



A LOOK AHEAD

WHAT'S INSIDE

FEBRUARY Board of Trustees / Executive Team National Go Red Day! Wear red in support of heart health **Employee Benefits** FFA Show & Special Rodeo / Science Fair **Rodeo Art Show Tomball Intermediate Destination Excellence Headlines** 9 AM - Noon **Student Stories: TSA Students at Innovation Challenge School Board Meetings Board Room Early Excellence Academy** 5:30 PM **#TISDMVT District Collaborative / Employee Benefits Fair Tomball High School** Educator Spotlight: Peter Jagdeo - TMHS Orchestra Alumni Spotlight: Krystal Zwerneman **Spelling Bee Competition Central Office** 9 AM each day Mark your Calendars / Social Media For all fine arts & athletics events in **District Calendar** February, CLICK HERE. TOMBALL



What is Tomball Talk?

Tomball Talk is a monthly eNewsletter for Tomball ISD. Each issue will highlight the previous month's top headlines as well as awards, events and accomplishments.

Who is behind Tomball Talk?

Tomball Talk is edited and published by the Tomball ISD Communications Department.

Have materials to submit?

If you have material (calendar events, news stories, numbers of note) you wish to submit, please email: allisonmcclain@tomballisd.net.

Nominate an Educator or Group for our Spotlights!

Do you have an educator doing amazing things on your campus or a group that has been actively engaged in the community?

Nominate that respective individual or group, accompanied by a few bullet points explaining why they deserve to be spotlighted.

Email nominations to allisonmcclain@tomballisd.net.

TOMBALL ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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TOMBALL ISD EXECUTIVE TEAM



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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS Employee Assistance Program Overview EAP Brochure Free Online Will Preparation

As a Tomball ISD employee, you have FREE resources available to you through the WorkLifeMatters Employee Assistance Program. This program offers support in a variety of topics, such as stress management, dependent/elder care, nutrition, fitness and legal and financial issues.

Connect to a counselor for free support services:

Email: eapcounselor@ibhcorp.com

Phone: 1-800-386-7055 Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*

Web: www.ibhworklife.com (User name: Matters Password: wlm70101)

FREE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

- Telephonic Counseling Unlimited, 24/7 consultations with master's and doctoral-level counselors
- Face-to-face Counseling Up to 3 visits per employee/household member per year
- Bereavement Support available through telephonic or face-to-face sessions; online resources available on EAP website
- · Tobacco Cessation Coaching --- Unlimited telephonic support and resources to assist with tobacco cessation; refers members directly to the American Lung Association's Quit program
- EAP Website Resources Comprehensive website that includes articles, videos, FAQs, etc.; additionally, individuals can chat online with an EAP Consultant or email an EAP Counselor through the website
- College Planning Resources Expert assistance in finding the right college that fits your child academically, socially and financially, provided by College Planning USA

FREE WORK/LIFE ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

- WorkLife Services Unlimited 24/7 access to WorkLife Specialists (subject matter experts) in the areas of: family and care giving, health and wellness, emotional well-being, daily living, and balancing work/life responsibilities
- Child and Elder Care Referral Unlimited telephonic consultation with a WorkLife Specialist (part of WorkLife Services)
- Employee Discounts Access to discounts on a large number of products and services, from gym memberships to dental, vision and pharmacy items, entertainment, restaurants, computers, cars, and much more
- Webinars, Podcasts, Articles and FAQs Various topics available on the EAP website

FREE LEGAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

- Legal Consultation Unlimited telephonic support and free initial 30 minute face-to-face consultation with an attorney, includes a 25% discount on attorney services thereafter; online legal forms; extensive online law library
- Financial Consultation Unlimited telephonic support for financial problems or planning needs; 30 days of financial coaching; extensive online financial library and calculators
- ID Theft Free consultation with a trained Fraud Resolution Specialist that will assist with ID theft resolution and education; ID theft educational materials available online
- Will Prep Online self-service documents available on EAP website; 30 minute consultation (part of Legal Consultation offering) can be used for estate planning/will preparation
- Legal Document Preparation Online self-service documents available on the EAP website
- Tax Consultation Tax questions only can be answered as part of the Financial Consultation offering
- · Online Self-Service Documents Examples include, but are not limited to: Living Trust, Will, Power of Attorney, Deeds

Help with Health

- Healthy Living
- Stress Management
- Mental Health Diet and Fitness
- Overall Wellness





Help with Family

- Parenting Support
- Child and Elder Care
- Learning Programs
- Special Needs Help



Help with Legal & **Financial**

- Legal Issues
- Will Preparation
- Taxes
- Debt
- Financial Planning Tools and Assistance



