

Pearland Independent School District
the progress
building world-class schools

Summer 2016

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Superintendent's Message



Newest Successes a Tribute to Past Work

Joy mixes with sorrow as I write this to the Pearland ISD community.

Joy: The "Children at Risk" organization issues yearly report cards on every school in the greater Houston area. The ratings are primarily based on the percentages of students achieving advanced levels in reading, math and (at the secondary level) on AP, SAT and ACT scores. The ratings take into account the percentage of economically-disadvantaged students at each

school to ensure that those doing an exemplary job are acknowledged.

Once again, Pearland ISD schools shine. Our most recent ratings (May 2016) are considered the highest in the greater Houston area for larger school districts. It is breathtaking that 18 of the 21 Pearland ISD schools measured achieved an "A" rating, with the remaining three also achieving an above-average grade. For these reasons, the *Chronicle* recently contacted us to do a story on how we achieved those top grades here.

There are many reasons for such widespread success. Credit goes first and foremost to the teachers and students in our classrooms -- and the staff supporting them. The list goes on. We have an army of people contributing, including parents, community members and elected officials, including our own outstanding board of trustees.

Sorrow: We pay special tribute for these accomplishments to our most senior board member Virgil Gant. He led our school district for 16 years before his untimely death in June of this year. He brought financial expertise, courage, enthusiasm and perseverance to the board table. In short, he helped create the conditions for student achievements to thrive.

What is less known about Virgil was his incredible and private generosity toward youth causes ranging from the Boy Scouts to the district's newly-minted education foundation. He did many, many small and great acts of kindness without telling anyone except those with a "need to know."

Virgil was board president when I was hired here five years ago. He has been a guide, friend and constant supporter ever since. He called many times to encourage me -- and was always ready to chat. He was full of good humor, and as an old Navy "salt," he had a solid backbone of personal integrity.

Joy and Sorrow: While I will greatly miss my friend and boss, I know he is receiving his heavenly reward. In the meantime, we continue to receive the benefit of his long service -- as most recently demonstrated by the accolades described above.

May God bless Pearland ISD and comfort Virgil's family during this time of sorrow.

John P. Kelly, Ph.D.

Future-minded Long-Range Planning Committee assesses needs

With Pearland ISD projected to reach more than 23,000 students in the next 10 years, the district is considering ways to address growth, improve facilities and balance campus enrollment.

The Long-Range Planning Committee met from November through April to evaluate the district's highest needs and priorities and recommend facility improvements to trustees.

During their time together, committee members toured campuses and talked with administrators, staff, teachers, students and parents to learn about challenges the district faces.

In addition, the committee reviewed a demographic study by Templeton Demographics and facility assessment report by PBK Architects.

During the May school board meeting, the committee presented a list of 33 recommended projects totaling nearly \$206 million.

Identified long-range needs include renovations and expansions of many campuses, stadium and athletic

facility upgrades, generators, security equipment and more.

Some of the recommendations are designed to help relieve overcrowding. Dawson High School, for instance, has a capacity of 2,000 students but is projected to grow to nearly 2,700 in the next six years.

Based on the committee's recommendations, the board of trustees could call for a bond election to be held this November. If called, the election would be the first Pearland ISD has held since 2006.

Planning for Success

The Long-Range Planning Committee included nearly 50 people -- community leaders, teachers, parents, taxpayers, students, administrators and board members. To view the committee's work, visit www.pearlandisd.org/facilities.

District mourns loss of longtime trustee



Trustee Virgil Gant leaves a legacy of dedication and leadership.

Pearland ISD was profoundly grieved to lose dedicated longtime trustee Virgil Gant, who was tragically killed in an auto accident June 26.

Gant served on the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees for 16 years -- from 1997-2006 and from 2009 to the present.

During that time, he held many leadership roles, including board president and most recently member of the Long-Range Planning Steering Committee. In 2014, he received the Master Trustee designation from Texas Association of School Boards.

"We are shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our fellow trustee. He was a dear friend, mentor and a devoted champion for

Pearland ISD," Rebecca Decker, board president, said.

Pearland ISD Superintendent Dr. John Kelly echoed her comments. "Virgil was both my boss and good friend. More importantly, he was the friend of every student, always generous of his time and resources. He did so much good -- and with so little fanfare -- that most people were not even aware of his many contributions to charities and good causes. His death is an enormous loss for our community," Kelly said.

Pearland ISD offers its deepest sympathy to the Gant family.

