

November  
17, 2023



Elgin Independent School District

# PAY Prints

*Elgin ISD campuses honored our military veterans this month. For more on the events, see page 6.*



## *A Good Weather Day*



*Elgin Elementary students welcomed meteorologist Kristen Currie to campus last week. For more on the campus College, Career and Military Readiness Week activities, see page 4.*



## Superintendent's Message:

This time of year is one of my favorite times: when I get to spend time with family, and focus on the things that I am so thankful for. The people in our wonderful school district are absolutely incredible, and they make the greatest difference for our students every day.



**Dr. Rueter**

My gratitude for their commitment and dedication to working with our children is so great. Our district could never do the work of serving kids without the people in every role throughout our organization, from our bus drivers and maintenance staff to our teachers and campus support folks.

The work of educating children requires high levels of all of the characteristics that we are highlighting this year with our "Run Your Best RACE" theme – Relationships, Affirmation, Collaboration, and Empowerment. Every week in my staff letter, I recognize people in our district who are exemplifying these attributes. It is powerful to hear the strong affirmations from district and campus staff who want to compliment someone for showing one of these qualities in a way that makes a huge difference to others. I strive for the culture of our district to be one that supports our people and listens to their ideas for how we can always do better.

Some of the greatest blessings in life are the adults we had in our lives that supported and cared for us along the way; those are the people we remember for how they made a difference in some way to influence an outcome for us. The work we are all doing every day in Elgin ISD is life-changing work. We have an opportunity every day to impact a child's life for the better and to do something that we may not even realize is meaningful to them. Our smiles, greetings, conversations, and even finding ways to be intentional with our actions and words are ways that we can be true difference-makers!

So during this time of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for all of the Elgin ISD Difference-Makers! Thank YOU for doing what you do every day to build a culture of support and strong relationships. Our kids are thankful for you, too! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the break!

## Campuses, Facilities Closed For Break

Elgin ISD schools and facilities will be closed Nov. 20–24 for Thanksgiving break. Classes resume Nov. 27 at normal times.

## THANKSGIVING BREAK



NOV. 20–24

## Student Chosen for NASA Aerospace Program

Elgin High School student Garrison Vragel has been selected for the NASA Texas High School Aerospace Scholars Program. This is a competitive program that had over 900 applicants.

The program, spanning from Oct. 30 to March 28, allows scholars to engage in online learning modules led by NASA engineers and scientists, and explore interactive lessons related to space exploration. During the program, course leaders will select certain scholars to participate in a virtual summer learning Moonshot simulation project.



The top six out of 27 teams will earn an all-inclusive, air or ground transportation, four-day on-site residential experience. This experience will consist of elite private tours of the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, including Mission Control, astronaut training facilities, and live experiment labs where plants are tested and identified to see which can survive on other planets.

The program alone counts for 0.5 credit in a Science

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elective and if all modules are successfully completed by March 28, students are deemed program alumni.

Vragel is planning to apply for the University of Texas Aerospace Engineering Program and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## EES Teacher Takes Part In Holdsworth Center Retreat in Austin

In October, The Holdsworth Center in Austin welcomed more than 100 teachers from over 40 school districts in the Austin and San Antonio area for a retreat dedicated to the thought that public education holds worth.

Taking place at The Holdsworth Center Campus on Lake Austin, the retreat features workshops on nutrition and stress management, group exercise options, massages and more.

Educators have access to state-of-the-art classrooms, a 300-person lecture space, an open-air amphitheater, walking trails, rooms for overnight stays and a two-story dock classroom.

Among those selected for the retreat was our very own Abby Callazo, Elgin Elementary Teacher of the Year and Elgin ISD District Elementary Teacher of the Year, who spoke about her experience at Monday's Elgin ISD School Board meeting.



## Elgin Middle Students Display Artwork

Elgin Middle School artistic talents were on full display this month.

Students competed in the Hogeye Art Contest and did not disappoint. Their pieces were on display at The Clever Tiger in down-



town Elgin.

Winners were:

- First place:  
Sterling C.  
"Chef Debra"  
7th grade
- Second place:  
Alicia A.  
"Downtown Pig"  
8th grade
- Third place:  
Lily J.  
"Pumpkin Patch Pig"  
8th grade



- Honorable Mention:  
Iris R.  
"Priscilla the Pig"  
8th grade

## EHS Choirs Perform At Capital City Clash festival



The EHS Choirs took home straight superior ratings at the Capital City Clash on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

In addition, the EHS Treble Choir earned 2nd runner up for Treble Choirs and the EHS Tenor/Bass Choir earned first place for Tenor/Bass ensembles at the festival.



## Currie, Williams Visit Elgin Elementary



Elgin Elementary welcomed meteorologists Kristen Currie and Hunter Williams to campus last week as part of the school’s College, Career and Military Readiness Week activities.

Currie, of KXAN News, provided a presentation on weather conditions to second-grade students, while Williams, of KVUE, spoke to third- and fourth-grade students the following day.

Our thanks to both for their work in the education of our students.

