

Pearland Independent School District

# the progress

building world-class schools

Winter 2017

**2-3**

Superintendent's Message  
District News

**4-5**

Campus News

**6-7**

Photo Gallery

**8-9**

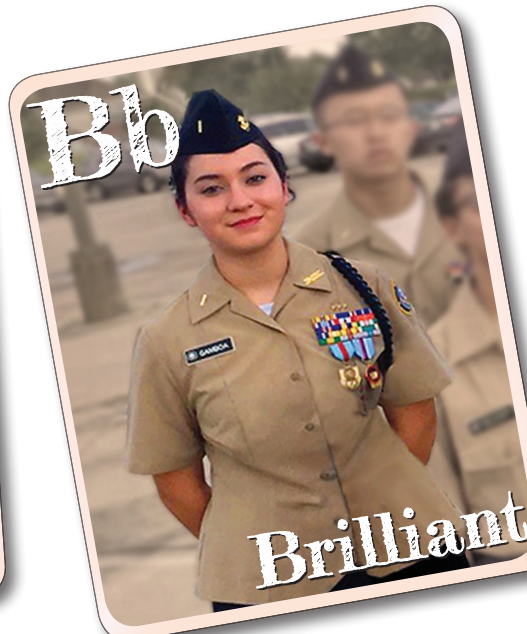
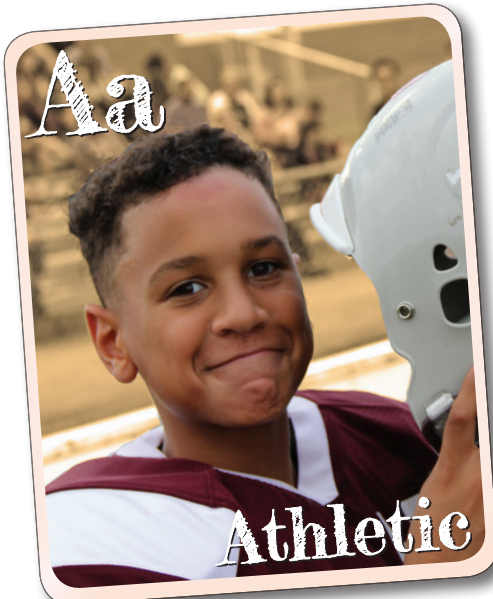
Campus News

**10-11**

Community Partners  
Education Foundation

**12**

Communication Corner  
Dates to Remember





## Superintendent's Message



We desire to be a "world-class" school district. But legitimately claiming such a title must come from outside entities who measure schools objectively against relevant criteria. Let's take a look at our "work in progress."

- Niche.com releases yearly reports on the "Best School Districts in America." Our 2017 rating is 3rd best in the Greater Houston area and 18th best in Texas. (There are approximately 1,100 Texas school districts.)
- WalletHub.com rates "2016 Best Places to Raise a Family in Texas." Pearland, Texas was rated the 9th best city. Within their criteria, our school system was rated 4th best in Texas.

• The "Children at Risk" organization rated Pearland ISD the highest ranked school district in the Houston area for at-risk student achievement.

• TXSmart Schools rates Pearland ISD as one of only 44 school districts to receive a Five-Star Rating for student performance and financial efficiency.

• The Texas Education Agency rates Pearland ISD as "Superior" for financial accountability every year.

• The current Texas Public Schools Accountability System rates Pearland ISD as "Met Standard." (There are only two standards available: "Met" or "Did not Meet")

A new accountability system mandated by the Texas legislature is now being created by TEA based on A-F ratings. There are five domains on which school districts receive a separate letter grade: student achievement, annual student progress, closing performance gaps with economically disadvantaged students, post-secondary readiness and a locally-developed self-measure. Most of the criteria for the domains center around state STAAR tests. Districts are also rated on graduation rates, drop-out rates, chronic absenteeism, and various high achievement stats such as college courses completed while in high school.

The new state system is a "work in progress", but TEA just released a trial run based on how districts might be rated if the new system was retroactively applied to 2016 results.

Pearland ISD received ratings of A, A, B, C, and A. We did some initial comparison data by examining the ratings of every district in Texas with greater than 4,000 students. (Pearland ISD has 21,500 students.)

• Out of those 200 districts, Pearland ISD tied for the 7th best combination of those four ratings.

• In the Houston area, one (very small district) outperformed Pearland ISD.

• In the Austin area, one district outperformed Pearland ISD.

There is legitimate criticism of the new system. So I expect it will be considerably tweaked before implementation in 2017-18.

Conferring the title of "world-class" lies in the future and is for others outside of us to decide. However, the evidence suggests a constant upward trajectory in Pearland ISD. I'm proud to be associated with the great people here who make that happen!

John P. Kelly, Ph.D.

## Board approves public comment time change

Sign-up time for public comment is now before 5 p.m., with public comment at 5:05 p.m. -- immediately after the opening of the meeting and declaration of a quorum.

Individuals may address the board for five minutes each, with public comment lasting no longer than 30 minutes total. Afterward, the board will move into closed executive session.