Pictured on the cover are (clockwise, from top left) Challenger Elementary's Solei Paget, Dawson High School's Andrew Hebert and Peter Wang, Jamison Middle School's Crystal Aguilar, Turner College and Career High School's Lucas Harper and Pearland Junior High West's Khila Lyons and Kari Traylor.



281-485-3203
www.pearlandisd.org

Board of Trustees

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

*As of press time, position appointee TBD.

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Sonia Serrano, Sr. Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Brenda Waters, Sr. Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Nyla Watson, Sr. Assistant Superintendent

Wall of Honor

Standing out for pride in their work and passion for students, teachers and principals earn district's top honors



Above: Teachers of the Year Kristine Holland (Alexander Middle School) and Ann Lowrey Merrill (PACE Center) -- Holland is a Region 4 Teacher of the Year finalist. / Right: Glenda Dawson First-Year Teachers Brittany Suarez (Alexander) and Carl Coleman (Berry Miller Junior High)

Below: Principals of the Year Jason Frerking (Pearland Junior High South) and Verna Tipton (Sablatura Middle School)



Success encompasses academics and more

When it comes to success, academics is just the beginning for Pearland ISD.

While the Curriculum and Instruction Department assists teachers and ensures students are prepared academically, the district also provides a climate of world-class care and fiscal responsibility.

In addition to RISE Mentoring, the district's United for Kids community committee draws together community members and organizations to create a safety net for students.

Members meet to dialogue about students' needs and coordinate efforts to help.

From this committee have come the Pearland ISD Angel Tree and many other initiatives to help students' families in crisis.

Beyond ensuring students' physical needs are met, Pearland ISD also prides itself on providing the best education possible while conserving taxpayer dollars.

From 2015-19, the district anticipates saving nearly \$4 million in energy costs, thanks to locking in lower electricity rates when energy prices were falling.

The district is currently saving approximately \$600,000 a year and has locked in a contract with even lower rates to begin in mid-2017. This new rate will save an additional \$315,000 per year.

For high academic achievement combined with cost-effective operations, Pearland ISD

Academic Spotlight

Behind-the-scenes commitment to excellence at all levels leads to in-the-spotlight academic success.

With 86 percent "A" rankings, Pearland ISD continued to be one of the largest Houston-area districts with all schools graded "C" or above in Children at Risk's 2016 school rankings this May.

The nonprofit advocacy group gave an "A" grade to 18 of 21 district campuses scored in the annual rankings, including all district elementary and middle schools.

In addition, the district boasted 14 schools among the top 100 in the Houston area for their grade level. Children at Risk considers factors such as . . .

- Reading/math scores and growth
- Performance of low-income students
- College readiness

recently earned TXSmartSchools' five-star rating.

TXSmartSchools, which replaced the Financial Allocation Study for Texas, gave Pearland ISD and only 43 other districts/charter schools statewide this highest rating based on a grading system of academic, financial and demographic data.

Berger named director of maintenance

The former head of Oiler Nation is taking the reins as director of maintenance, operations and facilities.

The board of trustees promoted Larry Berger, Pearland High School's principal since 2009, to head of the Maintenance and Operations Department, effective July 5.

Berger replaces longtime director David Holland, who recently retired.



Larry Berger

While Pearland ISD searches for the most qualified candidate to lead PHS, assistant principal Audie Johnson will serve as interim principal.

Berger holds a history of professional achievements. A two-time winner of the district's Secondary Principal of the Year Award, he won the statewide H-E-B Excellence in Education Secondary

Principal Award in 2015.

As the former principal of a 6A high school, he has worked closely with maintenance administration and staff on several projects.

He looks forward to continuing a customer service mindset in this department that supports the entire district.

"My passion for student success is my driving force. The job is not done until all students are served in a way that supports safety, security and the best facilities. We will work effectively and efficiently to ensure Pearland ISD continues to be a world-class district," Berger said.

Barry takes oath of office Botkin, Decker re-elected



From left: Jeff Barry, Lance Botkin and Rebecca Decker take the oath of office during the May 24 meeting.

After the May 7 election, Pearland ISD welcomed a new trustee and two returning board members.

Jeff Barry, owner of Barry Insurance Group, was elected to Position 7, and Rebecca Decker and Lance Botkin were re-elected to Positions 5 and 6.

The board meets at the Education Support Center on the second Tuesday of each month. All regular board meetings are recorded, with audio and video available after the meeting. For the meeting archive, visit www.pearlandisd.org/boardarchive.

RISE ends strong first year



Thank you to our community for *RISE-ing* up to help students succeed in school and life!

RISE Mentoring celebrated more than 200 mentoring matches in its first year.

RISE connects K-12 students with caring adults who want to make a lifelong impact through a commitment of time and a listening ear.