## EHS Traffic Pattern Moves Into Phase 4

Due to the County Line Road construction project, the new road connecting FM 1100 and Elgin High School, directly across from Neidig Elementary School, will be temporarily open only for campus visitors, staff, Phoenix High School students and EISD buses.

The new traffic pattern at EHS moved into Phase 4 on Nov. 13, and is expected to continue through the district’s Winter Break.

Traffic pattern adjustments at EHS will most likely continue through late 2024. Please review [Phase 4 maps](#) in parent emails and on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)).

In addition to the new road, upgrades at Elgin High School will include a new auditorium, multi-purpose facility, two-story classroom addition, cafeteria expansion, Career and Technical Education wing expansion and additional parking. The upgrades are among projects approved by voters in the 2021 district bond improvement plan.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we look forward to completion of these projects.

## Public Invited To Take Part In Elementary Rezoning Process

We’re proud to open new elementary schools in 2024 and 2025. As part of the process, Elgin ISD has begun the process of analyzing its current elementary school attendance zone boundaries.

Details on upcoming meetings:

- Booker T. Washington Cafeteria:  
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
- Neidig Elementary School Cafeteria:  
Thursday, Nov. 30, 5:30–6:30 p.m.



## Campuses Host Award Events

Elgin ISD campuses recently hosted awards ceremonies celebrating the accomplishments of their students during the first nine weeks of the 2023–24 school year.

Shown above is the Elgin Middle School eighth-grade awards ceremony, held Nov. 2.

Our thanks to everyone who turned out for award events at their student’s campus, and congratulations to all our students for their hard work and time.

## District Represented At Celebration

The City of Elgin hosted its annual Day of the Dead celebration in downtown Elgin. The event included a parade, live music, ballet folklórico, arts and crafts and vendors at Veterans Park.

Our Elgin ISD Bilingual and English as a Second Language, Elgin High School Band Boosters, EHS Purple Diamonds Dance and the EHS Project Cele-

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bration organization were among those on-hand, selling food, specialty items and providing information about the district.

Elgin Elementary newspaper reporters provided coverage of the Dia de los Muertos Parade as well.



Students Make Academic All-State Team

The following Elgin High School students have been named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All State Cross Country teams:

- Courtney Shepard (second team)
- Makayla Taylor-Bowman (second team)

Congratulations to Courtney and Makayla!

ACADEMIC  
**ALL-STATE**  
CROSS-COUNTRY  
COURTNEY SHEPARD



ACADEMIC  
**ALL-STATE**  
CROSS-COUNTRY  
MAKAYLA TAYLOR-BOWMAN



Students Named All-District

Congratulations to our Elgin High School volleyball Wildcats named All District:

- First team: Meta Elliott
- Second team: Avanity Pleasant
- Honorable mention: Nadia Sagastume, Trinity Martinez, and Bella Navejas

VOLLEYBALL  
**ALL DISTRICT**  
FIRST TEAM  
META ELLIOTT



VOLLEYBALL  
**ALL DISTRICT**  
SECOND TEAM  
AVANITY PLEASANT



VOLLEYBALL  
**ALL DISTRICT**  
HONORABLE MENTION  
TRINITY MARTINEZ



VOLLEYBALL  
**ALL DISTRICT**  
HONORABLE MENTION  
BELLA NAVEJAS



VOLLEYBALL  
**ALL DISTRICT**  
HONORABLE MENTION  
NADIA SAGASTUME





## Students Sign To Play Collegiate Sports

Each year we have the privilege of recognizing high school athletes who are signing to commit to play sports at the collegiate level. The amount of dedication, hard work, academic achievement and countless hours of practice it takes to be recruited to play college athletics is truly worth honoring.

On Nov. 8, we had three Elgin High School student-athletes who signed to play collegiate athletics during National Signing Day. Student-athletes signing are listed below.

We wish to congratulate our student-athletes, their families and coaches on this event, and thank everyone who took part in supporting our students that day.

- Jessica Cantrell: University of Texas Permian Basin
- Jaylan Roberson: St. Mary's University
- Mackenzie Farris: University of Dallas



## Campuses Honor Our Military Veterans

Booker T. Washington Elementary welcomed military veterans onto campus on Nov. 8 for its annual Veterans Parade.

BTW staff treated veterans to breakfast before students recogniz-

### BTW Veterans Day



ed them for their service to our country. Photos were also taken in front of the school and of the campus Wall of Honor, honoring veterans past and present and their relationship to BTW students.

Elgin Elementary hosted its annual Veterans Day program on Nov. 8.

Neidig Elementary on Nov. 13 welcomed military veterans onto campus for lunch with their students.

We thank all those who were able to turn out for the event, as well as those who were with us in spirit.

### EES Veterans Day



The Elgin Veterans Parade, hosted by Elgin Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6115, and American Legion Post 295, took place Nov. 4 in downtown Elgin. Coach Heath Clawson and members of the EHS Wildcats football team were among those who participated in the event.

### Elgin Veterans Parade



## Take Care Around School Buses

Elgin ISD would like to remind motorists that vehicles must stop when buses are picking up or dropping off students along roadways. According to Texas law, motorists may only proceed after flashing lights are no longer activated, or if the bus driver signals them to proceed.

We must work together to keep our students safe on roadways.