

the progress

PREPARE PERFORM PRODUCE

Pearland Independent
School District

Summer 2013



Anticipation
is in the air



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Superintendent's Message

Welcome back, students and staff, to the 2013-14 school year! Anticipation is in the air in Pearland ISD. Recent achievements and newly-minted state/local funding decisions portend great things ahead. The Texas Legislature restored a substantial portion of school funding, allowing us to add some critical positions and prepare for increased enrollment. We will likely cross the 20,000-student threshold this fall. Turner College and Career High School will also open its doors as a third high school (of choice). In addition, new technology is being installed so students can use both school and home technology in a Wi-Fi environment at every campus.

This past year our students and staff achieved unprecedented honors. For a look at some of these, see the "World-Class Achievements" feature on Page 5 and stories throughout this issue. Our students excelled in SAT/ACT scores, Academic Decathlon, UIL academics and the National Merit Scholarship Program, just to name a few. Our career and technical education program brought home the gold in many areas -- and will soon produce a large number of high school graduates with associate degrees. Our fine arts program won new trophies and medals, catapulting us to the top in the Houston area. And only here can it be said that both (all) of our high schools advanced to state in the UIL one-act play competition this spring. Finally, our athletics program could become the juggernaut of the area, with teams advancing to high levels in almost every major sport.

Our goal is nothing short of becoming a "world-class" school district. This is not a title we confer on ourselves but one we hope others will confer on us. This year we will place a larger emphasis on the concept of "grit" -- perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Research demonstrates that grit outweighs intellectual ability and many other factors in producing successful young adults. This does not mean snowplowing obstacles out of the way but helping students work through both successes and failures. The father of Colt McCoy (the outstanding young ex-quarterback for UT) said that he "prepared his son for the path, not the path for his son." Multiple pathways are already available to our students. Yet all require sustained preparation and effort by students, parents and staff.

Pearland ISD seeks to become a "shining city on a hill" so long as we work together to build on momentum already fueling the educational engine. I'm proud to live in this community -- and to work alongside you. May God bless Pearland ISD!



Pictured on the cover are (top, from left) Kevin Cordes, Silvercrest Elementary; Kim Misher, Dawson High School; Brooke Bodron and Samantha Rizzo, Pearland High School; (middle, from left) Clark Hudson, GT Academy; Kailyn McIlhone, Anne Rasband, Meghan McClure, Alyssa Grover; Zachary Hall and Kimberly Quimio, Rogers Middle School; and (bottom) Drew Gray, Magnolia Elementary.

Teachers, principals take top honors

Four educators and two administrators received Pearland ISD's highest honors this May for inspiring and motivating students and colleagues.

Rogers Middle School's **Mandy Benedix** and PACE Center's **Carrie Cummings** won the district's Teacher of the Year Award.

Benedix, a two-time recipient of the award, focuses on educating her students' hearts as much as their minds by teaching a character development class "True Grit" and encouraging service to the community.

Working with students who need additional support and encouragement to stay on track to graduate, Cummings makes a mark by building her students' confidence, knowledge, integrity and expectations for their future.

The Glenda Dawson First-Year Teacher Award went to Cockrell Elementary's **Kristen Jorgenson** and Dawson High School's **Lauren Newby**.

A team player, Jorgenson builds a rapport with her students, parents and other teachers through her approachableness, positive attitude and true compassion.

With a customer service mentality, Newby makes all of her students feel valued, taking time to listen and do anything she can to help them succeed. In addition, Rogers' **Dana Miles** and DHS's **David Moody** were named the Principals of the Year.

Both see themselves as servants who are not afraid of doing the hard work to support, encourage and model excellence behind the scenes and on the front lines.



Above: Mandy Benedix and Carrie Cummings
Below: Kristen Jorgenson and Lauren Newby



Above: Dana Miles
Right: David Moody



Botkin joins board; Boegler, Decker re-elected

The Pearland ISD Board of Trustees welcomed a new face as well as two veteran trustees after the May 11 election.

Lance Botkin, a former Pearland ISD teacher/football coach who currently works in outside sales, has filled Position 6. Botkin has three children in Pearland ISD schools.

Both running unopposed, **Pam**



Newly-elected and re-elected trustees take the oath of office.

Boegler and **Rebecca Decker** were re-elected to Positions 7 and 5, respectively.



281.485.3203
www.pearlandisd.org

Board of Trustees

Rusty DeBorde, President
Pam Boegler, Vice President
Rebecca Decker, Secretary
Lance Botkin, Member
Adele Brennan, Member
Virgil Gant, 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



Principals experience mobile learning classroom initiatives during a Technology Principals' Academy.

Mobile learning to kick off this fall

Students and staff will take learning beyond the classroom walls as Pearland ISD transitions to a district-wide Wi-Fi learning environment by mid-November 2013.

Through this mobile learning initiative, Pearland ISD will integrate technology-based activities into the existing curriculum to increase student engagement and academic performance.