The public comment time change allows meetings to run more efficiently and quickly, eliminating additional breaks before or after public comment or student recognition.

Pearland ISD invites those who want to address the board but cannot attend public comment to use other avenues to contact trustees, including phone, email or conventional mail.

### Attend Board Meeting, Receive e-Agendas

The board meets at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Education Support Center, 1928 N. Main. To subscribe to electronic board agendas, visit [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org) and click on the "Board of Trustees" tab, scroll down the page and click on "Subscribe to receive board agendas."

## Board of Trustees election slated for May 6

Positions 1, 2 and 3 are on the ballot for the May 6 board of trustees election.

Interested in running for office?

The completed application for a place on the ballot should be delivered to Sheila Vershier, district election coordinator, at 1928 N. Main.

Candidates and voters, mark your calendar with these important dates:

**Jan. 18:** First day for candidate to file application

**Feb. 17 (5 p.m.):** Deadline for candidates to file application

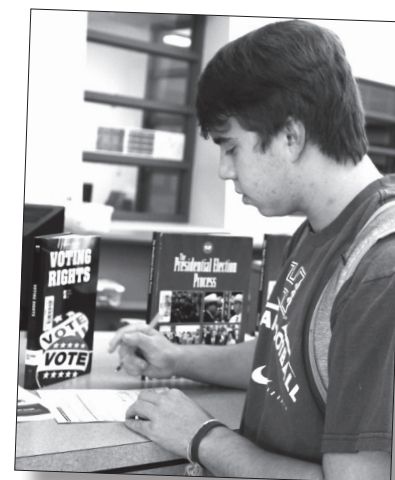
**Feb. 24 (5 p.m.):** Deadline for candidate to withdraw from election

**April 6:** Last day to register to vote

**April 24 – May 2:** Early voting

**May 6:** Election Day -- Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.pearlandisd.org/boardelection](http://www.pearlandisd.org/boardelection).



Turner student, Ian Ramirez, registers during a voter registration drive held at the school.



281-485-3203  
[www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org)

### Board of Trustees

**Rebecca Decker**, President  
**Sean Murphy**, Vice President  
**Lance Botkin**, Secretary  
**Jeff Barry**, Member  
**Pam Boegler**, Member  
**Rusty DeBorde**, Member  
**Charles Gooden Jr.**, Member

### Administration

**Dr. John P. Kelly**, Superintendent  
**Nanette Weimer**, Deputy Superintendent  
**Don Marshall, CPA**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Cary Partin**, Sr. Assistant Superintendent  
**Sonia Serrano**, Sr. Assistant Superintendent  
**Dr. Brenda Waters**, Sr. Assistant Superintendent  
**Dr. Nyla Watson**, Sr. Assistant Superintendent  
**David Moody**, Assistant Superintendent

*Pictured on the cover are (by card letter) A - Pearland Junior High East's Gabriel Dyer, B - Dawson High School's Hannah Gamboa, C - Jamison Middle School's Bay Naquin, D - Massey Ranch Elementary's Jessica Zhang (back) and Love Semien (front), E - Rustic Oak Elementary's Jayden Murphy, F - Alexander Middle School's Alex Schmidt (back) and Shyla Scott (front), G - Shadycrest Elementary's Julia Frerking and H - Berry Miller Junior High's Jeremiah Johnson (back) and Hayden Curry (front).*

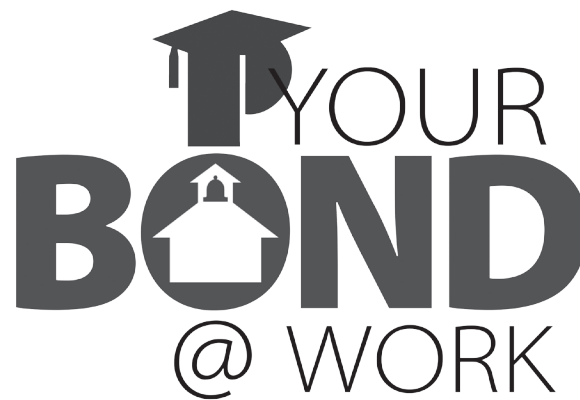
## Voters pass \$220 million school bond

With 62 percent voter approval of the \$220 million school bond election on Nov. 8, board members and district administration have begun meeting with bond financial advisors and architects in preparation for construction projects outlined in the 2016 bond.

Initial discussions include a project schedule to determine project priority, the bond management team, division of work among the district's architects and the bond oversight committee.

Projects in the bond will address safety + security, growth, technology and aging facilities.

Board members will appoint community representatives to a bond oversight committee to assure taxpayers that bond projects and funds are managed effectively. The committee's purpose



will be to review the scope, cost and timeline of each project included in the \$220 million bond referendum until all bond projects are completed – approximately four years. Visit [www.pearlandisd.org/bond2016](http://www.pearlandisd.org/bond2016) for an overview of projects, updates, frequently asked questions and more.

## Going for the gold: district earns multiple accolades

Pearland ISD recently earned 'bragging rights' for its **RISE Mentoring** program with the release of *Texas School Business* magazine's Tenth Annual Bragging Rights 2016-17 special issue.