For 30 minutes a week, mentors meet with students at their campus to talk, share hobbies, discuss goals and more.

Want to mentor? No special title or degree is required.

Mentor training will be offered throughout the summer. Visit www.pearlandisd.org/mentoring to fill out an application and register for training.

Advocating for attendance

Help your child succeed through regular school attendance.

Not only does school attendance improve students' chance of success, but it's also state law.

Pearland ISD encourages parents to remember some of these attendance laws and rules:

1. Students must attend school at least 90 percent of school days regardless of the excuse.
2. To report an absence, parents may contact the campus attendance clerk in addition to sending a written parent/medical note within three days, or the absence will be considered unexcused.
3. According to compulsory attendance law, students between ages 6-18 must attend school unless they are legally exempted or excused. After enrolling in pre-K or kindergarten, a child must attend school.
4. The parent (or student if age 12-18) will be referred to truancy court within 10 school days of the 10th unexcused absence in six months.
5. To ensure your child's academic success, make sure he or she arrives at school on time and stays the entire instructional day.

Excused or Unexcused?

Excused Absences*:

- Observation of religious holy days
- Personal illnesses
- Documented healthcare appointments

Unexcused Absences*:

- Family vacations
- Skipping class or oversleeping
- Personal business

**Not exhaustive lists -- please consult student handbook online for more about attendance and absences.*



Above: TCEA state winners include (from left) Jared Byars, Mai Nguyen and Philip Espinal. / Right: Pearadox teammates Bharath Balabaskar (left) and Edward Hu from Dawson High School operate a robot at the Lone Star Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.



Robotics develops entrepreneur, engineering skills

From middle school to high school, Pearland ISD robotics teams stood out in competitions this spring.

The second-year Pearadox Robotics Team, which comprises 25-plus team members from all three high schools, snagged the Entrepreneurship Award at the Lone Star Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in Houston this April.

The award recognizes a team that has developed a comprehensive business plan to achieve its objectives while ensuring a self-sustaining program.

In FIRST Robotics, students have six weeks to determine a strategy and build a robot after receiving the competition game challenge.

In late April, two GT Academy teams competed at the Texas Computer Education Association State Robotics Contest.

"Scorpion" teammates **Jared Byars, Philip**

Espinal and **Mai Nguyen** placed third in the state intermediate arena competition. Also competing was team "Asian Bots" -- second-place regional winners **Amber Luo, Emily She** and **Jasmine Wong**.

This May, Pearland ISD also boasted two teams competing at the National SeaPerch Challenge.

After high regional scores, Sablatura Middle School teams Hydro Tech and Aqua Tronz, along with more than 150 others nationwide, competed in the marine engineering-themed competitions.

SeaPerch develops problem-solving, teamwork and technical skills as students build and operate remotely-operated vehicles, or ROVs, underwater.

Hydro Tech teammates included **Anthony Avalos, Will Gundlach, Aseem Sharma** and **Lance Williams**, and Aqua Tronz teammates **Anthony Hildebrand, Anjali Kadur, Saba Scott** and **Diego Contreras**.

AcaDec, FPS teams take national, international spotlight

Students took the national and international stage this spring for academic prowess and on-their-feet thinking skills.

Based on high individual performance at state, three Pearland High School Academic Decathlon students qualified for nationals this year.

Collectively, they earned 10 national medals: **SaraBeth Matthews** won three silver and two bronze, **Jimmy Thai** one silver and one bronze and **Mitchell Jackson** one gold and two bronze.

The 10-event scholastic competition includes speech, interview and essay contests as well as knowledge tests in art, music, social science, science, economics, language/literature and math.

At the Future Problem Solving Program International Conference this June, three students placed among the top in their competition categories.

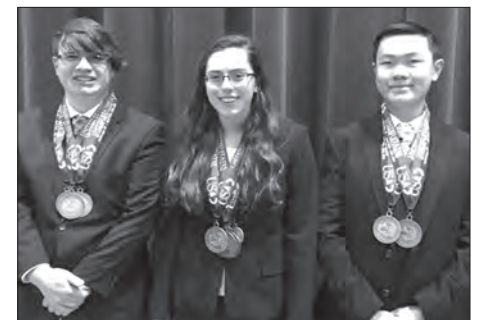
In Global Issues Problem Solving, Dawson High

School's **Aayush Dave** and **Jason Jiang** placed second in the middle and senior individual divisions respectively, and

Sablatura Middle School's **Cordelia Li** placed third in the junior individual division.

Also, Sablatura teammates **Elaine Chang, Ella Chen, Amber Luo** and **Emily She** placed ninth out of 52 junior teams competing in Global Issues.

