

# the **progress**

PREPARE

PERFORM

PRODUCE

Pearland Independent  
School District

**Summer 2014**



## inside this issue

**2-3**

Superintendent's Message  
District News

**4-5**

Campus News

**6-7**

Back-to-School Information

**8-9**

Campus News  
Graduation Spotlight

**10-11**

Partners in Education  
Education Foundation

**12**

Communication Corner  
Dates to Remember

## Superintendent's Message

Welcome back, students and staff, to the 2014-15 school year! We believe a great year lies ahead.

Perhaps the best preview is last year's results. Pearland ISD students achieved exceptional regional, state and national honors for academic, fine arts and athletic achievements. I believe we're just getting started. These recent honors demonstrate that opportunity is available for those who work especially hard or -- to use a term now familiar to most of our students -- show "true grit"!

Texas is in the second year of the legislative biennium. Pearland ISD is fiscally prepared for 2014-15, though we receive substantially less state money per child compared to the average district in Texas. Fortunately, our state leaders will assemble in Austin beginning next January to examine state funding and other school issues once again. I predict the courts will declare the Texas school funding system unconstitutional. Thereafter, I'm hopeful that solutions will ensure Pearland ISD gets equitable funding in 2015-16. Meanwhile, we strive to accomplish great things with the finite resources on hand.

We now have more than 20,000 students enrolled in Pearland ISD. Accordingly, we commissioned a demographic study of our future, and the results predict 2,000 additional students in daily attendance over the next decade. We also commissioned a study of our campus/district facilities, identifying many needs, particularly in older schools and those nearing capacity. We will address some of the most critical needs this year.

Pearland ISD seeks to become a "shining city on a hill," building on accelerant already fueling our educational engine. I'm proud to live in this community -- and to work alongside you. Our goal is nothing short of becoming a "world-class" school district.

May God bless Pearland ISD!



John P. Kelly, Ph.D.

*Pictured on the cover are (top, from left) Rogers Middle School's Amarachi Nwankwo and Liliana Hildebrand and GT Academy's Mayank Shouche, visitor Tracy Bush and Tammy Nguyen. At the bottom (from left) are Pearland High School's Sachin Abraham, Dana Tran and Christopher Almendariz and Magnolia Elementary's Bella Cervantez.*

## Recognizing excellence

Inspiring. Caring. Committed. Pearland ISD recently honored four educators and two principals who exhibit these qualities daily as they teach at or lead their schools.

**Taresa Jacobsen** (Lawhon Elementary) and **Mark Lesmeister** (Dawson High School) won the Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year Award.

Elementary and Secondary Glenda Dawson First-Year Teacher Award winners were **Sharon Whitener** (Sablatura Middle School) and **Laura Dunham** (DHS).

**Beth West** (Rustic Oak Elementary) and **Larry Berger** (Pearland High School) snagged the top spots as this year's Principals of the Year.

*Right: Principals of the Year Beth West and Larry Berger  
Below: Glenda Dawson First-Year Teachers Laura Dunham (left) and Sharon Whitener*



### Taresa Jacobsen



**Years in Pearland ISD:** 4 years  
**Teaches:** Reading recovery  
**Her inspiration to teach:** Many educators, including a fourth-grade science teacher who dressed up as Ms.

Frizzle from the "Magic School Bus"  
**What she enjoys most about the classroom:** Being some children's sole source of kindness, patience and compassion

**Quote:** "All adults, not just teachers, must treat every encounter with a child as an opportunity for teaching and learning."

### Mark Lesmeister

**Years in Pearland ISD:** 8 years  
**Teaches:** Pre-AP and AP physics  
**His inspiration to teach:** An uncle who taught high school biology and viewed teaching as a calling, not just a way to earn a paycheck  
**What he enjoys most about the classroom:** When a student who doesn't "do science" gets excited in physics class

**Quote:** "As teachers, we should always remember that our small actions can have big consequences -- that what we do every day could impact a life forever."



## Board welcomes new, familiar faces



Board of trustees veteran Rusty DeBorde (left) and newcomer Charles Gooden Jr. take the oath of office May 20. DeBorde, the board president, returned for a second term to Position 2, while Gooden was elected to Position 1 during the May 10 board election. Gooden has served on the Pearland ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors since 2013.