With their own devices or provided equipment, students may use a variety of 21st-century learning resources, including collaborative programs, social networking, online portfolios, classroom polling and virtual field trips.

The wireless technology will include the same filtering system as traditional computers on Pearland ISD's network.

BYOD Learning

Thanks to a district-wide Wi-Fi learning environment, students may see **Bring Your Own Device** learning opportunities in the classroom. Any personal device that has Wi-Fi capabilities will be able to access the district's BYOD network:

- Laptop
- Tablet
- Smartphones*
- DS
- iPod
- iPhone
- And much more. . .

*A smartphone that is Wi-Fi-enabled but does not have cellular service may be used to access the network. Schools may provide equipment for students without personal devices.



www.pearlandisd.org
Departments » Technology Services » Educational Technology »
Wireless, Mobile Learning, and BYOD

Nix, Bell to head CTE, Fine Arts departments

The Career and Technical Education and Fine Arts departments welcomed new directors this summer.

This June, **Dr. Toby Nix** took leadership of the CTE Department.

After 14 years as a classroom teacher, Nix transitioned to administration, serving as an assistant principal three years in Wills Point ISD and as a middle school and high school principal in Danbury ISD for the last three years.



Dr. Toby Nix

As a high school principal, Nix directed the school's CTE program, working with staff to increase student participation and build programs.

She looks forward to continuing to provide relevant, innovative, 21st-century CTE programs in Pearland ISD.

Nix recently earned a doctoral degree in secondary education and educational leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Tom Bell, former Pearland High School head band director, was appointed as director of Fine Arts in June.

Bell served as an assistant band director and percussion specialist for 14 years before coming to PHS as an associate band director for one year and head band director for the last four years.

As Fine Arts director, he hopes to support teachers in providing a world-class experience for students in the arts.

Bell earned his degree in music education from the University of North Texas.



Tom Bell

STAAR scores rank above state average

According to preliminary results, Pearland ISD students performed significantly above the state average on recent State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests.

On Aug. 8, the Texas Education Agency will release official test scores as well as district and campus accountability ratings.

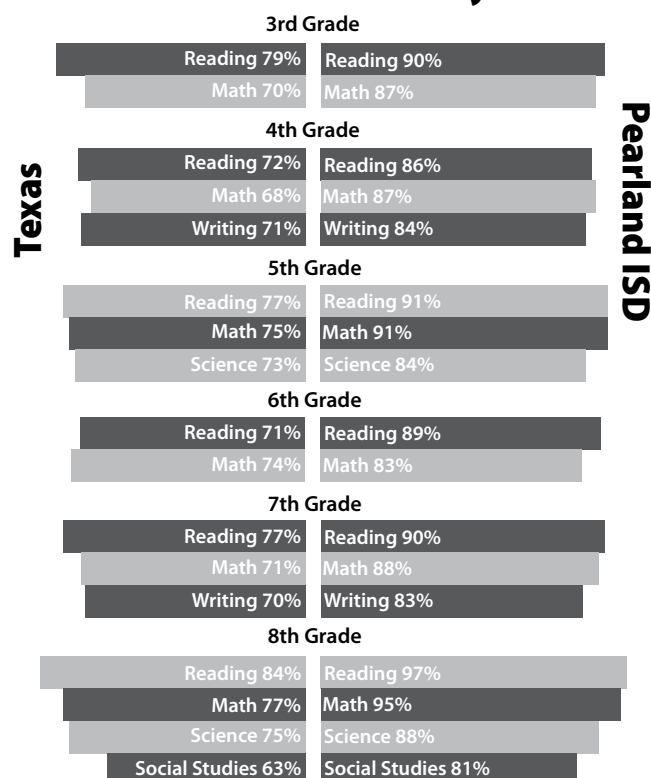
Administered in grades 3-11, the rigorous STAAR tests focus on readiness for success in subsequent grades and courses, in addition to measuring college and career readiness.

In 2012-13, high school students were required to take 15 end-of-course (EOC) exams to graduate. However, recently-passed House Bill 5 reduces that number to only five EOC tests: English I and II (reading and writing), Algebra I, biology and U.S. history.

Because HB 5 will bring more changes to state testing, Pearland ISD will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Pearland ISD students in grades 3-8 performed above the state average on all STAAR tests (see chart below). In addition, students made gains over last year's performance in all subject areas.

2012-13 STAAR Preliminary Results*



*Texas Education Agency will release official scores on Aug. 8.

DHS, PHS make 'Newsweek' list

Dawson and Pearland high schools have not only made the grade but passed with flying colors.

Both schools landed on the "Newsweek" America's Best High Schools list -- released in early May -- for their effectiveness in turning out college-ready graduates.

The 2013 "Newsweek" list ranks the best 2,000 public high schools nationwide based on six components:

"Thanks to DHS and PHS's high expectations, our students consistently embrace hard work, critical thinking and difficult challenges."