FPS builds critical, creative and visionary thinking skills through fast-paced competitions.



From left: Academic Decathlon winners Mitchell Jackson, SaraBeth Matthews and Jimmy Thai



Pearland Junior High South students Naomi Hironymous (front) and Kamryn Williams explore their ancestry.

Rooted in research, writing

Junior high students had the opportunity to flex their research and writing muscles this spring through unique classroom projects.

Ancestry 101

Pearland Junior High South students dug up the roots of their family trees this spring through a genealogy research project.

Researching online, students sifted through census records, land deeds, newspaper articles and birth, marriage and death certificates.

They finally compiled all their findings in research papers within the context of American or world history.

Ancestors included a signer of the U.S. Constitution, a British monarch and a freedman trying to overcome laws against interracial marriage.

Published Authors

Pearland Junior High West pencils took flight through the Writers in the Schools program.

For three months, an author visited once a week to help students explore the creative writing process -- from brainstorming to final revisions. Students ultimately created two literary anthologies and read their poems and prose to classmates during a celebration in the library.

In addition, students **David Leon** and **Bryce Motte** were chosen to read their works during a WITS event in Houston.

Artists, performers take spotlight for talent

Creativity on canvas and presence on stage painted a picture of success for Pearland ISD students this spring.

State/Junior VASE

Three Dawson High School students medaled -- with one earning highest honors -- at the State Visual Arts Scholastic Event.

DHS's **Priya Kass**, **Andy Liu** and **Helen Wang** received Rating IV-Exemplary to earn state medallions.

Wang's art was also chosen as one of the best in the state, earning the Gold Seal and qualifying for the traveling Gold Seal Exhibition.

In addition, the district celebrated its most-ever Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event medals, with middle school and junior high students bringing home eight silver and 71 gold Junior VASE medals.

For Junior VASE artists, gold is the top regional score, and silver the equivalent of achieving "best of show" or making state.

Silver medalists included Rogers Middle School's **Audrey O'Higgins**; Berry Miller Junior High's **Jamie Lincoln**, **Natalya Plourde** and **Chloe Spradling**; and Pearland Junior High West's **Allison Fillingame** and **Lily Tran**.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

DHS's **Yixin He** won a national silver medal for her painting in the 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Her art was among only 0.7 percent of pieces nationwide to advance to the national level.

Tommy Tune Awards

This April, Pearland High School's "Urinetown" snagged two Tommy Tune awards for excellence

in high school musical theatre.

PHS swept up Best Musical Direction, and **Morgan Lenamon**, who played "Officer Lockstock," won Best Supporting Actor.

"Urinetown" received seven of 15

possible Tommy Tune nominations this year.

State Elementary Honor Choir

Three Sablatura Middle School students made the Texas Choral Directors Association 2016 State Elementary Honor Choir.

After a statewide audition process, Sablatura's **Olivia Bursnall**, **Taylor Jackson** and **Olivia Moeller** were chosen to perform in the choir at the TCDA summer convention.

The vocalists will participate in three days of rehearsals before a final concert performance for more than 1,000 guests.



"Urinetown" "Busy, Busy Day" by Dawson High School's Yixin He



Clockwise, from top left: Charles Allen, Pearland Junior High East

Amy Beverly, Carlestone Elementary

Jennifer Walker, Lawhon Elementary

Three campuses welcome new principals

Three Pearland ISD schools will have new leaders this fall.

Charles Allen, Pearland Junior High East

What you should know: After starting his career in the district as a teacher and coach, Allen has spent the last seven years as an assistant principal.

He is currently pursuing a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on teaching.

He served six years in the U.S. Air Force as a special tactics meteorologist, completing four tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Amy Beverly, Carlestone Elementary

What you should know: Beverly has spent 12 of her 21 years in education in Pearland ISD. Throughout her career, she has served as a teacher, Advanced Academics specialist and assistant principal.

Her desire to teach and lead began in kindergarten, and she has maintained that focus throughout the years.

Beverly holds a master's degree in educational leadership.

Jennifer Walker, Lawhon Elementary

What you should know: Public education is in Walker's blood. In fact, her parents, longtime educators and administrators, have a school -- Jack and Sharon Rhoads Elementary in Katy ISD -- named after them.

A former Teacher of the Year campus winner, Walker eventually left the classroom to serve as an assistant principal -- a role she has held for 11 years.