281.485.3203  
www.pearlandisd.org

### Board of Trustees

**Rusty DeBorde**, President  
**Pam Boegler**, Vice President  
**Rebecca Decker**, Secretary  
**Lance Botkin**, Member  
**Virgil Gant**, Member  
**Charles Gooden Jr.**, Member  
**Andrew Solomon**, 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

Alexander Middle School principal Dr. Jimmy Nowell (left) visits with a job candidate at the district job fair in April.



## Starting teacher salary increases

To remain competitive in the current job market, Pearland ISD has increased starting teacher salaries and minimum hourly rate for the 2014-15 school year.

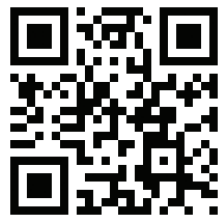
In May, the board approved a starting salary of \$50,000 for beginning teachers with a bachelor's degree and a \$10 minimum hourly rate for auxiliary employees.

In addition, all eligible district employees will receive an increase of 4 percent of their pay grade midpoint/control point -- the highest district pay raise in seven years.

Lowest-paid employees will receive an equity pay adjustment, bringing their total increase to more than 6 percent.

The salary increases will counteract the rising cost of living while retaining and attracting the best and brightest candidates for teaching and supporting students.

### Check for openings:



[www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org)  
 Departments » Human Resource  
 Services » Employment Opportunities

# STAAR y-eyed

## Students rank above peers across the board statewide

While the Texas Education Agency will release official test scores and accountability ratings on Aug. 8, Pearland ISD students once again scored higher than their Texas peers according to preliminary data.

Unofficial State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) results show between 6-19 percent higher scores than the state average in every subject tested in grades 3-8.

This year district and campus accountability ratings will also factor in community and student engagement -- a change added by House Bill 5.

The nine components of community and student engagement include. . . .

1. Fine arts
2. Wellness and physical education
3. Community and parental involvement
4. 21st-Century workforce development programs
5. Second language acquisition programs
6. Digital learning environment
7. Dropout prevention strategies
8. Education programs for GT students
9. Compliance with statutory reporting requirements

### 2013-14 STAAR Preliminary Results\*

Comparison of overall test scores for grades 3-8 in each subject

Pearland ISD		Texas
88%	READING	75%
86%	MATH	71%
83%	WRITING	70%
80%	SOCIAL STUDIES	61%
85%	SCIENCE	72%

\*TEA will release official scores on Aug. 8.

# Technology gets international thumbs-up for innovation



Massey Ranch Elementary students TJ March (left) and Evan Horvith use a tablet to collaborate on a project.

Although used to state and national recognition, Pearland ISD is now turning heads in the international arena.

This spring, the district's Technology Department won the Avaya Technology Innovation Best Practice Award.

Among four other winners (businesses/organizations from Australia, London, Dubai and New York), Pearland ISD is being recognized in the global technology

community as an innovative district that provides solutions for 21st-century mobile learning.

In the last year, Pearland ISD has moved to high-capacity, district-wide Wi-Fi and a "bring your own device" (BYOD) initiative at every campus, with students using personal technology or provided equipment for designated lessons.

To allow this, the district created a private cloud network solution to enable a virtual desktop interface for more than 12,000 desktop computers, safely address BYOD demands from students and staff and provide reliable multicast capability.

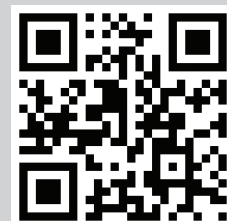
The result was improvement in network performance and speed for 28 locations and more than 20,000 students and 2,500 staff.

"Basically, we're providing more resources to teachers and students through less demand on our network," Greg Bartay, technology director, said.

Associates and partners of Avaya -- a global provider of business collaboration and communications solutions -- nominated businesses and organizations that had transformed their company through innovative business communications and collaboration technologies.