Bragging Rights, which calls for nominations and is published every December, recognizes school districts that have implemented programs that are bettering the lives of students, schools and communities.

Only twelve districts were chosen for this recognition out of over nearly 200 nominations.

Pearland ISD also received national attention when it numbered among only 24 districts nationwide to receive *District Administration* magazine's District of Distinction recognition for its RISE mentoring.

The Districts of Distinction national recognition program honors districts that are leading the way with successful, innovative ideas that other districts can replicate.

In addition, the Pearland ISD also recently earned **TXSmartSchools'** highest 2016 ranking.

The district was one of only 18 charter and 26 public school districts statewide to achieve TXSmartSchools' five-star "Smart Score," reflecting strongest relative academic progress combined with lowest relative spending.



Purchasing director Connie Hill (sitting) with staff

The Pearland ISD Purchasing Office also recently landed a statewide award for its commitment to professional standards in acquiring goods and services.

The Purchasing staff not only earned the **Texas Association of School Business Officials Award of Merit** for Purchasing

and Operations but also met higher standards to receive "Recognized Status."



## Posch to lead bond program management

Pearland ISD welcomes a new face as its new director of bond program construction.

This January, John Posch took leadership of the district's bond construction.

Posch will provide management and oversight of programming, design and delivery of district bond construction projects.

Posch joins the district with 25 years' experience in bond construction management in public and higher education. Additionally, he brings with him experience as an architect and project manager.

While working with the director of facilities and planning, district architects and campus administration, he will ensure goals of the board of trustees and superintendent are met by providing direction and monitoring districtwide construction projects and budgets.



John Posch, Director of Bond Program Construction

PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Voters approve \$220 million school bond election

Thank you for supporting Pearland ISD students!

2016   
BOND  
BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION



## PHS, PACE under new leadership

Two Pearland ISD campuses welcomed new principals this fall.

### John Palombo, Pearland High School

With over 12 years of experience in education under his belt, Palombo most recently served as leader of the PACE center, helping students “prepare, persist and persevere” in order to graduate and achieve their goals.

As principal of a 6A high school, he looks forward to continuing the tradition of highly-competitive academic, athletic and fine arts programs while still focusing on individual success.

Palombo holds a master’s degree in mid-management from Concordia University Texas.



### Kimberly Darden, PACE Center

A former English teacher at Dawson High School for four years, Darden has spent 11 years of her educational career in the classroom at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Prior to taking the reins at PACE, she served as an assistant principal and director of instruction in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.

Darden considers her biggest achievement to be reaching students others deem unreachable, inspiring big changes through small courageous steps.

She holds a master’s degree in educational leadership and technology from Lamar University.



## Fine Arts students no strangers to spotlight

Pearland ISD artists will display their art in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo’s Hayloft Gallery this March.

Seven students won best of show and gold medals for their Western-themed art during rodeo art judging this January.

### Best of Show:

- **Nadhisha Edward**, Dawson High School
- **Chelsea Hodge**, Pearland Junior High West
- **Madeleine Clark**, Challenger Elementary School

### Gold Medal:

- **Helen Wang**, Dawson High School
- **Julia Thompson**, Dawson High School
- **Vidya Muthupillai**, Pearland Junior High West
- **Jared Moss Jr.**, Silvercrest Elementary

Pearland High School Prancer Colonel **Kendall Frauenberger** numbered among 25 All-State Dance Team members chosen by Texas Dance Educators Association to perform at the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 19.

Recently, two bands celebrated earning state and national acclaim in Foundation for Music Education awards programs.

The **Berry Miller Honors Band** was a national winner in the Mark of Excellence/ National Wind Band Honors program in Class 2A and new music divisions.

In addition, the **PHS Symphonic Band** numbered among only four Class 6A non-varsity bands in Texas to receive the Foundation for Music Education’s Citation of Excellence.

This fall, the **Dawson High School Eagle Band** and **Catalyst Color Guard** marched to new heights when their impressive performances advanced them to the UIL State Marching Contest.

Hard work also paid off when the **PHS Oiler Cheer Team** recently earned State Runner-Up honors at the UIL Spirit state competition, where they placed 2nd out of 125 teams.

Commitment to their craft and tireless work proved fruitful for high school vocalists and musicians this year. Five DHS students and two PHS students made **All-State Choir**, while one DHS student and six PHS students made **All-State Band**.

Congrats to these Fine Arts students for the recognition of their talents!

## Best of Show Rodeo Art Gallery

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program draws 300,000-plus entries from pre-K through 12th grade students each year. Approximately 60 pieces of art selected by judges are auctioned off for student awards. Visit HLSR’s Hayloft Gallery to view top Pearland ISD artwork.



Chelsea Hodge, PJH West  
“Wild Ride”



Madeleine Clark, Challenger  
“Barn Horse”



Nadhisha Edward, DHS  
“The Lone Pride”



## Early kindergarten enrollment

Have no fear. Early kindergarten enrollment is almost here!