She holds a master's degree in educational leadership. **As of press time, a Pearland High School principal had not been named.*

registration/ enrollment dates

Elementary

Aug. 1-4, 8-11 am & 1-3 pm: New student enrollment

Aug. 2, 5-7 pm: Late-night new student enrollment

Aug. 16, 6-7 pm: Kindergarten orientation

Aug. 17-18, 3-7 pm: Student schedule pick-up*

Middle School/Junior High

Aug. 8-11, 8 am - 2 pm: New student enrollment

Aug. 11, 8 am - 6:30 pm: Student schedule pick-up*

Dawson High School

Aug. 9, 1-6 pm: Registration*

Aug. 10, 7-11 am: Registration*

Aug. 10, 6-8 pm: Flight School (freshmen/new students)

Contact Registrar: New student enrollment

Pearland High School

Aug. 1-4, 8 am - 2 pm: Address verification*

Aug. 9, 8 am - 1 pm: Oiler Market Day (formerly registration) & College Series

Aug. 10, 4-7 pm: Oiler Market Day (formerly registration), College Series & Fish Camp (freshmen/new students)

Contact Registrar: New student enrollment

Turner CCHS

Aug. 8, 1-6 pm: Registration*

Aug. 9, 7-11 am: Registration*

Aug. 10, 9 am - noon: Cat Camp (freshmen/new students)

Contact Registrar: New student enrollment

PACE Center

Aug. 9, 1-5 pm: Registration*

Aug. 10, 9 am - 1 pm: Registration*

*Bring current utility bill for residency check.



returning student registration

Annual online registration opens July 18

Beginning July 18, parents may log onto Skyward to register returning Pearland ISD students 2016-17.

After completing online registration, you may pick up your child's schedule and verify residency at the campus during dates and times indicated at left.

Note to Transfer Students:

Returning transfer students must have an approved transfer application each year they wish to attend a non-zoned school. For details, visit www.pearlandisd.org/supportservices.

Returning student but no Skyward login i

1. Visit www.pearlandisd.org.
2. Click on Skyward logo at top right corner of p
3. Click "Forgot your Login/Password?" link for instructions. You will receive your login by em
4. For help, call the Technology Department at 832-736-6966.



new student enrollment*

New students have two choices:

1. **New Student Online Enrollment:** Register using the NSOE option. For instructions, visit www.pearlandisd.org/enrollment. Parent completes online forms and submits application. Then parent provides necessary documentation to zoned campus.
2. **Paper Enrollment:** Parent goes to zoned campus at designated new student enrollment times (see column at left) to complete all forms and supply necessary documentation. At the high school level, contact the campus registrar to set up a new student enrollment time.

*This does not apply to existing Pearland ISD students who will attend a new campus.

Learn more:
www.pearlandisd.org/back2school



campus hours

Pre-Kindergarten*
8-11:05 a.m. & 12-3:05 p.m.

Elementary Schools (K-4)*
8 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Middle Schools (Grades 5-8)
8:40 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Junior High (Grades 7-8)
8:40 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

High Schools
7:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

PACE Center*
8:40 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

*Five minutes have been added to time to meet new state requirements



food service

Breakfast and lunch are provided at all schools, with free and reduced-price meals available for families who qualify.

Beginning Aug. 1, apply online by visiting <https://freeandreduced.pearlandisd.org>.

Log onto www.parentonline.net to monitor and/or make payments to student meal accounts. You may register your child using his or her six-digit ID number.

If you do not have computer access, you may obtain a paper copy of the free and reduced application from the Food Service office (1928 N. Main) or by phone at 281-412-1244. Computers are also available at this location.

2016-17 Cafeteria Fees:	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary school	\$1.40	\$2.50
Middle school	\$1.40	\$2.75
Junior high/high school	\$1.40	\$3.00
Adult	\$2.00	\$3.50
Reduced-price program	\$0.30	\$0.40



phone directory

DISTRICT

Education Support Center 281-485-3203

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Carleston Elementary 281-412-1412

Challenger Elementary 281-485-7912

Cockrell Elementary 832-736-6600

C.J. Harris Elementary 281-485-4024

Lawhon Elementary 281-412-1445

Magnolia Elementary 281-727-1750

Massey Ranch Elementary 281-727-1700

Rustic Oak Elementary 281-482-5400

Shadycrest Elementary 281-412-1404

Silvercrest Elementary 832-736-6000

Silverlake Elementary 713-436-8000

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Alexander Middle School 832-736-6700

Jamison Middle School 281-412-1440

Rogers Middle School 832-736-6400

Sablatura Middle School 281-412-1500

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Berry Miller Junior High 281-997-3900

Pearland Junior High East 281-485-2481

Pearland Junior High South 281-727-1500

Pearland Junior High West 281-412-1222

HIGH SCHOOLS

Dawson High School 281-412-8800

Pearland High School 281-997-7445

Turner College & Career High School 281-727-1600

PACE Center 281-412-1599

transportation



Pearland ISD provides free bus service to students who live two or more miles from their zoned campus.