## Cloud Conservation

Keeping nearly 10,000 PCs up to date for students and staff without breaking the bank? Not a problem. Pearland ISD saved approximately \$4 million by using cloud computing to centralize system management and enable "bring your own device" capability at every campus. Watch the **YouTube video** Dell created featuring Pearland ISD technology innovation.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dofNg7vgruE>

# Grit in Action

*What is grit? Read these stories about students who show passion and perseverance as they respond to needs or push past obstacles around them.*

**“This is what people do.”**



*Pearland's Mayor Tom Reid honors Berry Miller Junior High students Cade Anderson (left) and Kyle Stacks during an end-of-the-year campus celebration.*

When they learned that a man in their neighborhood had advanced stage colon cancer, Berry Miller Junior High's **Cade Anderson** and **Kyle Stacks** immediately looked for a way to help. Their decision? Mowing the lawn for his family. When the man's wife offered to pay, they refused, saying, "This is what people do for each other." The boys plan to continue mowing so the family does not have to hire a lawn service.

## B-e-e dedicated

**Shobha Dasari** is no stranger to TV cameras. For the second year, the Pearland Junior High West student advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee -- an incredible feat considering that 11 million spellers vie for this opportunity each year. Success doesn't come without cost, though. A four-time district spelling bee champion, Dasari spends thousands of hours studying homonyms, word origin, pronunciation and vocabulary.



*Photo by Houston Public Media*

## Elementary students show heart

Springtime proved the season for compassion to bloom at elementary schools.

During a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk at their campus, Silvercrest Elementary students pounded the pavement to raise \$22,246.23 for diabetes research.

Silvercrest ranked as the top JDRF fundraising school for the 2013-14 school year in the Houston area.

At Rustic Oak Elementary, the principal and assistant principal kissed pigs after students tripled the school's fundraising goal, ultimately raising more than \$9,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The fundraiser was in honor of homebound Rustic Oak student Elias Rojas, who is a leukemia patient.

*Right: Pictured with Silvercrest Elementary P.E. coach Lynette Cox are top student donors (from left) Colin Silberfein, Graham Silberfein and Madyson Munroe.*



*Left: Principal Beth West of Rustic Oak Elementary puckers up to kiss a pig after students exceeded their fundraising goal.*



## Twice is nice

*Alexander Middle School re-designated 'Texas School to Watch'*

Keep your eyes on Alexander Middle School.

Alexander was re-designated a "Texas School to Watch" this spring -- for its track record of academic excellence, responsiveness to students' needs and interests and commitment to help every child achieve at high levels.

The campus originally received the designation in 2011.

As part of the criteria for recognition, Alexander teachers and staff create a campus culture where students feel connected and can take charge of their learning. The campus offers many opportunities, including. . . .

- A principal's leadership team for students to give feedback on the campus culture
- "Academic Prep" 30 minutes before school for teachers to work one-on-one with students and for students to do make-up work, finish assignments and get organized for the day
- Peer Buddies program where selected students work with Life Skills students in the classroom, providing any assistance needed

**About**



Developed in 1999 by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, Schools to Watch identifies intermediate schools that exhibit strong leadership, teacher collaboration and continuous improvement through assessment and accountability. State teams observe classrooms; interview administrators, teachers, students and parents; and look at achievement data, suspension rates, lesson quality and student work. In Texas, the program is sponsored by the Texas Middle School Association.



*Pictured are (from left) Justin Feng, Winni Zhang, Sijia Song, Josh Johnwell, Christina Hoang, Jonathan Jackson, Angela Feng, Khalid Yusuf, Sharon Yang, Matthew Caddell, Nathalie Podder, Jordan Todes and Katherine Cheng. Not pictured are Qiwei Li and Daniel Wu.*

## DHS UIL Academic Team places 2nd in state

This May, Dawson High School once again made an impressive showing at the UIL 4A State Academics Meet, placing second overall.

As the 4A academic champion for the last two years, DHS students offered fierce competition, including a decisive first-place victory from the science team.

They missed re-capturing the championship by only one question on one test.

Coaches included John Bailey, Lorraine Chambers, Jamie Hutchison, Mark Lesmeister, Leslie Sanderson and Evelyn Zimmerman.

## Future Problem Solvers tackle tangles at international level

Eleven Pearlland ISD students put their critical thinking skills to the test at the Future Problem Solvers Program International Conference in June.

These students competed against thousands of other students worldwide in fast-paced, problem-solving challenges.