This April, Pearland ISD will be offering parents the option to begin early kindergarten enrollment for the 2017-18 school year. (Pre-kindergarten enrollment will be available in August.) Check the district website for the online enrollment kickoff date as well as campus enrollment dates and times.

Everyone - whether enrolling online or in person - must bring the required documents to the campus during the enrollment dates.



*Silverlake kindergarten students celebrate Thanksgiving.*

### Is your child ready for kindergarten?

To enroll for the 2017-18 school year, your child must...

- Be five years old on/before September 1
- Be enrolled by a parent/legal guardian who lives in Pearland ISD

## Academics soar to the top

Pearland Independent School District students' AP achievement continues to climb.

The district recently celebrated a 24 percent increase in AP Scholar Awards for success on the AP exam with 521 students achieving "scholar" status this year compared to 421 in 2015.

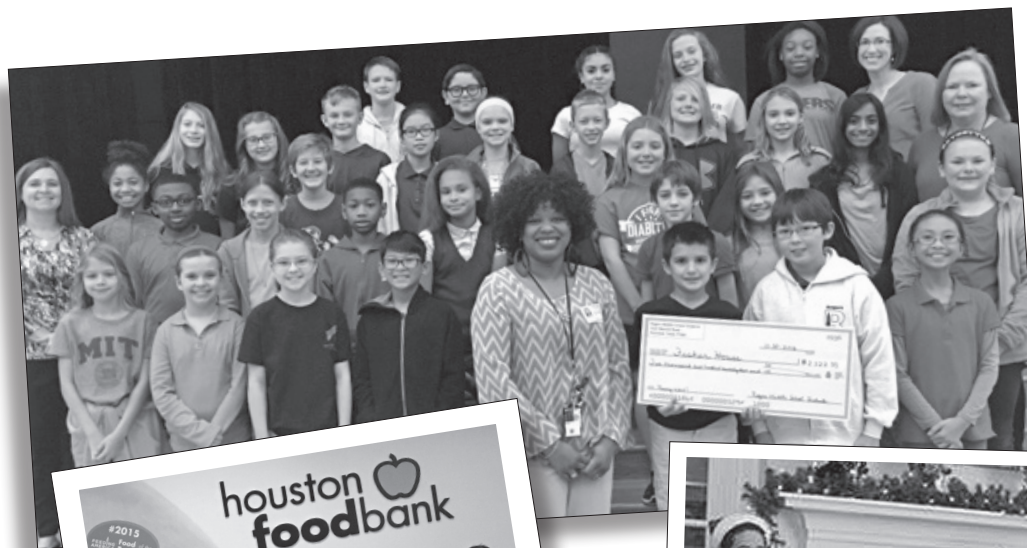
After taking college-level AP classes, students have the opportunity to take a corresponding AP exam (scored on a five-point scale) and potentially earn college credit or advanced placement at a university.

This year, students from Dawson, Pearland and Turner College and Career high schools collectively boasted 568 awards.

In 2016, only 23 percent of students worldwide earned an AP Scholar award, and only 1 percent earned the National AP Scholar Award.

## Students focus on the importance of good deeds in their community

*Through volunteering and fundraising, students learn the positive effects of giving back*



*Clockwise (from top left): Rogers Middle School students participated in "Penny Wars" to benefit Fisher House, raising \$2,222. / Turner student Noemi Garcia decorates a placemat for a Memorial Hermann Pearland patient. / Choir students from Berry Miller Junior High joined Pearlman PD officers to spread Christmas cheer by caroling residents at Colonial Oaks Assisted Living. / The Dawson High School Naval JROTC Eagle Company volunteered to assist the Houston Food Bank by creating hundreds of disaster boxes for emergencies.*



Below: Berry Miller JH students Amber Huchton, Lana Leonard, Rene Van Nifterik (theater teacher), Haven Franklin and Eleni Bakatsas are tacky tourist to celebrate being drug-free during the annual Red Ribbon Week.



Below: Lawhon student Cameron Fowler shows off his intricate Lego art.



Left: Pearland High School student Hannah Bellina works with Jamison Middle School student Samantha Delgado during a bilingual mentoring experience.

Right: Pearland Junior High South student Samantha Cole learned the importance of voting while participating in a mock election.

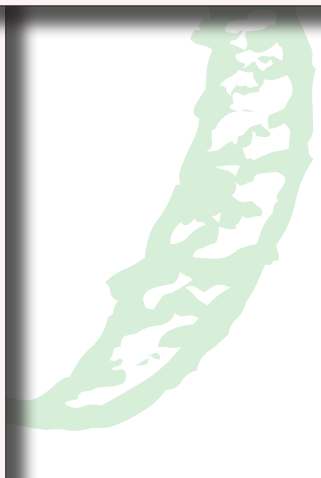


Above: Meeting his school's namesake, Herbert Carleston, was a treat for Carleston student Edwin Aguilar.





Left: Cockrell students (front) Riley Korfhage, Joshua Jeffery, Tatiana Benedek, (back) Ryan Spear, Kinley Conner and Jordyn Barrera are pitch perfect during the 4th grade Christmas program.



