



Elgin Independent School District

Pride Prints



October 24, 2023

*The Elgin High School Marching Band performed at Region 26 UIL Marching competition on Oct. 17. **More inside.***



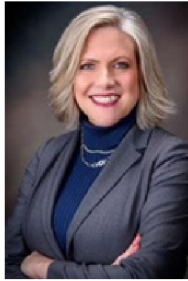
Celebrating a heritage



Elgin Middle School instructional coach Jorge Badillo and special guest Mayra Agis performed traditional ballet folklórico dances during the Elgin Middle School Hispanic Heritage Month assembly Oct. 13. More on district Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations inside.

Superintendent's Message:

Governor Abbott announced a special session of the 88th Texas Legislature that began Oct. 9 for the purpose of providing private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. The Governor did not include education funding in the call. I don't think I can overstate the importance of this 30-day special session. It is critical that you pay close attention to the actions our lawmakers take and how those actions will impact your public schools.



Dr. Rueter

Schools have been hugely impacted by record inflation over the past few years and need more than \$14 billion just to return to the buying power we had in June 2019. Just as you have all felt the impact of inflation, we are seeing massive increases in the cost of utilities, fuel, insurance, food, and other expenses necessary for operating our school district. Perhaps most importantly, our staff are in the same boat as you and need cost-of-living adjustments just to keep up with the rising costs of groceries, health care and gas. Unfortunately, the school finance system does not increase funding when inflation rises, and contrary to common belief, when your property values rise, schools do not receive more money for raises or operating expenses. Instead, the state gets to fund less of the system.

Because of this, the legislature needs to prioritize all available funding for public school students, classrooms and staff. The legislature only provided about \$2.6 billion in the regular session earlier this year. They set aside \$4.5 billion more for public education that can only be spent if a bill is passed to spend it. Half a billion dollars is set aside specifically for private school subsidies, and the Lieutenant Governor has made it clear that the Senate will not provide the remaining \$4 billion to schools unless the House passes private school subsidies. Our students and staff deserve better.

With significant increases in revenue expected over the next two years, the legislature has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fully fund public education and stabilize our schools by tying funding to inflation. This will allow schools to keep up with rising costs while continuing to raise the bar for student achievement, attract and retain high-quality educators, provide safe and supportive learning environments, and further bolster the economic engine of this state.

We will be watching closely as the legislature considers these important topics, and we would like you to follow along as well. We will be posting on district social media about these topics over the next few weeks, and I'll keep you updated as the

session progresses. I encourage you to educate yourselves on these issues and stay engaged. Be prepared to contact your lawmakers to talk about what your public schools mean to you and how important it is to support our teachers and staff. You can find out who represents you in the state Capitol by going to [Who Represents Me?](#) and typing in your address.

Thank you for entrusting us with your students and giving us the opportunity to partner with you in educating the future of our great state. Let's make sure our representatives in Austin know how important our schools are to our community.

Security officers now on campus



The Elgin ISD Board of Trustees on Monday, Sept. 18, voted to approve a contract with Texas Public Safety and Investigations (TXPSI) that will provide an armed security officer at each Elgin ISD campus.

TXPSI security officers started on campuses Tuesday, Oct. 17.

This action addresses the requirements of state House Bill 3, focused on school safety. The legislation, approved earlier this year, requires at least one armed security officer be present during school hours at each district campus.

Each of the security officers assigned to Elgin ISD hold non-commissioned and commissioned security licenses with Texas Department of Public Safety, and are certified in CPR, first aid, and AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Some have also previously worked as emergency medical technicians and firefighters, and all are licensed school crossing guards.



'58 Wildcats celebrated at events

The 1958 Elgin High School Class 1A state finalist football team celebrated its 65th anniversary of the achievement this past week. The team was honored at Friday's EHS varsity football game at Wildcat Stadium and on Saturday, City of Elgin officials unveiled a bench along Main Street in their honor.



Dignitaries examine P-TECH program

The Elgin ISD Early College High School P-TECH Welding program on Oct. 4 welcomed a host of dignitaries to campus, including representatives of the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Austin Community College, Athena Manufacturing and Educate Texas.

The visit was one of three scheduled P-TECH program stops across Texas by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, in an effort to gather a comprehensive assessment of the different programs. Elgin ISD partners with Austin Community College on curriculum alignment, data sharing and more.

The district partners with Athena Manufacturing on work-based learning opportunities including internships and mentoring, as well



as guaranteed student job interviews upon completion of the program. Educate Texas is Texas Education Agency's selected technical assistance service provider for Texas College and Career Readiness School Models, supporting P-TECH and ECHS programs across the state.



District celebrates National Principals Month

Each October, we honor some very special people for their commitment to our children during National Principals Month.

Principals are among the hardest working, yet often overlooked individuals in education. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success.

- BTW Elementary Principal: Linda Tamez
- Elgin Elementary Principal: Megan Wehrle
- Neidig Elementary Principal: Dr. Arthur Martinez
- Intermediate Principal: Jeffrey Martinez

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- Middle School Principal: Bobby Joe Truhill
- Elgin High School Principal: Dr. Jason Rodman
- Phoenix High School Principal: Michelle Ruthven



College and Career Symposium held



Elgin High School hosted its first-ever College and Career Symposium on Oct. 2 at the EHS cafeteria. Parents and students listened as a panel of local industry leaders and higher education representatives discussed the college application process, financial aid, internships and more.

Among those on hand were representatives of Austin Community College, local plumbers and pipefitters union Local 286, Samsung, Tesla, Texas Lutheran and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

EHS Cheer takes part in Spirit Fest

EHS Cheer participated in TCU Spirit Fest in Fort Worth on Sept. 30, along with approximately 600 cheerleaders from across the state.

The students learned and performed a dance and stunts at the TCU/West Virginia halftime show.

EHS cheerleaders spent several weeks preparing for the annual event.



Neidig students get visitors via helicopter

Members of the Joint Counter Drug Task Force visited Neidig Elementary on Oct. 3 via helicopter as part of a drug awareness campaign.



Elgin ISD represented at Delgado event in Bastrop

The Elgin High School Choir performed at the Delgado event, celebrating equality for Latinos in Texas, at the Bastrop ISD Performing Arts Center on Sept. 30. EHS students Michelle Rico-Cuellar, Edgar Lopez and Selene Plancarte also spoke at a panel discussion at the event.

Campuses celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Elgin Middle School instructional coach Jorge Badillo and special guest Mayra Agis performed traditional ballet folklórico dances during the Elgin Middle

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School Hispanic Heritage Month assembly Oct. 13.

Elgin ISD Bilingual/ESL Coordinator Dr. Elisa Clark was among the event special guests, and students also spoke on famous Hispanic figures around the world.

Other district campuses hosted similar events around the Hispanic Heritage Month theme.

Pictured below: Elgin High School student Daniela Osorio-Perez performed during the Neidig Elementary School Hispanic Heritage Month celebration Sept. 28 at Neidig. Osorio-Perez attended Neidig and is a current member of the EHS Purple Diamonds dance team.



EMS wins first at meet

Elgin Middle School Boys Cross Country captured first place at the Georgetown Invitational earlier this month. The EMS girls team had two medalists, for a total of six medalists at the event.

#RunYourBestRACE



EHS Homecoming



Band competes at Region Contest

The Elgin High School Wildcat Band performed at Region 26 UIL Marching competition on Oct. 17. The band had a fantastic run and the judges awarded them excellent ratings.

Upcoming events for the band department include Winter concerts, Percussion concerts, UIL Solo & Ensemble, Winterguard (the version of colorguard contests performed on gymnasium floors) and much more.