In the Multiple-Affiliate Global Issues Competition Senior Division, Dawson High School's **Conrad Liu** was paired with three other students he had never met. Together, they placed third out of 13 other teams.

Competing against 20 other individuals, Sablatura Middle School's **Jessica Williams** ranked No. 4 in the Global Issues Problem Solving Junior Individual competition.

Sablatura teammates **Siddharth Krishnakumar, Stephanie Lam, Karen Lu** and **Chinmay Walavalkar** placed sixth out of 53 other teams in the Global Issues Problem Solving Team Junior Division competition.

Also competing at FPS international were Sablatura's **Maddie Little** and DHS's **Sachin Aggarwal, Michael Farner, Aaron Macias** and **Jason Quimio**.

Coaches included Judy Sisk from Sablatura and Beth Moore from DHS.



*Future Problem Solvers Program international competitors included (top, from left) Aaron Macias, Michael Farner, Conrad Liu, Sachin Aggarwal and Jason Quimio and (bottom, from left) Maddie Little, Siddharth Krishnakumar, Karen Lu, Jessica Williams, Stephanie Lam and Chinmay Walavalkar.*

## PHS Academic Decathlon team ranks No. 4 in nation



*Pictured are (from left) Rajan Desai, Jimmy Thai, Samuel Holmes, Kaitlyn Harbuck, Zachary Watson, Marcella Saboe, Mason Natale, Robert Phelps, Ethan Arnold and Nicholai Twyman. Not pictured is Shivam Dave.*

Once again, Pearlland High School decathletes put Pearlland in the national spotlight with top scores at the U.S. Academic Decathlon finals in Hawaii.

PHS's Academic Decathlon team ranked fourth out of 53 teams competing at nationals -- winning 28 individual medals and boasting the nation's top-scoring individual.

In addition, PHS students won first place in the Super Quiz relay, the only public event in the competition.

Since 2008, this was the fourth time for PHS to send an Academic Decathlon team to the national competition.

Coaching the team were PHS's Robert Layne, Corey Cogswell and Scott Crossno.



## At the top of his class

Not only ranked as class valedictorian, Pearlland High School's **Shivam Dave** (pictured above with board of trustees) ranked at the top in the nation -- as the highest-scoring individual competitor at the National Academic Decathlon finals.

registration/enrollment

Please check [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org) or call the campus for updates.

## Elementary

- Aug. 4-7, 8-11 am & 1-3 pm:** New student enrollment
- Aug. 5, 5-7 pm:** Late night enrollment (new students)
- Aug. 19, 6-7 pm:** Kindergarten orientation
- Aug. 20-21\*, 3-7 pm:** Pick up teacher assignment

## Middle School/Junior High

- Aug. 11-14, 8 am - 2 pm:** New student enrollment
- Aug. 14\*, 8 am - 6 pm:** Middle school schedule pick-up
- Aug. 15\*, 8 am - 6 pm:** Junior high schedule pick-up

## Dawson High School

- July 29-31, 7:15 am - 2:15 pm:** Packet pick-up
- Aug. 5\*, 1-6 pm:** Registration at campus
- Aug. 6\*, 9 am - 1 pm:** Registration at campus
- Aug. 7\*, 6-8:30 pm:** Flight School (9th-graders)
- Contact Registrar:** New student enrollment

## Pearland High School

- Aug. 6, 9 am - 1 pm:** Fish Camp and New Student
- Aug. 12\*, 8 am - 1 pm:** Registration at campus
- Aug. 13\*, 3-6 pm:** Registration at campus
- No Packet Pick-up** (all information online)
- Contact Registrar:** New student enrollment

## Turner CCHS

- Aug. 11\*, 7 am - 1 pm & 3-6 pm:** Registration at campus
- Aug. 13\*, 9 am - 1 pm:** Cat Camp (new students)
- Aug. 14, 6 pm:** Parent orientation
- No Packet Pick-up** (all information online)
- Contact Registrar:** New student enrollment

## PACE Center

- Aug. 6\*, 1-6 pm:** Registration at campus
- Aug. 7\*, 8 am - 1 pm:** Registration at campus
- Contact Registrar:** New student enrollment

**\*Note:** Computers for registration will be available on these dates for parents without Internet access.

# Back to School!

## August 25

Find more info online



[www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org)  
Information » Back To School Information

## new student enrollment

Students new to Pearland ISD have two choices:

- 1. New Student Online Enrollment (NSOE):** Beginning now, register using the NSOE option. Instructions can be found on the Back to School webpage ([www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org) » Information » Back To School Information). 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.