Margo Giguee

Director of Advanced Academics

- Graduation rate (25 percent)
- College acceptance rate (25 percent)
- AP/IB/AICE tests taken per student (25 percent)
- Average SAT/ACT scores (10 percent)
- Average AP/IB/AICE scores (10 percent)
- Percent of students enrolled in at least one AP/IB/AICE course (5 percent)

"Newsweek" invited more than 5,000 schools to participate in the survey, with nearly 2,500 responding. To be considered for the 2013 list, schools had to provide data from the 2011-12 school year.

Both DHS and PHS making the "Newsweek" list is especially noteworthy considering that many schools on the list (e.g., charter and magnet) have restricted admission. DHS and PHS, on the other hand, are large attendance-zone schools.

From left: Four-year straight-A scholars Payton Stephens, Shelby Laws, Haiyin Wang, Lacey Martin, Grace Li, Christopher Nguyen and Kevin Shao.



National Merit Scholars, straight-A students recognized

The class of 2013 graduated with honors this June, celebrating many academic achievements in addition to successful completion of high school coursework.

This year, Dawson High School boasted eight National Merit scholarship winners: **Augustus Ellis, Thomas Laroche, Grace Li, Jason Liu, Kevin Shao, Janie Vo, Shannon Wu and Annie Zhang.**

In addition, 10 DHS and Pearland High School students achieved four consecutive years of all "A's."

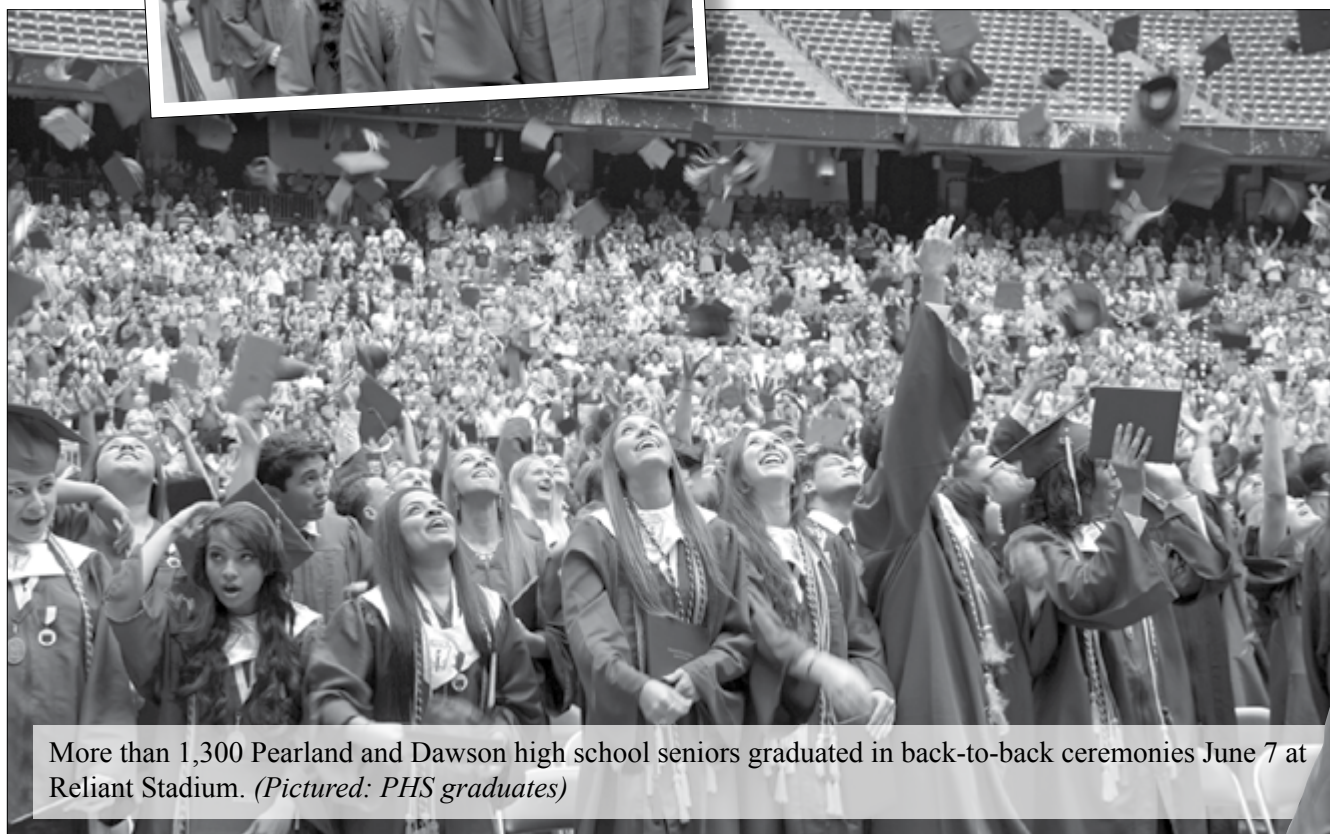
From DHS, four-year honorees included **Li, Liu, Christopher Nguyen, Shao, Haiyin Wang, Christian Wiggins and Zhang.**

Shelby Laws, Lacey Martin and Payton Stephens earned four years of straight "A's" from PHS.