Below: Sablatura students Delilah Aguilera, Kasey Winter and Thinara DeSilva take part in the Neuroscience mini course at the Houston Health Museum.



Left: Silverlake Elementary students Luke Allbritton and Emerson Harvey practiced walking and bike safety during International Walk to School Day.



Above: Rogers Middle School's Jacoby Lewis and Frank Perez show us what friendship looks like.



Pearland ISD teachers stand out

Teachers recognized for their outstanding work in the classroom

Nancy Simons, Life Skills teacher, Massey Ranch Elementary

A sense of excitement rang through the halls of Massey Ranch in September when teacher Nancy Simons received a surprise visit from Brian Peters, a linebacker from the Houston Texans.

Simons was nominated by a parent for the Texans' "Stars in the Classroom" award and was one of 10 Houston-area teachers recognized. She received a customized commemorative football, tickets to a Texans game with sideline passes and a \$500 donation to Massey Ranch.



Nancy Simons (second from left) receives her customized commemorative Texans football.

Laurie Wagner, Cultures, Geography & Language Arts teacher, Rogers Middle School

Innovative lesson plans along with finding unique ways to keep students engaged are some of the many things that Humanities Texas saw in Laurie Wagner, leading them to name her one of only 12 teachers to receive their 2016 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award.

Along with statewide recognition, Wagner also received \$5,000 for herself and an additional \$500 for instructional materials for Rogers.



Laurie Wagner (center) receiving the award for Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities.

District of champions

Pearland ISD athletics once again proved triumphant this fall

In cross-country, Pearland High School student Kara Decker finished 8th at regionals and advanced to the UIL state competition for the second consecutive year.

Volleyball boasted another successful season with the Dawson High School team being named district champions, area champions and regional quarterfinalists.

In addition, players from both the DHS and PHS volleyball squads earned state and national acclaim.

DHS volleyball players Kate Plummer and Amber Stone made the TGCA 6A Academic All-State Team. Jordan Brown was named to both the GHVCA All-Star and TAVC All-State Teams. Teammate Jordyn Sinnette was also named to the TGCA All-Star and TAVC All-State teams.

PHS's Brooke Botkin was a volleyball standout this year and was selected to the 2016-17 Under Armour Girls High School First Team All-America.

Dawson High School athletic training students competed and won the Mark Salter Memorial Quiz Bowl hosted by GHATS. Quiz Bowl Team members were Justin Sparks, Britney Shen, Brandon Vo, Mirza Basim and Victoria McCann, who also received a TSATA Academic All-State Award.

Congrats to national scholarship program honorees

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students

Dawson High School:

Andrew Caddell  
Richard Cam  
Vi Cao  
Kaylee Champion  
Andrew Fung  
Joshua Gray  
Samuel Greiwe  
Kyle Gu  
Jacob Kennedy  
Arjun Kunjilwar  
Jaime Luong

Victor Tien Nguyen  
Theresa Nyowheoma  
Arun Rao  
Benjamin Rasband  
Renee Shohet  
Mia Simmons  
Tidie Song  
Charles Wang  
Peter Wang  
Michelle Zhang

Pearland High School:

Katelyn Adams  
Mitchell Cowart  
Payton Kubicek  
Markie Resendez  
Gabriel Reyes  
Jeremy Ulfohn

Turner College and Career High School:

Emily Aguiar

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars

Dawson High School:

Baidon Broeder  
Matthew Day  
Matthew Do  
Nikolas Hernandez  
Erika Hunter  
Paul Leonardi  
Victoria McCann  
Sofia Samuelson

Pearland High School:

Christopher Almendariz  
Markie Resendez  
Shanii Tabb  
Adria Twyman

Turner College and Career High School:

Eden Garza  
Sasha Sillas

Spotlight: National Merit Semifinalists

These 13 students are competing for approximately 7,500 National Merit scholarships –worth around \$33 million total—that will be awarded throughout the spring.



Dawson HS

Matthew Do  
Justin Feng  
John Ketterer  
Vincent Laroche

Paul Leonardi  
Andy Liu  
Toby Liu  
Jessie Pan



Pearland HS  
Mitchell Jackson

Moses Sathuluri  
Paul Sathuluri  
Wendy Tao  
Darrick Wu



CTE students grow their skills

CTE students once again show a strong presence at national and local levels.

National FFA Convention & Expo

Pearland FFA sent a qualifier to the National FFA Convention & Expo in October.

Turner College and Career High School class of 2016 graduate **Evann Wehman** placed No. 10 in the nation in the job interview category.

Brazoria County Fair

Pearland FFA students also had an impressive showing at the county fair in the fall.

Reserve Champions included **Hailey Knight** (PHS) in British Steer, **Cate Morse** (TCCHS) in Charolais and **Zachary Wagoner** (TCCHS) in American Steer.

Additionally, **Holli Berg** (TCCHS) was named Swine Showmanship Champion and **Macy Meraz** (TCCHS) was deemed Breed Champion in Charolais.