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FFA SHOW & SPECIAL RODEO

RABBITS

Grand Champion: Heaven Allen Reserve Champion: Kamryn Ingram

BROILERS

Grand Champion: Trevor Cones Reserve Champion: Mickey Nolen

TURKEYS

Grand Champion: Chloe Schindewolf Reserve Champion: Kyle Smith

GOATS

Grand Champion: Brandon Traw Reserve Champion: Max McEachern

LAMBS

Grand Champion: Noah Birdsall Reserve Champion: Sydney Smith

SWINE

Grand Champion: Makenna Hughes Reserve Champion: Sayler Walker

STEER

Grand Champion: Chayn Foster Reserve Champion: Evelyn Diaz

SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION Goat: Sydney Smith Lamb: Isabelle Keck Swine: Katelyn Grantham Steer: Makenna Moore

SCIENCE FAIR































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DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

TOMBALL ISD BOARD & EXECUTIVE TEAM VISIT CAPITOL FOR FIRST LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Tomball ISD Board of Trustees as well as the district's Executive Team visited the Capitol for its first legislative session. The group traveled to Austin in January and met with Senators and Representatives to advocate for public schools, our students, staff and taxpayers.





CFES' DAYTON SHIRLEY SURPRISED WITH BE AN ANGEL CAR

The Be An Angel organization continued its passion for helping children with special needs when Creekside Forest Elementary kindergarten student Dayton Shirley was surprised at school with a motorized pink car.

READ MORE

JANUARY SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

The Board of Trustees were honored with a proclamation from Harris County Precinct 4 at the January School Board meeting, declaring January 2019 as School Board Recognition Month.



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STUDENT STORIES

Tomball Star Academy Students Shine at DLR Group's Student Innovation Challenge



In an effort to promote collaboration and innovative learning, four freshmen students from Tomball Star Academy were selected to participate in the DLR Group's Student Innovative Learning Challenge at the TASA Midwinter Conference in January.

Tomball ISD, represented by Tomball Star Academy, was one of just four districts in Texas chosen by the DLR Group to take part in the learning experiment, joining Allen ISD, Elgin ISD and Lubbock Cooper ISD.

TSA freshmen Rylan Bear, Matthew Nguyen, Chris Rojo and Erick Martinez were selected by Principal Kim McKinney and group leader and teacher Travis Ling to represent Tomball ISD.

In early January, the DLR Group presented the students with a challenge question relating to 'how and where do you learn best?' and were asked to create a two-minute

video explaining their conclusion to the question in which focused on the ability to 'learn everywhere at any time'.

Once they arrived in Austin a few weeks later, all four TISD students were able to collaborate with other districts through project-based learning and problem solve together in an effort to maximize their learning experience.

A second question from the DLR Group was presented: 'How do you celebrate learning?' The students were then asked to interview conference attendees, Superintendents and vendors and then generate their own guiding questions to create an 8-10 minute video answering the question within the two-day challenge. TSA students were able to reference back to 'What is Learning' and remind each other that celebrating small victories is important.

Each district was then tasked with presenting to a large audience in Austin, while fielding questions from industry leaders, educators and district administrators on their challenge findings.

"This experience was a challenge but we feel as though they did this in order to see how far we could push ourselves," student Matthew Nguyen said.

The Innovative Challenge was a hands-on activity that allowed TSA students the opportunity to bond as classmates, practice public speaking and gain insight on different perspectives of real-world issues, presented by each participating district.

"It made us think a lot more. You can't just think in one direction, there are many perspectives, different answers. For example, while watching the other district's videos, I was thinking that each one had a different angle but all answered the question very well," said Nguyen.

"Our students had to learn the true definition of teamwork. When it came down to crunch time, they had to work together," said McKinney.

They had the opportunity to also interview other students as well as an effort to understand their take on learning, which provided a different meaning than what the adults had to offer.

"As adults, we have experiences that shape our thoughts in the way we go about things and as kids, they don't have the same experiences, so their thought process isn't limited by their experiences," said McKinney.

The DLR Group experience allowed TSA students the opportunity to be challenged while promoting innovative thinking at the highest levels. It also provided educators with the opportunity to hear and understand the learning perspective from their students.

"As educators, we sometimes try and control the learning experience through lessons and whatnot. I will admit it was a little scary to relinquish control of the learning during this challenge but that is exactly what we had to do. Everything these students put together was created, implemented and produced by them and it was cool to see what they came up with," McKinney said.

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EARLY EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

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Early Excellence Academy is coming to Tomball ISD during the 2019-20 school year and is open to full-time, Tomball ISD employees who are parents or guardians of children ages 3 years and 4 years old.

As preparation begins, we are interested in knowing which of our amazing employees are considering our early learning center as your child's new educational home.

Do you have interest in Early Excellence Academy?

If you have a child near the age of 3 or 4 years old and have any interest in possibly sending them to Early Excellence Academy, we ask that you please fill out the Google form at this link, https://goo.gl/forms/gny62mUqpMQfJRzm1 by Feb. 1.

Please keep in mind that the information that you submit is simply to gauge a level of interest. Registration information and other important details will be released in the near future.

ABOUT EARLY EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

- Early learning center open to full-time, Tomball ISD employees
- Open to parents or guardians of children ages 3 years and 4 years old
- Capacity limit at 66 children (30 3 yrs. | 36 4 yrs.)
- Located in an unattached building on the campus grounds of Tomball High School

#TISDAVT #MostValuableTeachers and thank you for being an #Irreplaceable teacher in Tomball ISD.