PHS students line up to accept their diplomas.



Tossing the mortarboards



PHS Top 10 Graduates

Shelby Laws (valedictorian)
Rebecca Martin (salutatorian)
Estefania Espinosa
Sara Maynard
Rima Patel
Aliza Rahman
Roxanne Roberts
Elizabeth Shecterle
Josephine Thomas
Chethan Valleru

DHS Top 10 Graduates

Jason Liu (valedictorian)
Haiyin Wang (salutatorian)
Bofeng Chen
Grace Li
Christopher Nguyen
Thomas Nguyen
Kevin Shao
Benjamin Tran
Shannon Wu
Annie Zhang



DHS graduate

More than 1,300 Pearland and Dawson high school seniors graduated in back-to-back ceremonies June 7 at Reliant Stadium. (Pictured: PHS graduates)



The Dawson High School UIL academic team (above), including members of the one-act play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (right), edged out more than 70 other competitors to win the **UIL 4A State Academic Championship** for the second consecutive year.



World-Class Achievements

On the road to building world-class schools, Pearland ISD is proud to recognize students who have demonstrated passion and perseverance -- characteristics of grit -- during the 2012-13 school year.



Left: Three students made **perfect scores on their SAT or ACT**: Dawson High School's Jonathan Jackson and Kevin Shao and Pearland High School's Shivam Dave.

Right: The Pearland High School Academic Decathlon team finished **fifth overall at the national finals**. In the past 12 years, the team has won three state championships and placed second and fifth nationally.

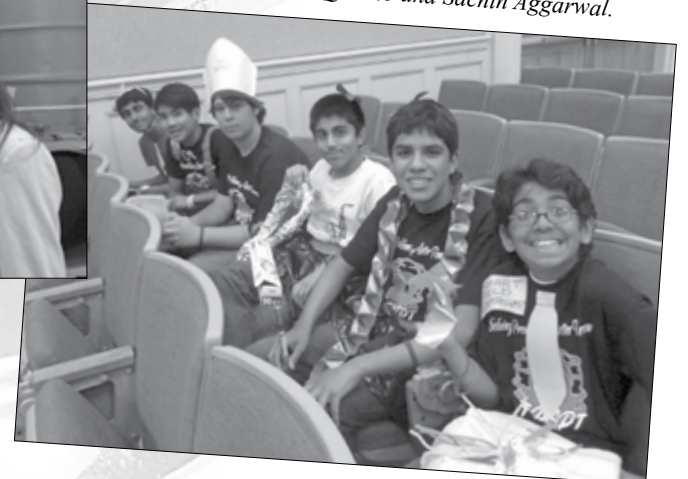


After winning the Pearland ISD Spelling Bee and the Houston PBS Bee, Sablatura Middle School's Shobha Dasari advanced to the semifinals of the **Scripps National Spelling Bee** in Washington, D.C.



Above: The Pearland High School cast, crew and directors of "South Pacific" swept up five **Tommy Tune awards** from Theatre Under the Stars: Best Musical, Best Leading Actress (Allison Anderson), Best Supporting Actor (Nathan Agnew), Best Crew & Technical Direction and Best Choreography.

Below: Six students placed among the top 10 in their division at the **Future Problem Solvers international conference**: (from right) Sablatura Middle School's Aayush Dave and Dawson High School's Aaron Macias, Anirban Sarkar, Michael Farner, Jason Quimio and Sachin Aggarwal.



School starts Monday, August 26

Find more back-to-school info online! →



www.pearlandisd.org
Information » Back To School Information

online registration

Pearland ISD will offer **annual online registration for all returning students.**

Beginning July 22, parents may log onto Skyward to register students for the 2013-14 school year.

For additional help, call 832.736.6966 and ask for a student data team member in the Technology Department.

For those without Internet access, computers will be available during teacher assignment/class schedule dates and times at each campus.

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 (see "registration/enrollment" times below).

Students new to Pearland ISD will register at their zoned campus (see times below).

Parent of a returning student, but don't have Skyward login info?



1. Visit 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.

Back-to campus hour

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

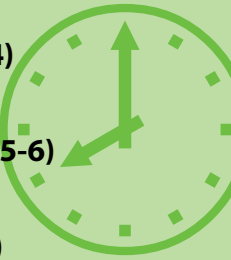
Elementary Schools (K-4)
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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.



school closings

If classes are cancelled or delayed because of severe weather conditions, parents will be notified by the district's automated notification system.