Students living less than two miles from their campus may receive transportation through

the Transportation Fee Program.

Sign up for bus service via annual online registration beginning July 18.

For questions, contact Transportation at 281-485-3562.

Bus fees for 2016-17 school year:

- \$640/year for 1 child in home
- \$740/year for 2 children in home
- \$840/year for 3+ children in home

Note: The district reduces fees for students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches. Fees may be divided into 10 equal payments and mailed to/dropped off at the Transportation Department or paid online via Skyward Fee Management. For proper credit, write your child's name on the check.



school closings

If classes are cancelled or delayed because of severe weather or other conditions, parents will be notified through these communication avenues:

- Automated phone notification system
- District website
- Text messages (parents must have cell number listed in cellular field in Skyward)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- TV stations

Announcements will not be made when schools are open with regularly-scheduled hours.

For text messaging sign-up instructions, visit bit.ly/29cmQmi.

Athletic accolades

From the pool to athletic training room, students and staff get top honors

Right: Pearland High School swimmer Jaden Bellina (middle) captured the state championship in 200-yard individual medley and qualified for the U.S. Olympic swimming trials.



Above: Dawson High School won the National Athletic Trainers Association "Best Athletic Trainer Effort - Individual/Small Team" award. Picture are athletic trainers (from left) Gretchen Carter, Chris Shaddock and Roderick Williams.



Below: Track and field teammates (from left) Collin Fleischer, Sean Carl Little, teacher Cary Tankersley, Julian Hall, John Kramer and Niko Mendez prepare for competitive events at the Texas Special Olympics Summer Games. Pearland ISD took 24 students to the games this year.



Left: In May, the Pearland Lady Oilers Softball Team captured the 6A Region III Championship to advance to the 2016 UIL state softball tournament. The team's playoff journey included beating No. 1 state-ranked Deer Park and defending state champion Katy. Ultimately, the Lady Oilers beat Weslaco in the semifinal game to advance to the finals, where the team placed as state runner-up and 2016 6A State Softball silver medalists.

Career readiness top priority of CTE programs, competitions

The Career and Technical Education Department celebrated numerous achievements this spring.

Dental Clinics

Turner College and Career High School held its first-ever dental clinic days, giving hands-on career experience to dental students as well as discounted services to community children.

Working with dentists and hygienists in the school's state-of-the-art lab, students used professional equipment to assist with cleaning, fluoride treatments, X-rays, sealants and oral health education.

TCCHS students in the dental assistant pathway may pursue Texas Registered Dental Assistant certification and be eligible for internships with local dental offices.

SkillsUSA

In state SkillsUSA competitions this spring, three students won top honors for their career and technical education skills.

TCCHS's **Erik Schellstede** won first place and best in show in diesel engine technology.

In the digital cinema competition, Dawson High School teammates **Karthik Tharmiya** and **Robert Bromley** snagged first place. After receiving a prompt, they had 24 hours to film, edit and submit a three- to five-minute project.

DECA International

Six students competed in business skills at the DECA International Career Development Conference.

DHS's **Akshat Kumar** placed as a gold medal finalist, numbering among the top 10 students worldwide in restaurant management.

Other students competing at the event included state champions **Aayush Dave**, **Ashish Dave** and **Jeffery Wu** from DHS and **Cameron Dornhoefer** and **Lori Thompson** from Pearland High School.

PLTW Certification

This spring, TCCHS received national certification for



Turner College and Career High School Project Lead The Way student Ryan Hashem works on an animal adoption shelter design for a competition.

its Project Lead The Way engineering program.

In PLTW courses, students identify problems and design and test solutions by creating devices, machines and equipment.

Through a focus on science, technology, engineering and math, students develop knowledge and skills for engineering careers.



Four-year all-A seniors from Dawson, Pearland and Turner College and Career high schools

19 seniors claim straight-A record

Of more than 340 high school students achieving one to four years of "A" report cards, 19 graduating in the class of 2016 held a perfect four-year record.

The board of trustees honored these straight-A seniors -- along with two- and three-year "A" recipients -- at the All-A Banquet in mid-May.

