Alumni Association, which is supported by the foundation, presented the prestigious, annual awards. In addition to the award presentation, the foundation also recognized lead contributors to the NEF's Annual Drive, totaling \$168,229. Leading the way was a record-setting donation from the staff of Northwest ISD for \$77,679.

With a goal of \$420,000, the NEF will continue efforts through June 2011. The Northwest ISD Education Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization designed to benefit the students and staff of Northwest ISD by supporting programs and initiatives beyond the district's budget.

## NISD Implements Recycling Program

In an effort to reduce waste and its associated costs, Northwest ISD schools are winning the war against trash with a new district-wide recycling program. Students and staff are sorting recyclable trash and general garbage in classrooms across the district. The new recycling program is a single-stream system, meaning that all recyclables, from cardboard boxes to plastic bottles, can be recycled in the same container.

Northwest ISD saved nearly \$1 million through the implementation of energy programs and protocols in 2009, and it is believed that the recycling program will reduce the district's waste removal costs, while extending the longevity of landfills.



A team of students at Chisholm Trail Middle School gather the school's recyclable materials every Tuesday and Thursday. Students in Kesha Hill's homeroom math class work with students with special needs in Elyse Pennington's room on the school-wide project. In addition to creating a "greener" world, the initiative encourages social interaction, mutual respect, and understanding. All schools in North-

west ISD have been provided new containers for the implementation of the district's new single-stream recycling program.

For more information about the foundation or to make a donation, please call 817-215-0174. To become a member of the NISD Alumni Association and nominate an alumni or educator for next year's Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Educator awards, visit [www.nisdtx.org/alumni](http://www.nisdtx.org/alumni).



Above: Roy Eaton, Decatur businessman and former president and publisher of the Wise County Messenger, accepts the district's first Distinguished Alumnus award from Tamme Byers, treasurer of the Alumni Association. A proud 1955 graduate of Northwest High School, Roy Eaton was named news director of WBAP radio in 1968 and later became director of television news coverage and news anchorman for WBAP-TV, now KXAS-TV. He is a director of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo and has served as a livestock show and parade announcer for more than 40 years. Eaton has received numerous honors, including induction into the Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame and Texas Radio Hall of Fame and being named Decatur's "Citizen of the Year" in 1980.



Above: Debbie Henry (right), who retired from Northwest ISD after teaching 31 years, accepts the district's first Distinguished Educator award from Tamme Byers, treasurer of the Alumni Association. She began and ended her educational career in Northwest ISD as a student and a teacher. During her tenure at Northwest ISD, she was awarded a "Promising Practice" award from the state and the "Teacher of the Year" award from Haslet Elementary, where she served as the team leader for kindergarten. Debbie Henry retired from Haslet Elementary School as a kindergarten teacher in June 2010.

## Northwest ISD Unveils YouTube Channel, Athletic Podcast, and Online Photo Gallery

In a continual effort to improve communications and reach a broader audience, Northwest ISD has launched a YouTube Channel, a new athletic podcast series, and an online photo gallery:



Visit [www.youtube.com/NorthwestISD](http://www.youtube.com/NorthwestISD) for short district videos and campus-produced videos. Subscribe to the channel to receive e-mail alerts when new videos are posted.



The new athletic podcast series, "In the Game," is available on NISD's podcast station, iNet. Subscribe to iNet on the district's website at [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org).



View and download pictures from district and campus events by visiting the district's photo gallery available on the website at [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org).

# NISD Issues 7,500 Netbooks to Secondary Students

The rapid pattering of keyboard keys fills classrooms across the nation, but in Northwest ISD, secondary students end their day in this digital age by packing up their netbook, or mini laptop computer, to take it home. Northwest ISD issued nearly 7,500 netbooks to middle school and high school students in September. As part of an initiative to provide equal access to all students while improving student engagement, NISD expanded the distribution of netbooks to middle school students for the first time this year. NISD high school students received netbooks last school year.



Martin Toro, a student at John M. Tidwell Middle School, is all smiles as he receives his netbook. Tidwell Middle School, the district's fourth middle school, opened this August.



Laura Douthitt and Andrew Daniel research hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, in Kay Humpert's anatomy and physiology class at Northwest High School. After studying the skeletal system, students were instructed to use their netbook to research and prepare a presentation on various diseases and disorders.

"It's exciting," described Monika Wiesinger, a seventh-grade student at John M. Tidwell Middle School, "it is a laptop. I'm looking forward to having it at home and being able to go online easier."

Students have full use of the netbook, a Dell Latitude 2100, at school and at home, with access to their schoolwork, software, and the Internet. Students will also be issued an e-mail address for use within the district's network. This new addition to Northwest ISD's technology

plan is designed to enhance communications between and amongst students and teachers.