For news about school delays or closings, check www.pearlandisd.org, listen to local radio or television stations, follow the district's Facebook or Twitter feed or look for a district text message (for instructions for district text messaging, see Page 10).

Announcements will not be made when schools are open within scheduled hours.

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

Notified Stations:

Radio Stations: KTRH 100.3 FM

Television Stations: KTRH Channel 13, KHOU-TV Channel 11, KPRC-TV Channel 2, Channel 45

registration/enrollment*

Beginning July 22, all returning students may start the registration process online. New students must register at the campus during registration times listed here.

Elementary

Aug. 5-8: 8-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.
New student registration

Aug. 6: 5-7 p.m.
Late night registration (new students)

Aug. 20: 6-7 p.m.
Kindergarten orientation

Aug. 21: 3-7 p.m.
Pick up teacher assignment
(last names beginning with A-L)

Aug. 22: 3-7 p.m.
Pick up teacher assignment
(last names beginning with M-Z)

Middle School/ Junior High

Aug. 12-16: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
New student registration

Aug. 15: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Schedule pick-up
(middle school)

Aug. 16: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Schedule pick-up
(junior high)

Dawson HS

July 29 - Aug. 1: 7:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Packet pick-up

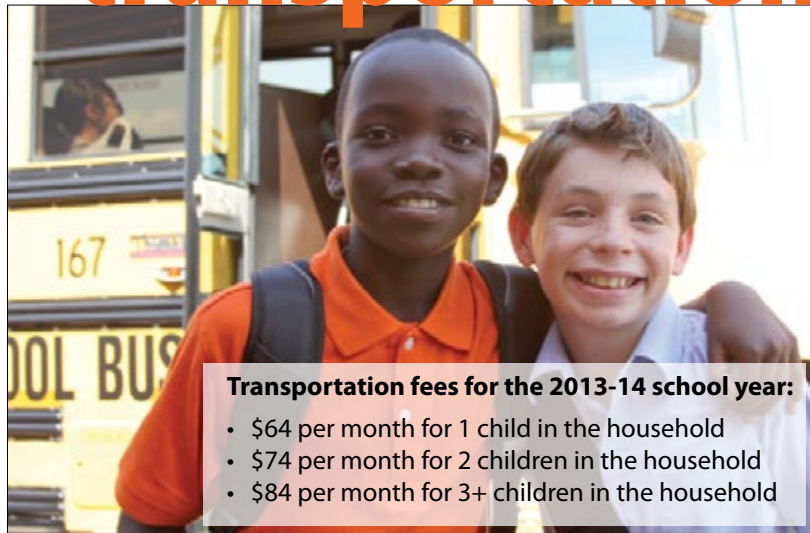
Aug. 7: 1-6 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 8: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 8: 6-8:30 p.m.
Flight School (9th-graders)

2013-14 fees & registration transportation

Jumaane Salim & Kyle Hicks, Sablatura Middle School



Transportation fees for the 2013-14 school year:

- \$64 per month for 1 child in the household
- \$74 per month for 2 children in the household
- \$84 per month for 3+ children in the household

Pearland ISD provides free bus transportation 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 22.

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

Contact Transportation at 281.485.3562.

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 the main page of the district website (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 to monitor and/or make payments to student meal accounts. You may register your child using his or her six-digit ID number.



2013-14 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	\$1.50	\$3.10
Reduced-price program	\$0.30	\$0.40

Pearland HS

Aug. 6: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 7: 1-6 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 8: 6-8 p.m.
Fish Camp (9th-graders)

Note: No Packet Pick-up
(All information online)

Turner CCHS

Aug. 15: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 3-6 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 15: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Parent orientation

Aug. 16: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (9th grade) & 9-11 a.m. (10-12th grade)
Cat Camp

Note: No Packet Pick-up
(All information online)

PACE Center

Aug. 7: 1-6 p.m.
Registration at campus

Aug. 8: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Registration at campus