Along with winning the award of Champion in Steer Showmanship, **Alexis Wagoner** (TCCHS) was also crowned Brazoria County Fair Queen, the first Pearland ISD student to win this title in over 20 years.

PHS student **Caitlyn Massey** also had an outstanding showing with multiple awards including Grand Champion – Southdown Breed, Senior Showmanship Champion, Reserve Champion – Medium Wool Breed and Overall Reserve Grand Champion of Show.

Livestock Show & Career Expo

Livestock, art and culinary talents took the spotlight during the fifth annual Pearland Independent School District Livestock Show & Career Expo. The show netted approximately \$159,000 in addition to \$6,250 in scholarships.

Livestock competition winners...

- **Payton Albright** (TCCHS): Grand Champion Steer
- **Jordan Wolf** (TCCHS): Reserve Champion Steer
- **Carrington Wilson** (TCCHS): Grand Champion Swine
- **Camryn Cummings** (TCCHS): Reserve Champion Swine



Pearland FFA students gather at the State LDE competition this fall.

- **Brieann Baughman** (PHS): Grand Champion Lamb
- **Jayce Morgan** (TCCHS): Reserve Champion Lamb
- **Caitlyn Massey** (PHS): Grand Champion Goat
- **Casey Hunt** (PHS): Reserve Champion Goat
- **Alexis Wagoner** (TCCHS): Steer Showmanship Champion
- **Jordan Edmonson** (DHS): Open Cattle Showmanship Champion
- **Jessica Thompson** (TCCHS): Swine Showmanship Champion
- **Casey Hunt** (PHS): Lamb Showmanship Champion
- **Caitlyn Massey** (PHS): Goat Showmanship Champion
- **Alec Dela Mater** (DHS): Art Grand Champion
- **Rose Li** (DHS): Art Reserve Champion
- **Ben Swindull** (TCCHS): Culinary Grand Champion
- **Brooke Talbert** (PHS): Culinary Reserve Champion

Red Ribbon Week

Campuses held themed days and activities celebrating being drug-free during Red Ribbon Week in October.



Lawhon



Silvercrest



Cockrell

Like mother, like daughters

Pearland ISD teachers follow in mother's footsteps

Jamison Middle School teacher Cassie Mose did not encourage any of her daughters to follow in her footsteps. It just so happened they all did.

This school year, Mose celebrates all three daughters teaching with her in Pearland ISD.

Carranda Comeaux, her oldest, teaches math at Jamison alongside her mother; her middle daughter, Christina Mose, teaches reading and coaches track and cross country at Pearland Junior High South; and Courtney Mose, her youngest girl, recently joined the league of educators as a first-year second-grade teacher at Silverlake Elementary.

"Mommy Mose" is proud for several reasons -- not only because her daughters all graduated from Pearland High School but also because they are sharing this milestone together before her retirement next year.

When Cassie Mose looks back on her teaching career, she has much to be proud of: 12 years at Jamison and a campus Teacher of the Year Award under her belt.

Her greatest joy, however, is having her daughters Carranda, Christina and Courtney also teaching and inspiring the next generation in Pearland ISD. "I am extremely blessed and proud of my girls to come back to the Pearland community and give back," she said.



Jamison Middle School teacher Cassie Mose (far right) celebrates three daughters teaching with her in Pearland ISD, (from left) Christina Mose, Carranda Comeaux and Courtney Mose.





12th annual YMCA Operation Backpack

Supplied for success

Pearland ISD extends a big thank you to the community for ensuring students started the school year prepared with supplies. Local businesses, organizations and individuals generously donated backpacks, school supplies and other items so students would have the tools needed to focus on learning. The back-to-school donations for the 2016-17 school year totaled a whopping \$55,000 dollars, nearly doubling what was donated the previous year. Coppinger Family YMCA collected over 900 filled backpacks and multiple pallets of school supplies during the 12th annual Operation Backpack. This year's Operation Backpack partners included Crosspoint Church, H-E-B Market, H-E-B Plus, Memorial Hermann, New Hope Church, Pearland Pediatrics and Ref-Chem.

The season of giving

Community pitches in to spread holiday cheer

Over 350 Pearland ISD students and their families were able to smile a little brighter this past Christmas, thanks to the generosity of our community. The district's fourth annual Angel Tree project was able to match over 60 sponsors with children to "adopt" for the holidays by buying toys and clothes specifically for each child. Thank you to these top Angel Tree sponsors:

- Tia Artisst & Family
- City of Pearland
- First United Methodist Church – Pearland
- Mercer Insurance Agency
- MFR Fluid & Air, Inc.
- Pearland Area Road Runners

- Pearland Healthcare
- Pearland Lions Club
- Texas First Bank
- Shadycrest Baptist Church
- West Pearland Tire and Auto

Pearland ISD would also like to thank **Wal-Mart (Main St. location)** for donating \$1,000 in food, clothing and supplies for students in need. Just before Christmas Break, **Academy Sports + Outdoors (Pearland Pkw. location)** stopped by Carleston Elementary to gift 50 bikes and helmets to kids who demonstrated achievements in and out of the classroom. **South Park Funeral Home** also continued their long-standing tradition of donating and delivering Christmas trees to all 23 campuses for the 19th year in a row.