## returning student registration

Annual online registration opens July 21

Beginning July 21, parents may log onto Skyward to register returning students for the 2014-15 school year.

For those without Internet access, computers will be available at each campus during dates and times (marked with \*) in the column at left.

After completing online registration, you may pick up your child's teacher assignment/class schedule at his or her zoned campus during registration dates and times at left.

Students will register for their zoned campus only, unless they received an approved transfer application. Returning transfer students must have an approved transfer application each year they wish to attend the non-zoned school.

Returning student but no Skyward login info?

- 1. Visit [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org).**
- 2. Click on the Skyward Family and Student Access link in the left-hand sidebar.**
- 3. Click the "New to Family Access" link for instructions. You will receive your login by e-mail.**
- 4. For additional help, call the Technology Department at 832.736.6966.**



## 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 21. For questions, contact Transportation at 281.485.3562.

**Bus fees for 2014-15 school year:**

- \$64/month for 1 child in home
- \$74/month for 2 children in home
- \$84/month for 3+ children in home

*The district reduces fees for students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches. Fees may be mailed to or dropped off at the Transportation Department. For proper credit, write your child's name on the check.*

campus hours

- Pre-Kindergarten**  
8-11 a.m. & 12-3 p.m.
- Elementary Schools (K-4)**  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Middle Schools (Grades 5-6)**  
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**  
8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

## food service

Breakfast and lunch are provided at all schools, with free and reduced-price meals available for families who qualify. Beginning Aug. 11, apply online by clicking on the "Free & Reduced Lunch" button on [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org).

If you do not have computer access, you may obtain a paper copy of the application from the Food Service office, 1928 N. Main, or by phone at 281.412.1244.

Log onto [www.parentonline.net](http://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.



Simone Garrison, Silverlake Elementary

2014-15 Cafeteria Fees:	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary school	\$1.25	\$2.25
Middle school	\$1.25	\$2.50
Junior high/high school	\$1.25	\$2.75
Adult	\$1.75	\$3.25
Reduced-price program	\$0.30	\$0.40

## phone directory

<b>Education Support Center - 281.485.3203</b> Dr. John P. Kelly, Superintendent	<b>Massey Ranch Elementary - 281.727.1700</b> Heather Block, Principal	<b>Rogers Middle School - 832.736.6400</b> Dana Miles, Principal	<b>High Schools</b>
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Rustic Oak Elementary - 281.482.5400</b> Beth West, Principal	<b>Sablatura Middle School - 281.412.1500</b> Verna Tipton, Principal	<b>Dawson High School - 281.412.8800</b> David Moody, Principal
<b>Carleston Elementary - 281.412.1412</b> Dr. Faviola Cantu, Principal	<b>Shadycrest Elementary - 281.412.1404</b> Michelle Kiefer, Principal	<b>Junior High Schools</b>	<b>Pearland High School - 281.997.7445</b> Larry Berger, Principal
<b>Challenger Elementary - 281.485.7912</b> Lisa Nelson, Principal	<b>Silvercrest Elementary - 832.736.6000</b> Lori Campbell, Principal	<b>Berry Miller Junior High - 281.997.3900</b> Kim Brooks, Principal	<b>Turner College &amp; Career High School - 281.727.1600</b> Dr. Jennifer Morrow, Principal
<b>Cockrell Elementary - 832.736.6600</b> Gerri Roberts, Principal	<b>Silverlake Elementary - 713.436.8000</b> La'Keshia Vaughn, Principal	<b>Pearland Junior High East - 281.485.2481</b> Dr. Annette Chambliss, Principal	<b>PACE Center - 281.412.1599</b> TBA, Principal
<b>C.J. Harris Elementary - 281.485.4024</b> Brenda Keimig, Principal	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>Pearland Junior High South - 281.727.1500</b> Jason Frerking, Principal	
<b>Lawhon Elementary - 281.412.1445</b> Michelle Pourchot, Principal	<b>Alexander Middle School - 832.736.6700</b> Dr. Jimmy Nowell, Principal	<b>Pearland Junior High West - 281.412.1222</b> Andrea Wenke, Principal	
<b>Magnolia Elementary - 281.727.1750</b> Sharon Gifford, Principal	<b>Sam Jamison Middle School - 281.412.1440</b> Sharon Bradley, Principal		

Pearland ISD uses a variety of communication tools to notify parents during emergencies that cause school closings or delays. Be aware of these different avenues in case of severe weather situations.