phone directory

Education Support Center - 281.485.3203
Dr. John Kelly, Superintendent

Carleston Elementary - 281.412.1412
Dr. Faviola Cantu, Principal

Challenger Elementary - 281.485.7912
Lisa Nelson, Principal

Cockrell Elementary - 832.736.6600
Gerri Roberts, Principal

C.J. Harris Elementary - 281.485.4024
Brenda Keimig, Principal

Lawhon Elementary - 281.412.1445
Michelle Pourchot, Principal

Magnolia Elementary - 281.727.1750
Sharon Gifford, Principal

Massey Ranch Elementary - 281.727.1700
Heather Block, Principal

Rustic Oak Elementary - 281.482.5400
Beth West, Principal

Shadycrest Elementary - 281.412.1404
Michelle Kiefer, Principal

Silvercrest Elementary - 832.736.6000
Lori Campbell, Principal

Silverlake Elementary - 713.436.8000
La'Kesha Vaughn, Principal

Alexander Middle School - 832.736.6700
Dr. Jimmy Nowell, Principal

Sam Jamison Middle School - 281.412.1440
Sharon Bradley, Principal

Rogers Middle School - 832.736.6400
Dana Miles, Principal

Sablatura Middle School - 281.412.1500
Verna Tipton, Principal

Berry Miller Junior High - 281.997.3900
Kim Brooks, Principal

Pearland Junior High East - 281.485.2481
Dr. Annette Chambliss, Principal

Pearland Junior High South - 281.727.1500
Jason Frerking, Principal

Pearland Junior High West - 281.412.1222
Andrea Wenke, Principal

Dawson High School - 281.412.8800
David Moody, Principal

Pearland High School - 281.997.7445
Larry Berger, Principal

Turner College & Career High School - 281.727.1602
Dr. Jennifer Morrow, Principal

PACE Center - 281.412.1599
Julia Hall, Principal

***Note:** Check www.pearlandisd.org or call campus for updates.



Searcy Ninth Grade Center will return to Pearland High School this fall to accommodate student growth at the high school level in east Pearland.

Searcy NGC to combine with PHS

Beginning in August 2013, Sheryl Searcy Ninth Grade Center and Pearland High School faculty and staff will be combined, with grades 9-12 under the leadership of PHS principal Larry Berger.

Although much of SNGC was used for ninth-graders, facility needs within PHS already required the use of the SNGC cafeteria and other spaces to accommodate student growth.

With the opening of Turner College and Career High School this fall and the ability to use more areas of SNGC for upperclassmen, PHS will better accommodate current and anticipated enrollment growth on the east side of Pearland.

The Searcy name will continue to be displayed proudly and used to designate the north end of the combined PHS complex.

TURNER

COLLEGE & CAREER HIGH SCHOOL

Set to open this August

Turner College and Career High School will open this August to students who are interested in earning professional certifications and up to 60 college credit hours or an associate of arts degree by graduation.

The campus will hold a public dedication ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2 p.m. at 4717 Bailey Road. A VIP reception and equipment fundraiser hosted by the Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance will follow at 2:45 p.m.

TCCHS will offer career pathways in medical science, business/finance, agriculture science, art and technology and science, technology, engineering and math.

TCCHS enrollment -- approximately 800 students -- has exceeded Pearland ISD's expectations.

About 500 students will attend for the entire school day, while another 200-300 Dawson and Pearland high school students will take Career and Technical Education courses for two class periods at TCCHS.

TCCHS students choosing to pursue an associate of arts degree will graduate as college juniors and save approximately \$43,000 on the first two years of college.

High school elective coursework will be specialized to lead to professional certifications.



Pearland ISD's Stephen Grover (middle) and Ali Kearney take an Alvin Community College Spanish course at TCCHS during the summer.

Enrollment Facts

- **30%** -- Students pursuing an associate degree or 60 college credit hours before graduation
- **30%** -- Students not pursuing college courses
- **40%** -- Students taking one or more college classes (between 3-60 credit hours)
- **95%** -- Students completing an elective pathway that leads to one or more career certifications and practicums/internships



Logo courtesy of VYPE Magazine

PHS-hosted Texas Volleyball Invitational to be televised live

The Pearland High School Volleyball Program proudly announces live televising of the 2013 Texas Volleyball Invitational this August.

Comcast SportsNet Houston will televise live the third-place and championship matches of the 2013 tournament on Saturday, Aug. 17.

Hosted by PHS, the tournament will be held Aug. 15-17 at 21 different sites to accommodate approximately 80 of the state's top teams.

This will mark the first live broadcast of a high school volleyball match since 2001.

CSN Houston is available to all local cable, satellite and Telco TV providers: channels 31/131 in Brazoria County and channels 39/639, 42/723, 73/473 and 35/293 in the Houston area.

Kind Kids

Students serve with a smile

In and outside their classrooms, students are meeting real-world needs in the community and beyond.

Right: Magnolia Elementary student Alejandro Barrios crawls through a tunnel during the annual PPCD Motor Skills Day.



Pearland Junior High East National Junior Honor Society members (from left) Grace Lee, Taylor Newman and Evelyn Espinosa made blankets and stuffed animals for the Pearland Police Department to give to crime victims.

Alexander Middle School student Jarvis Helaire (right) and his classmates created pottery bowls for the ninth annual Empty Bowls Houston event, which benefited the Houston Food Bank and helped to feed hungry and homeless people in the community.



Portraits of Perseverance

Students accomplish their goals with spirit and grit

Above: During an annual Earth Day project, students in Silverlake Elementary teacher Danette Marsh's classroom cleaned the entire campus playground.



Above: Cockrell Elementary student Isaiah Torres celebrates his completion of the STAAR test.



During a school-wide service fair, Rogers Middle School students (like Amy Kelso and Oliver Fleming, above) showcased positive projects they had done to make a difference in the community.



Through a matching grant from the National English Honor Society, the Dawson High School NEHS chapter raised \$500 for library supplies for a middle school in Yediyur, India.