KELLY TAYLOR | TOMBALL HS

CATHY KNEBEL | TOMBALL HS

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT PETEK JAGPEO – TMHS OKCHESTKA



Meet TMHS Orchestra teacher Peter Jagdeo.

University of Houston, '09 Bachelor of Music in Music Education 2nd year at Tomball Memorial High School

Follow on Twitter: @TMHSOrchestra



How has your time been in Tomball since coming on staff?

"I feel like I've landed my dream job. I get to work with incredibly talented, dedicated students every day and work side-by-side with a great, collaboratively-minded fine arts staff. I've been able to tackle musical pieces that I wouldn't have thought of attempting before. The administrators and parent community are hugely supportive of what we do as well."

What motivates you to be a successful teacher of orchestra?

"I love seeing people come together and build something that is greater than the sum of its parts. I love it when students realize that they are able to perform beyond what they believed were the boundaries of their capabilities. I do my best to draw that out of them each day."

What do you look for in students who show an interest in orchestra?

"Talent is not as important as attitude. I can work with students wherever they may lie in the spectrum of capability all day if they have a positive outlook and are willing to learn. I always try to teach from a place of optimism and affirmation, and I can help students build and maintain that optimism, but they do have to meet me halfway."

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KRYSTAL ZWERNEMAN | Tomball High School '01

Tomball HS Health Science Technology Teacher

Krystal Zwerneman never lost sight of home.

For her, returning to Tomball one day was a dream.

"Tomball had always been a dream position for me and one I never expected to have the chance to take as early in my career as I did," she recalls.

Now in her 11th year in Tomball ISD, Zwerneman has found her niche as a teacher at Tomball High School in Health Science Technology and as the school's HOSA sponsor.

"After eight years as an athletic trainer, I was ready for a new challenge that still let me nourish my love of medicine but also let me connect with students and families of TISD in more of an academic role as a teacher," she said.

A 2001 graduate of Tomball High School, Zwerneman, formally Krystal Gary, was a three-sport athlete that excelled on the playing field and in the classroom. She left THS with a full scholarship to pursue athletic training and play college softball at Illinois State University.

An opportunity that she couldn't pass up was presented to her and she transferred to Texas State University on a full academic scholarship for athletic training. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in exercise science with a major in athletic training, a minor in health and wellness promotion as well as a teacher's certificate.

Following her training, she became a Board-Certified Athletic Trainer and Licensed Athletic Trainer in Texas. She accepted a position at the University of Houston as a graduate assistant in athletic training where she earned her Master's degree in physical education, sports administration.

Shortly after, THS came calling and offered Zwerneman a full-time position back at her alma mater.

"Tomball High School had always been an ultimate career move for me. Once I finally arrived back in Tomball, I was reassured that I had chosen a really special place with special people," she said.

Family and her community were major reasons why the return was so special.

"I knew I wanted to be back in the community that raised me and wanted that for my three children as well."

Her husband Curtis is also a Tomball graduate, their twin boys attend Tomball Intermediate and their three-year old daughter will attend TISD as well. A family connection runs deep in Tomball with Krystal and Curtis' parents still residing in the community for over 40 years.

"As a daughter of an educator, I learned early on the importance of good education. Tomball ISD gives you the ability to prepare yourself for whatever you wish to do in the world while providing you a community that supports you along the way," she recalls.

When looking back at her education and her experiences in Tomball, Zwerneman's education is attributed to amazing teachers and administrators.

"I was blessed with these teachers and administrators instilling such a love of learning in me at a very young age. I learned how to enjoy the process. Now as a professional, I have noticed that the love of learning and striving to be successful in endeavors is still very strong and has taken me places I never imagined in my life."

When asked what drives her to be a successful educator, Zwerneman quickly responds with, "seeing a student make a meaningful connection whether that be an academic success or the creation of a professional relationship that supports student growth. Every student deserves to have someone in their corner."

And for Zwerneman, she has the opportunity to reflect on her past experiences every day in Tomball ISD and relate those to her student's experiences and stories.

"Every contact I make with a student is a potential story they will look back on in their lives. It is very important. I had a great childhood and Tomball ISD was a big part of that."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

National Go Red Day!

Friday, February 1 - American Heart Association

Wear Red in support of heart health and to kick off February as Heart month.

Tomball ISD Rodeo Art Show

Saturday, February 2 | 9 am - Noon | Tomball Intermediate

Come enjoy the talented work of Tomball ISD students (K-12).

National Signing Day! Wednesday, February 6

10-11 am - Tomball High | 3-4 pm - Tomball Memorial

District Collaborative

Friday, February 15 | 8 am | Tomball High School Register for sessions by February 10.

Tomball ISD Spelling Bee Competition Wed., Feb. 20 & Thurs., Feb. 21 | 9 am each day | Central Office Support TISD scholars during this challenging event.

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY 2018								JANUARY 2019						
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