## 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
- District text messages (parents must have their cell phone number listed in the cellular field in Skyward)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- TV/radio stations

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

The decision to close schools or change start or dismissal times is made by the superintendent.

Find more info, including text messaging instructions



[www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org)  
Departments » Communications » Avenues of Communication



# Fine Arts Flourishes

Students excel in drama, visual art and dance. . . .

## One-Act Play State Champs



The Dawson High School **cast and crew of "Caucasian Chalk Circle"** swept up the UIL One-Act Play 4A State Championship. Approximately 250 4A high school shows compete each year.

## State VASE

At the Texas Art Education Association State Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE), Pearland High School's **Stephanie El-Quran** and Dawson High School's **Matthew Wu** received a state superior rating and medallion, and DHS's **Priya Kass** earned a state excellent rating. Advancement to State VASE is the highest level of achievement in visual art in Texas.



Matthew Wu

## Color Guard



The **Pearland High School Color Guard** ranked as the Scholastic A Class Champion at the 2014 Texas Color Guard Circuit State Championship.

The Pearland Oilers baseball team breaks through an "Oiler State of Mind" banner during a send-off for the state tournament in early June.



# Diamond dreamin'

## Baseball, softball teams celebrate solid seasons

Athletes gave gritty performances in the 2014 season.

For the fifth time in program history, Pearland Oilers baseball players advanced to the state tournament -- this year with a record of 37-5, which made them the No. 1 seed at state.

State-ranked in the top 10 for most of the season, the team ended the season as the UIL 5A Baseball State Semifinalist. Anthony Scalise coaches the team.

After making the playoffs in 2013 for the first time in program history, the Dawson Lady Eagles softball team continued to play with grit

this season and was only one playoff series away from qualifying for state.

Coached by David McCorkle, the Lady Eagles team went on to become the District 24-4A Region III Finalist.

Under the direction of Laneigh Clark and Michele Hyden, the Pearland Lady Oilers softball team proved a competitive powerhouse once again in Region III and the state, beating No. 2-state-ranked Brazoswood in the regional quarterfinals and ranking as the District 22-5A Region III Semifinalist.

# CTE students boast career, college skills



This May, Turner College and Career High School students were honored for earning dual degrees and/or 30 or more college credit hours before high school graduation.

Pearland ISD Career and Technical Education programs boasted numerous successes this spring.

Six DECA students from Pearland and Dawson high schools competed at the DECA International Career Development Conference, with PHS's **Shiv Patel** placing as a top-10 winner in business management and administration.

In HOSA, Turner College and Career High School's **Chelsi McFarland** advanced to the HOSA National Convention after winning second place in "Healthy Lifestyles" at state.

In addition, TCCHS celebrated 18 seniors this spring earning dual degrees and/or 30 or more college credit hours through a partnership with Alvin Community College.

## Did you know?

Turner CCHS students who graduate with an associate's degree will save up to \$43,000 on the first two years of college.

## Seniors honored for four years of straight A's



Dawson High School



Turner College and Career High School

Students with academic grit took the spotlight during the board of trustees' annual **All-A Banquet** this May.

Trustees honored high school students with an all-A record, including those who had achieved four years of straight A's

during their high school career.

From Dawson High School, four-year honorees included **Emilia Cavallaro, Pallavi Dev, Jonathan Jackson** (not pictured), **Natasha Mehta, Alexandra Morano, Swetha Ramamurthy, Hannah Reagan** and **Khalid Yusuf** (not pictured).

Pearland High School four-year honorees included **Beth Bishop, Shivam Dave, Brian Fonkert, Cody Karstedt, Elizabeth Nguyen** and **Amrit Perera**.