"We don't have to carry around as much stuff, and we can do more on a netbook – e-mail our teachers, do our homework ..." reported Micah Miller, a seventh-grade student at John M. Tidwell Middle School.

Middle school teachers and students rapidly realized the value of the new educational tool shortly after distribution.

"We have been using the netbooks to record observations for experiments and create a digital 'word wall' for students to access, as well as using it to allow students to discuss their thoughts on different labs we have done in the classroom," explained Rachel Sollid, a seventh-grade science teacher at Gene Pike Middle School.

Netbooks are also expanding fine arts with a program that allows choir students to upload their practice tracks and perfect their sight-reading abilities.

"Our teachers have taken on the challenge and excitement of kids having netbooks with enthusiasm," said Leigh Anne Romer, assistant principal at Gene Pike Middle School. "The kids are so excited. It's really been awesome to watch them enjoying their instant access to the world."



Gene Pike Middle School students Garrett Hilliard and Cody Byrd take advantage of a quiet morning to work on their netbooks as they wait for the bus to arrive. The netbooks offer students 24-hour access to their school work.

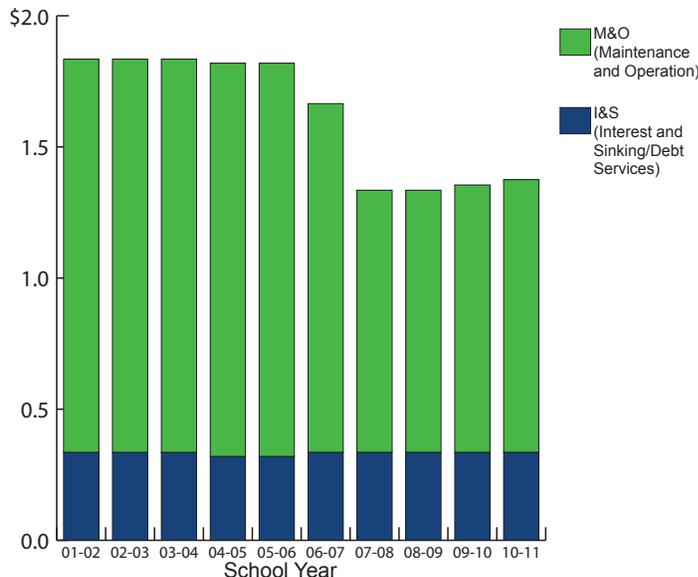
## NISD Tax Rate Utilizes Last 2 Cents Allowed by State

Amidst the state's frozen school funding formula, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees approved a maintenance and operation (M&O) tax rate of \$1.04, bringing the total tax rate to \$1.375. The 2-cent increase will provide additional funds to maintain the quality of teaching and learning in NISD.

"Thanks to our board's strong financial planning, we are one of the last school districts in the state to utilize the 4-cent tax variance allowable by the state," said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.

Under the school funding formula approved in 2006, Texas school districts are allowed an M&O tax rate up to \$1.04 without holding a public election.

### NISD Tax Rate History



## Texas Scholars: Volunteer Speakers Needed

Help students prepare for their future by volunteering to serve as a speaker for Texas Scholars. Texas Scholars encourages students to focus on education, career planning, and preparation for the transition to life after high school. Held in conjunction with "Education: Go Get It Week," December 6-10, you can help influence eighth-grade students by encouraging them to pursue academic excellence and plan for their future careers. The district provides the presentation; you add your personality and charisma. To register as a classroom speaker, please call 817-215-0172 or e-mail [kschultz@nisdtx.org](mailto:kschultz@nisdtx.org).



# Northwest ISD

## Northwest ISD Family Star Party



6-10 p.m.  
December 4  
NISD Outdoor Learning Center  
7773 Mulkey Ln.  
Northlake, TX

## Coming Soon... NISD Online Parent Survey

All parents are encouraged to provide valuable feedback by completing the Northwest ISD 2010-2011 Parent Survey that will be available in late November. For more information, visit the district's website at [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org) or call 817-215-0171.

### Dates to Remember

Dedication of John M. Tidwell Middle School.....	Nov. 11
Student Holiday/Staff Development (Thanksgiving) ...	Nov. 22-23
Student/Teacher Holiday (Thanksgiving) .....	Nov. 24-26
NISD Star Gazing Party.....	Dec. 4
Student/Teacher Holiday (Winter Break).....	Dec. 20-31
Student Holiday/Staff Development (Winter Break).....	Jan. 3
Early Release – All Students.....	Jan. 13-14
Student/Teacher Holiday .....	Jan. 17
Student Holiday/Staff Development/Bad Weather Day....	Feb. 21

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[www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org) and click on The NET.

New videos are regularly available on Northwest Educational Television. Visit [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org)



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