South Park Funeral Home's Chris Cook (left), pictured with Pearland High School principal John Palombo, delivered a live Christmas tree to each campus in December.

Community Partners

Pearland ISD thanks these community partners whose generous support helps create the best learning environment possible for our students. These groups and individuals have given in-kind donations, financial support and/or student and staff incentives during the 2016-17 school year.

Become a Community Partner

The district's Partners in Education program provides an avenue for corporate sponsors, civic leaders and community members to become an integral part of the classroom. For more information, contact Lexi Marshall at marshalla@pearlandisd.org.

- AA Cleaning Services
  - Academy Sports + Outdoors
  - ACE Hardware Pearland
  - Adult Reading Center
  - American Federation of Teachers
  - Arkham Comics & Games
  - Association of Texas Professional Educators
  - Berkeley Eye Center
  - Brazoria County Fair Association
  - Casa Ole
  - Chick-fil-A
  - Costco
  - Crossroads Community Church
  - Dream Dinners
  - Funcity Sk8 & Play
  - Golden Corral
  - Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union
  - H-E-B
  - HOPE Church Pearland
  - Huntington Learning Center
  - iT'Z Family Food & Fun
  - Jason's Deli
  - Keep Pearland Beautiful
  - La Madeleine
  - LifePoint Church
  - Marco's Pizza
  - Mainstream Boutique
- Memorial Hermann
  - Mercer Insurance Agency
  - Mike Graves
  - NBCEA
  - New Life Lutheran Church
  - Nothing Bundt Cakes Pearland
  - Orangetheory Fitness
  - Papa Murphy's
  - Pastor Rick Torrison
  - Pearland ISD Education Foundation
  - Pearland Lions Club
  - Pearland Orthodontics
  - Shadycrest Baptist Church
  - Smoothie King
  - South Park Funeral Home
  - Spanish Etc. of Pearland
  - Spring Creek Barbeque
  - Strickland Chevrolet
  - Texas Emergency Care Center
  - Texas First Bank Pearland
  - Texas Teachers
  - UHCL-Pearland
  - Vic Coppinger Family YMCA
  - Wal-Mart Pearland
  - Wells Fargo
  - West Pearland Tire & Auto
  - Whataburger



Third annual Grown-Up Spelling Bee proves sweet as honey

Teams made up of disco dancers, Ghostbusters, vikings and worker bees, swarmed down on Turner College and Career High School on Oct. 20 to compete for the coveted top title of "Best Spellers in Pearland." The Grown-up Spelling Bee, an annual fundraiser for Pearland ISD Education Foundation, provides a zany twist on the traditional spelling bee.

After several stinging rounds of competition, "Old Men and the Bee" remained rulers of the hive for a second year in a row with the word "ampere." The winning team included Dawson High School dads Scott Durfee, Sean Marrelli, and Dawson High School Senior Michael Floyd.

Best Costume Award went to "The Bee-hives", a fabulous team representing the Pearland ISD Curriculum and Instruction Department.

The competition was emceed by Mario "The Bee Keeper" Garner, CEO of Memorial Hermann Pearland and Foundation Board Director.

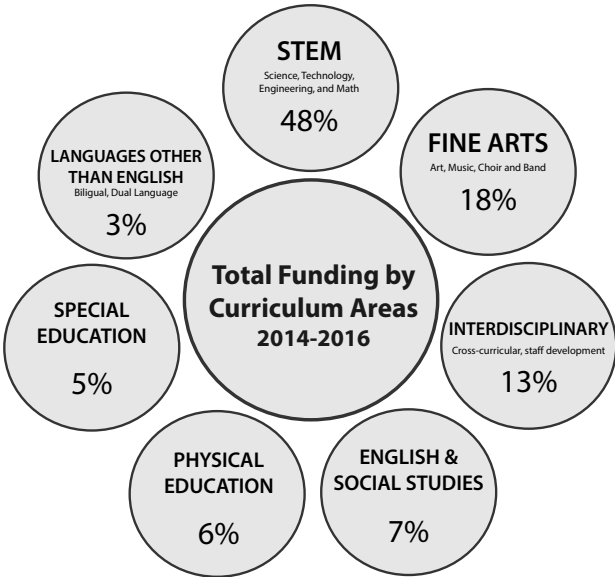
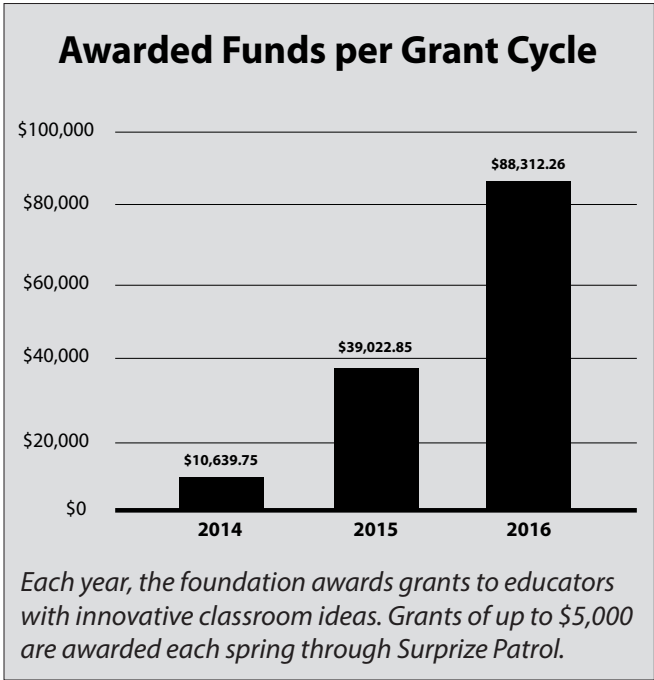
Thanks to outstanding support from the community, the event was a buzzing success, raising over \$34,000 to help fund innovative teaching projects in Pearland ISD classrooms.