**Cody Hall** and **Abraham Tanvir** earned four years of straight "A's" from Turner College and Career High School.



Pearland High School

# Class of '14

by the numbers

**5** Valedictorians & salutatorians pursuing medical careers

**6** National Merit Scholarship winners

**16** Seniors with 4 years of all A's

**1,328** Graduates

## Senior Spotlight

For the first time ever, Pearland ISD celebrated three graduating classes at once. Turner College and Career High School seniors tossed their mortarboards at their campus, while students from Dawson and Pearland high schools accepted their diplomas during back-to-back ceremonies at Reliant Stadium.



Pearland High School graduate

**DHS Top 10 Graduates:**  
 Pallavi Dev (valedictorian)  
 Daniel Wu (salutatorian)  
 Emilia Cavallaro  
 Jonathan Jackson  
 Alexandra Morano  
 Courtney Pham  
 Swetha Ramamurthy  
 Jordan Todes  
 Sharon Yang  
 Khalid Yusuf

**PHS Top 10 Graduates:**  
 Shivam Dave (valedictorian)  
 Elizabeth Nguyen (salutatorian)  
 Beth Bishop  
 Rajan Desai  
 Brian Fonkert  
 Terrence Matelski  
 Olasubomi Olubeko  
 Amrit Perera  
 Justin Quintanilla  
 Rachel Thompson

**TCCHS Top 10 Graduates:**  
 Cody Hall (valedictorian)  
 Abraham Tanvir (salutatorian)  
 Priscilla Chuong  
 Alexandria Doxakis  
 Maggie Fetzer  
 Melissa Gonzalez  
 Jennifer Luna  
 Sky McCann  
 Harrison Mondich  
 Alya Muses



First graduating class of Turner College and Career High School



Dawson High School graduates

Congrats, class of 2014!



## Thank you, Strickland Chevrolet!

*Top teachers enjoy new set of wheels*



For the sixth consecutive year, Strickland Chevrolet gave Pearland ISD's Teachers of the Year the keys to new Chevy program vehicles for a month. Left: General manager Lee Mehta hands the keys of a Chevy Malibu to Dawson High School's Mark Lesmeister. Below: Lawhon Elementary's Taresa Jacobsen is ready to drive a Chevy Traverse off the lot.



*Pictured are (from left) ACU of Texas Community Marketing Specialist Joshua Ryding, ACU of Texas VP of Operations Debbie Keith, Pearland ISD Superintendent Dr. John Kelly, ACU of Texas Senior VP of Operations Corey Lecoq and parents Margaret Liner and Angie Foret.*

## ACU of Texas donates \$3,600 to Project Grad

Associated Credit Union of Texas recently donated \$3,622.50 to Pearland ISD's Project Graduation through its Mascot Visa Debit Card program.

Since 2011, these debit cards have raised approximately \$9,000 for the event for the district's graduating seniors.

ACU of Texas offers Dawson Eagles, Pearland Oilers and Turner Railcats Mascot Visa

Debit Cards to students, parents, faculty and community members.

Ten cents of every debit card transaction of \$5 or more is credited directly to Project Graduation.

For more information about ACU of Texas' Mascot Visa Debit Cards, visit <https://www.acutx.org/mascot-cards>.

## 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 gave in-kind donations, financial support and/or student and staff incentives.



[www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org)  
Departments » Communications »  
Partners in Education

- A&A Cleaning Services
- Academy Sports + Outdoors
- American Federation of Teachers
- Barnes & Noble Bookstore
- Brazoria County Fair Association
- Casa Olé
- Carter Freeman
- Chick-fil-A
- Chocolate Bayou Community Federal Credit Union
- Christian Helping Hands
- Coppinger Family YMCA
- Favors 4 Friends Charity Thrift Shop
- First United Methodist Church
- Golden Corral
- Gringo's
- Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union
- H-E-B Plus!
- HOPE Church Pearland
- Huntington Learning Center
- iT'Z Family, Food & Fun
- Kroger
- Lion's Club of Pearland
- Luby's/Fuddrucker's
- Macy's Pearland Town Center
- MBradford Management Associates, LLC
- M.D. Anderson Children's Art Project
- Method Evolution
- Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance
- Papa Murphy's
- Pearland Jazzercise
- Pearland Rotary Club
- Pet Hub Animal Rescue
- Project PASS
- Putt-Putt Funhouse
- Raising Cane's
- Rice University
- Sam's Club
- Schlotzsky's
- Silverlake Church
- South Park Funeral Home
- Sports Clips Haircuts
- Spring Creek BBQ
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Strickland Chevrolet
- Tammy Dexter
- Target
- The Vineyard Church Pearland
- Tia Artisst
- UHCL-Pearland Campus
- United Healthcare
- Wal-Mart - Main Street
- Wal-Mart - Dixie Farm
- Wells Fargo
- Westside Veterinary Hospital