Student dress code modified, high school pass/fail option offered



C.J. Harris Elementary students (from left) Courtney Sharpe, Peyton Lee and Reyna Vargas sport spirit shirts. Approved campus/district/college spirit shirts are permitted in the modified student dress code.

Pearland ISD recently announced changes to the student dress code and a pass/fail option for qualifying high school elective courses.

The board of trustees modified the 2013-14 dress code for grades PK-12. These changes include. . .

- Decorations are permitted on pants pockets.
- Shoes with shimmer/glitter are permitted.
- Solid-colored leggings are allowed under a dress, skirt, skort, jumper or shorts of appropriate length. (They may not be worn with just a long shirt.)
- Approved campus/district/college spirit shirts are permitted.
- Sheer fabric is not permitted.

In addition, a pass/fail option for qualifying elective courses will begin this fall with the 2013-14 freshman class.

This new option, starting with 2013-14 freshmen, will allow students who receive an "A" in a qualifying elective class to request that it be converted afterward to a pass/fail grade. Pass/fail grades do not affect GPA.

Classes that qualify for the pass/fail option include band, color guard/winter guard, vocal ensemble choir, drill team, cheer and athletics.

For more information, students may consult their counselor.



www.pearlandisd.org
Information » Back To School Information »
2013-14 Dress Code



Make sure your cell phone contact information is updated in Skyward to receive district text messages.

Text messaging offered as additional emergency notification tool

Pearland ISD recently launched SMS text messaging for parents.

Messages will be sent to provide timely, relevant information, including school cancellations, delays and other emergency notifications.

Cell phone numbers for text messages will be pulled only from primary parent/guardian information in the cellular field in Skyward, not from emergency contacts.

Parents should ensure that their contact information is up to date. If your contact information changes during the school year, please update it immediately by calling your child's school office or logging into Skyward Family Access to make changes.

Subscribe to Text Messaging

1. Log into Skyward Family Access at www.pearlandisd.org.
2. Under General Information, click on the "Student Information" link.
3. Click on the "Request Change(s) to My Child's Information" link on the right-hand side of the page.
4. In the Primary Family Information box, click on the "Request Changes to Family Information" button on the right-hand side of the page.
5. In the drop-down boxes for phone numbers, enter your cell phone number as "Cellular." If a number is listed in the cellular field, you will receive text messages to that number.

All confirmation text messages and alerts will come from **23177** or **63079**. Please save this number as Pearlland ISD so you can quickly recognize it as the official source of the messages.

Shadycrest, PJH West welcome new principals

Two campuses welcome new but familiar leaders this fall.

At Shadycrest Elementary, former assistant principal **Michelle Kiefer** has accepted the role of campus principal.

Kiefer has 18 years' experience in education -- as a teacher, school counselor and administrator. She has served as Shadycrest's assistant principal for the past six years.

In keeping with the campus motto "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow," Kiefer hopes to continue to prepare students to become positive, effective future leaders while promoting collaboration among teachers and staff.

Kiefer holds a master's degree in school counseling from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

With Searcy Ninth Grade Center and Pearlland High School being combined this fall, former SNGC principal **Andrea Wenke** is taking the reins of Pearlland Junior High West.



Michelle Kiefer



Andrea Wenke

Wenke boasts 30 years in education, with 17 of those in the classroom. She spent three years at PHS as an associate principal before serving the past four years as SNGC principal.

As principal of PJH West, Wenke plans to cultivate teachers' talents and provide inspiration, support and opportunities in their quest for knowledge and professional growth.

Wenke earned her master's degree in mid-management from UHCL.

Dare to Excel Fun Fact:

Through assistance from the Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance, 24 students received dual credit/certification scholarships to attend Turner College and Career High School.



Above: Incoming Turner College and Career High School student Paulette Parker accepts a dual credit/certification scholarship.

Rotary Dare to Excel awards \$43,844 in scholarships

This spring, thanks to community generosity, 64 Pearland ISD students took one step closer to achieving their educational and career dreams.

Sponsored by the Pearland and 288 Corridor Rotary clubs, the annual Rotary Dare to Excel Scholarship Program awarded \$43,844 in scholarships April 16 to graduating Dawson and Pearland high school seniors and incoming Turner College and Career High School students.

In addition, numerous local businesses, service organizations and private citizens helped to fund this year's scholarships.

Despite diverse backgrounds, scholarship recipients shared these traits: career and leadership potential, strong civic commitment, good character and plans to pursue higher education and workforce training opportunities after graduation.

Education foundation moving forward

Pearland ISD is moving forward with establishing an education foundation in 2013-14, with hopes of launching a teacher grant prize patrol and a scholarship endowment by the end of the first year.

Although district enrollment continues to increase, state and federal funding have not kept pace.

An education foundation will provide financial support to Pearland ISD, its teachers and classrooms through fundraising for programs and projects that may fall outside the district's general operating budget.