Dawson High School four-year all-A honorees included **Sachin Aggarwal, Daniel Bao, Nikhil Chellam, Jordan Geer, Devin Gu, Yixin He, Jessica Huang, Sophie Joseph, Priya Kass, Akshat Kumar, Conrad Liu, Rachel Stroh and Jasleen Walia.**

Other four-year all-A honorees were Pearland High School's **Molly Hydorn, Robyn Maddux, SaraBeth Matthews, Jessica Pearce** and Naomi Wentz and Turner College and Career High School's **Sally Wang.**

Top-ranked seniors in the class of 2016

Top Ten

Dawson High School:

Akshat Kumar (val)
Devin Gu (sal)
Sachin Aggarwal
Daniel Bao
Nikhil Chellam

Yixin He
Jessica Huang
Priya Kass
Conrad Liu
Allen Qiu

Pearland High School:

Jimmy Thai (val)
SaraBeth Matthews (sal)
Molly Hydorn
Robyn Maddux
William Nguyen

Jessica Pearce
Tiana Scott
Isabella Tincher
Amelia Volpe
Naomi Wentz

Turner College and Career High School:

Sally Wang (val)
Savanna Chatman (sal)
Steven Anderson
Chandel Burgess
Blair Busbee

Malcolm Dawson
Hannah Dean
Anusia Mansukhani
Andrea Skweres
Helen Varghese

Magic milestone

Seas of maroon, blue and black filled NRG Stadium June 3 as seniors celebrated their final moments together as an entire class

graduates in class of 2016 **1,453**

National Merit Scholars **7**

goodbye tears shed **10,000+**



Clockwise, from top left: A Turner College and Career High School student beams after walking off the stage with her diploma. / Pearland High School students show off proof of their graduation. / Dawson High School students capture the graduation-caps-in-the-air moment with their cell phones.

Want to see more graduation photos? Check out the district's graduation photo albums at www.flickr.com/photos/pearlandisd/albums.

Community unites to help students

Since its formation in fall 2013, the United for Kids community committee has assisted Pearland ISD students and families in need.

The committee of local government leaders, civic organizations, churches and district officials meets at the Education Support Center to dialogue about students' challenges and form a safety net for Pearland children.

United for Kids helped establish the district's Angel Tree program, which last year provided gifts to more than 650 students who otherwise might not have received anything under the Christmas tree.



Citizens, businesses, churches and organizations across the community adopted families to

ensure a holly, jolly Christmas for all.

The generosity and compassion of the United for Kids committee extends far beyond the holiday season, however.

Committee members have supported mental health needs, provided temporary housing, created tutoring, served as mentors and more.

Thanks to the committee's efforts,

"Our faculty and staff go far beyond the four classroom walls to meet needs, and we are strongly assisted by social agencies, churches, civic organizations and city government -- all united for kids. Why? We believe many students need help outside the classroom so they can be successful inside it."

-- Superintendent Dr. John Kelly

Pearland ISD campuses and staff have a more streamlined approach to secure help and know whom to contact when a student and his or her family is in crisis.

Get Involved: Want to be an Angel Tree sponsor? Contact the Communications Department at 832-736-6176.



Lee Mehta (far left) and Todd Harvey present Chevy keys to Teacher of the Year winners Ann Lowrey Merrill of PACE Center (middle, left) and Kristine Holland of Alexander Middle School.

Top teachers take the wheel

Strickland Chevrolet has long shown a drive to support Pearland ISD teachers and schools.

For the past eight years, the hometown car dealership has invited district Teacher of the Year winners to pick out a program Chevy to drive home.

These top teachers get the keys to the new vehicles for one month of summer cruising.

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 2015-16 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 the Communications Department at 832-736-6176.

AA Cleaning Services
A-Better Plumbing
ACE Pearland
Adult Reading Center
American Federation of Teachers
Barry Insurance Group
Bay Area Rowing Club
Berkeley Eye Center
Brazoria County Fair Association
Casa Ole
Chick-fil-A
Crossroads Community Church
Dr. John P. Kelly
First Presbyterian Church
Get Fit Boot Camp
Greg Hill & Family
Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union
H-E-B
HOPE Church Pearland
Hope Presbyterian Church
Huntington Learning Center
Innate Vitality Chiropractic
iT'Z Family Food & Fun
iWellness World
Keep Pearland Beautiful

Koza's
Kwik Car Lube and Oil
La Madeleine
Lana Rawlinson Photography
Luna's Mexican Restaurant
Marco's Pizza
Memorial Hermann
Mike Graves
NBCEA
Nothing Bundt Cakes Pearland
Pearland ISD Education Foundation
Pearland Library
Pearland Lions Club
Pearland Medical Center
Pearland Orthodontics
Putt-Putt Funhouse
Queen Bling
Resailing Shoppe
Schlotzsky's Pearland
Silverlake Lions Club
South Coast Products
South Park Funeral Home
Splashway Water Park
Spring Creek Barbeque
Strickland Chevrolet