Above: (left): Best costume winners "The Bee-hives" (right): Champion team "The Old Men and the Bee"

Making a difference

Since its inception in 2014, Pearland ISD Education Foundation has funded 112 innovative teaching projects, totaling over \$135,000 in grant awards



The Innovative Teaching Grants program funds projects in all grade levels and subjects.



Foundation returns with a 'Licence to Thrill'

Pearland ISD Education Foundation has kicked off its 2017 Annual Giving Partners Campaign to raise funds for its Innovative Teaching Grants Program, which awards grants of up to \$5,000 to Pearland ISD educators with outside-the-box classroom ideas.

The campaign will conclude with the second annual Evening for Education Gala, Licence to Thrill, to be held on March 25. The gala will honor annual giving partners and features dinner, dancing and auctions to help celebrate and support the foundation's mission and purpose.

Guests are encouraged to harness their inner James Bond and help the foundation secure the future of innovative education.

Donors of \$500 or more receive year-long recognition and complimentary tickets to the gala. Individual tickets may be purchased for \$125.

The foundation is also seeking event sponsors and items for silent/live auctions.

To accept this mission or for more information, visit [www.pearlandisd.org/annualgala](http://www.pearlandisd.org/annualgala).

2017 Annual Giving Levels

Support the Pearland ISD Education Foundation! All donations are tax-deductible.

- M (Head of M16) - \$5,000
- 00 Agent (M16 Elite) - \$2,500
- Q (Head of Q Division) - \$1,000
- Moneypenny (Secretary to M) - \$500
- Friend of the Foundation - \$1 - \$499

Questions? Contact Natalie Clogston, Chief Foundation Officer, at 281-997-4987 or [foundation@pearlandisd.org](mailto:foundation@pearlandisd.org).







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*"The Progress" is published biannually by the Pearland ISD Communications Department to inform the community about district news, events and accomplishments. "The Progress" is a Texas School Public Relations Association Best of Category and Gold Star winner. To make suggestions or comments, contact Executive Director of Communications Kim Hocott at 281-485-3203.*

## Partners In Education

The Partners in Education program provides an avenue for the Pearland community to become an integral part of the education process for a mutually beneficial and rewarding relationship.

This collaborative effort connects students and classroom teachers with. . .

- Corporate sponsors
- Civic and government leaders
- Volunteers and mentors

Partnerships enrich and support Pearland ISD student learning and achievement. From contributions that promote educational excellence to classroom lectures given by business professionals, partnerships enhance the educational experience and promote student success district-wide.

Want to learn more about partnerships? Contact Lexi Marshall at [marshalla@pearlandisd.org](mailto:marshalla@pearlandisd.org).

## Get Connected

1. [www.facebook.com/pearlandisd](http://www.facebook.com/pearlandisd)
2. [www.twitter.com/pearlandisd](http://www.twitter.com/pearlandisd)
3. Subscribe to newsletters & board meeting agendas at <http://bit.ly/29EPuYF>

## dates to remember

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Feb. 20 .....          | Staff Development (No School)             |
| Feb. 22 .....          | Progress Reports                          |
| March 13-17 .....      | Spring Break                              |
| March 22 .....         | Report Cards                              |
| April 12 .....         | Progress Reports                          |
| April 14 .....         | Good Friday (No School)                   |
| April 24 - May 2 ..... | Early Voting (Board of Trustees Election) |
| May 3 .....            | Progress Reports                          |
| May 6 .....            | Board of Trustees Election                |
| May 26 .....           | Last Day of School/Early Release          |
| May 29 .....           | Memorial Day (Holiday)                    |
| May 26 .....           | Report Cards (Grades PK-4)                |
| May 26 .....           | Pearland HS Graduation (2 p.m.)           |
| May 26 .....           | Dawson HS Graduation (5 p.m.)             |
| May 26 .....           | Turner CCHS Graduation (8 p.m.)           |
| May 30 .....           | Staff Development                         |
| June 8 .....           | Report Cards Mailed (Grades 5-12)         |