This support may include teacher training, innovative programs, district recognition events, scholarships, grants, general operating expenses and increased community involvement.

In addition, a foundation will allow companies, organizations and individuals to receive the maximum tax credit for their donations and support of the district.

Companies and private individuals may contribute to the foundation through payroll deductions, fundraising events, donations, business/industry support and corporate grants.

For more information about the foundation, contact Business/Community Liaison Moniki Specks at specksm@pearlandisd.org.

Community Partners

Pearland ISD thanks the following community partners for their generous support. These partners help create the best learning environment possible for students through in-kind donations, financial support and student and staff incentives:

Academy Sports + Outdoors
Barnes & Noble Bookstore
Brazoria County Fair Association
Casa Olé
Chocolate Bayou Community Federal Credit Union
Coppinger Family YMCA
Edible Arrangements
Favors 4 Friends Charity Thrift Shop
Golden Corral
Great American Financial
Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union
H-E-B Plus!
HOPE Church Pearland
Houston Astros
Houston Dynamo
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Houston Rockets
Houston Texans
Huntington Learning Center
iT'Z Family, Food & Fun
Luby's/Fuddruckers
Macy's Pearland employees
M.D. Anderson Children's Art Project

Northern Brazoria County Education Alliance
Pearland Area Republican Women
Pearland Rotary Club
Pet Hub Animal Rescue
Project PASS
Putt-Putt Funhouse
Raising Cane's
Rice University
Rotary Club of Pearland
Schlotzsky's
South Park Funeral Home
Sports Clips Haircuts
Spring Creek BBQ
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Strickland Chevrolet
Tammy Dexter
The Vineyard Church Pearland
Wal-Mart - Main Street
Wal-Mart - Dixie Farm
Wells Fargo
Woodforest National Bank



Above: Strickland Chevrolet's Todd Harvey (far left) and Lee Mehta (far right) present Teacher of the Year winners Mandy Benedix and Carrie Cummings with two Chevy Tahoe program vehicles for one month.



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"The Progress" is published biannually by Pearland Independent School District 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 Kim Hocott, Director of Communications, at 281.485.3203.



2013 - 2014

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dates to remember

- Aug. 25 Turner College & Career High School Dedication
Aug. 26 First Day of School
Sept. 2 Labor Day (Holiday)
Sept. 5 Meet the Teacher - Elementary Schools
Sept. 9 Meet the Teacher - DHS, PHS and PACE Center
Sept. 10 Meet the Teacher - Turner CCHS
Sept. 12 Meet the Teacher - Middle Schools
Sept. 16 Meet the Teacher - Junior High Schools
Sept. 25 Early Release
Oct. 14 Staff In-service (No School for Students)
Oct. 23 Report Cards
Nov. 6 Early Release
Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 20 Early Release
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 Christmas/New Year's Break
Jan. 6 Staff In-service (No School for Students)
Jan. 8 Report Cards
Jan. 20 Staff In-service (No School for Students)

JULY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8**	9**	10**	11**	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
			1	2	3	
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER (H)						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21^	22^	23^	24^	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
			1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25+	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
1	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	7
8	9*	10*	11*	12*	13*	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Holidays

July 4 (Independence Day)
September 2 (Labor Day)
November 25 - 29 (Thanksgiving)
December 23 - 31 (Christmas)
January 1 - 3 (New Year's)
January 20* (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
March 10 - 14 (Spring Break)
April 18 (Good Friday)
May 26 (Memorial Day)

* Staff In-service day

Staff In-service

(No school for students)
August 19-22 (Staff Development)
August 23 (Workday)
October 14 (Staff Development)
January 6 (Workday)
January 20 (Staff Development)
February 17 (Staff Development)
June 6 (Workday)

Grading Periods

First Semester (78 days)
1st August 26 - Oct 18
2nd October 21 - Dec. 20
Second Semester (99 days)
3rd January 7 - March 21
4th March 24 - June 5

Early Release

September 25
November 6
December 20
February 5
February 21 (Grades 9 - 12 Only)
June 5

Report Cards

October 23
January 8
March 26
June 5 (grades PK-4)
June 16 (grades 5-12 Mailer)

Progress Reports

September 18 October 2
November 13 December 11
February 5 February 26
April 16 May 14

Bad weather days are Nov. 25 and June 5. If district uses June 5, then June 6 becomes early dismissal for students, and June 7 (Saturday) is teacher workday.

^ TAKS Testing (subject to change)
* STAAR Testing (subject to change)
+ Bad Weather Day
g Graduation
H Pearland History Month

JANUARY						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH						
						1
2	3^	4^	5^	6^	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31*					

APRIL						
		1*	2*	3*	4*	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21**	22**	23**	24**	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
			1	2	3	
4	5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10
11	12*	13*	14*	15*	16*	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5+	6g	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24*	25*	26	27	28
29	30					