Texas Emergency Care Center
Texas First Bank Pearland
Texas Teachers
The Enclave at Mary's Creek
UHCL-Pearland
Vic Coppinger YMCA
Vineyard Church
Walmart
Wells Fargo
West Pearland Tire & Auto

3rd annual Surprize Patrol notches up awards

The scene was different -- from field days to talent shows and faculty meetings -- but the surprise was universal as the Pearland ISD Education Foundation Surprize Patrol presented innovative teaching grant checks to unsuspecting teachers this May. The foundation awarded 52 grants worth more than \$88,000 this year.

For the complete list of 2016-17 grant winners, visit bit.ly/292icaO.

Magnolia Elementary's Kimberly Butler can't stop smiling when she finds out she has won a grant.



Far left: Carleston Elementary's Nikole Zurek, Patti Loya and Faith Flowers celebrate their winning grants.

Left: Pearland Junior High East's Amy Peterson shows off her grant winner sign.

Teachers use their grants to make a difference in schools

Grants in action



Sablatura Middle School teacher Annabelle Briggs' "Science Club" grant funds after-school experiments that enrich what students are learning in science class.



Shadycrest Elementary teacher Ruth Mondich's "Swing Time" grant provides modified swings for students who cannot use traditional ones. Students help push their classmates for a "swinging" good time.

Inaugural gala a high-flying success



Gala guests (from left) Brad and Allison Onhaizer and Rebecca and Jason Decker

Together with the Annual Giving Campaign, the Pearland ISD Education Foundation's inaugural gala raised \$134,400 for educational programs and activities to enrich teaching and inspire learning.

The Pearland community turned out in style March 5 for "An Evening for Education: Innovation in Flight" at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum.

Sporting fashionable 40's fedoras and furs, guests danced to music by Third Coast Swing, feasted on Grazia Italian Kitchen and engaged in competitive silent and live auctions inside a beautifully decorated hangar.

Many thanks to gala sponsors, donors and guests!

Have You Heard the Buzz?

3rd Annual Grown-Up Spelling Bee

Thursday, October 20
at Turner CCHS
(4717 Bailey Road)



Sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 event are now available! For more information, contact Natalie Clogston at clogstonn@pearlandisd.org or 281-997-4987.



P.O. Box 7 | Pearland, Texas 77588 | 281-485-3203 | www.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 Communications Director Kim Hocott at 281-485-3203.



1. www.facebook.com/pearlandisd
2. www.twitter.com/pearlandisd
3. Subscribe to newsletters & board meeting agendas: visit bit.ly/299XuoE.

dates to remember

- Aug. 22 First Day of School
- Aug. 29 Meet Your Teacher - Junior Highs
- Sept. 1 Meet Your Teacher - Elementary Schools
- Sept. 5 Labor Day (Holiday)
- Sept. 8 Meet Your Teacher - Middle Schools
- Sept. 12 Meet Your Teacher - DHS, PHS and PACE Center
- Sept. 13 Meet Your Teacher - TCHS
- Oct. 10 Staff Development (no school for students)
- Oct. 26 Report Cards
- Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 16 Early Release
- Dec. 19-30 Christmas Break
- Jan. 2 Staff Workday (no school for students)
- Jan. 4 Report Cards
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (student/staff holiday)

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Holidays

- September 5 (Labor Day)
- November 21 – 25 (Thanksgiving)
- December 19 – 30 (Christmas)
- January 1 (New Year's)
- January 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- March 13 – 17 (Spring Break)
- April 14 (Good Friday)
- May 29 (Memorial Day)
- July 4 (Independence Day)

Staff In-service
(No school for students)

- August 12 (Workday)
- August 15–19 (Staff Development)
- October 10 (Staff Development)
- January 2 (Workday)
- February 20 (Staff Development)
- June 2 (Workday)

Grading Periods

- First Semester (78 days)
1st August 22 – October 21
- 2nd October 24 – December 16
- Second Semester (99 days)
3rd January 3 – March 10
4th March 20 – June 1

Early Release

- December 16
- June 1

Report Cards

- October 26
- January 4
- March 22
- June 1 (grades PK - 4)
- June 14 (grades 5 - 12 Mailed)

Progress Reports

- September 14
- October 5
- November 16
- February 1
- February 22
- April 12
- May 3

* STAAR Testing (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) + Bad Weather Day
 <-> TELPAS (Assessment Window) g Graduation
 n New Teacher Orientation H Pearland History Month

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