This May, the Pearland ISD Education Foundation awarded 13 Innovative Teaching Grants -- worth more than \$10,600 -- to teachers and instructional staff. A surprise patrol visited each campus to announce the winners.

## Innovative Teaching Grant Recipients



Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union gave the inaugural donation to the Pearland ISD Education Foundation.

### Join founders' campaign

Want to enrich teaching and inspire learning? As an individual, business or organization, you have an opportunity to join the Pearland ISD Education Foundation founders' campaign.

With a donation of \$1,000 or more, you will not only impact students and teachers but also be recognized for the life of the foundation.

All donations are tax-deductible and will support innovative classroom programs that fall outside the district's general operating budget.

#### Founding Donors:

A&A Cleaning Services | ACU of Texas | James & Patricia Adams | Erin Asprey | Brown Interiors | Tony & Crystal Carbone | Charles D. Gooden Consulting Engineers | Coppinger Family YMCA | Brett & Katie Cordes | Lisa A. Brown & Scott Durfee | Bill & Janice Eisen | Julie & Johnny Garza Jr. | Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union | Dennis & Daphne Haskin | Phyllis Hazel | H-E-B | Greg & Amy Hill | Lion's Club of Pearland | Massey Ranch Elementary PTA | Drew & Traci Pelter | John Powell III, PC | Sheri Roberts | Fredi & Butch Seeker | Sam's Club Pearland | Shadow Creek Ranch Development Corporation | Steve & Jennifer Stephens | Buck Stevens | The Freeman Agency | Rep. Ed Thompson | Thompson & Horton LLP | Tutoring Club Pearland | Warfield Electric | Kathy Warfield | Kristin & Patrick Zadow



Left: Grant winner Brian Berlin (back, middle) of Carlestone Elementary



Right: Grant winner Lisa Brooks (far right) of Jamison Middle School/Pearland Junior High South

### Spring 2014 Winners

**Brian Berlin, Carlestone Elementary:** \$1,000 for student accordions

**Dr. Kristi Miller, C.J. Harris Elementary:** \$1,000 for drum program

**Kathy Harmon, C.J. Harris:** \$300 for multicultural clay amulet materials

**Tara Johnson, Lawhon Elementary:** \$800 for mosaic/mural supplies

**Jeanette Adleman and Kevin Fox, Magnolia Elementary:** \$1,000 for instruments

**Alyssa Kritzler, Shadycrest Elementary:** \$1,000 for garden/outdoor learning area

**Ruth Mondich and team, Shadycrest:** \$400 for Persons with Disabilities History and Awareness Month materials

**Lisa Brooks, Jamison Middle School/Pearland Junior High South:** \$500 for American Speech and Hearing Association School Conference

**Eileen Guinon, Sablatura Middle School:** \$1,000 for instruments and music supplies

**Elizabeth Hornik, Berry Miller Junior High:** \$1,000 for mosaic materials for campus patio

**Lynette McManus, Pearland High School:** \$1,000 for library Makerspace

**Abby Blank, Turner College and Career High School:** \$1,000 for Nspire calculators

**Jose Maya Ruiz and Jennifer Linkenauger, Turner CCHS:** \$640 for organic chemistry glassware kit



Grant winner Ruth Mondich of Shadycrest Elementary

#### Education Foundation



[www.pearlandisd.org/foundation](http://www.pearlandisd.org/foundation)

### Donate to the Foundation

Contact foundation coordinator Moniki Mason at [masonm@pearlandisd.org](mailto:masonm@pearlandisd.org) or 281.997.4987.

