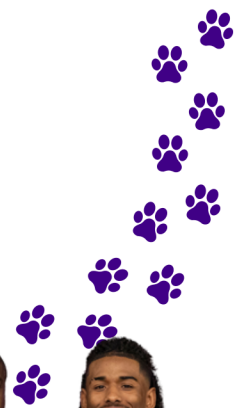


February 16,
2024



Elgin Independent School District

PAW *Prints*



Elgin High School Athletics hosts its annual football banquet on Sunday, Jan. 21. See page 5.

Diamonds Sparkle

Your Elgin High School Purple Diamonds performed their contest routines on Feb. 5 at Elgin High School. See page 6 for more photos.



Superintendent's Message:

Happy February!

Ohhhhh, my heart is FULL this month! It has truly been a month of growth, accomplishments, relationships, and celebrations! As I visited campuses this week, I was hearing about how excited many of you are about the GROWTH of our students through the mid-year assessment data indicators.



Dr. Rueter

The ways you are tracking progress of your students, setting goals with them, and leading them to have more ownership of their own learning is incredibly encouraging. Everything you are doing is making a difference in the lives of our kids – from the personal talks that Dr. Rodman has with students at EHS, to the individual student data tracking that Dr. Martinez is leading at Neidig Elementary; the one-on-one coaching and support that Ms. Ruthven provides her students at PHS, to the social contracts and brag boards that the kids are loving at Elgin Elementary; the creative student work that is proudly displayed at BTW to the strong social/emotional support for students at EMS; and of course the individualized instruction and reinforcement at EIS..... all wonderful examples of the evidence of how we are becoming the district we want to be.

So many good things are evidence of our compelling purpose – “Every student deserves access to engaging and innovative learning so that they are provided choice and opportunity for their future”

As part of my work at the Holdsworth Superintendent Leadership Institute, I have gathered input from the work I do with administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and our community to develop this compelling purpose statement that will drive our decision-making in Elgin ISD. How exciting it is to know that our Citizens’ Bond Committee recommended a bond proposal that fully embraces this purpose!

Our Board of Trustees voted to call for a bond in the May 2024 election. I encourage you to click on the link below to learn more about our bond package that will impact every campus across the district, as well as address our growth with another new elementary and middle school, as well as high school capacity.

Our growth is an exciting time for our district, as we welcome many more students to our community and schools, where we will be focused on engagement and innovation so that they will have choice and opportunity for their future! It is a great time to be a Wildcat!

www.elginisdbond.org

April 2 Selected as Make-up Day After Storm Closed Schools

Elgin ISD students will be attending school on Tuesday, April 2, due to the storm-related student holiday in January.

Elgin ISD, with input from campus principals and Executive Cabinet, has adjusted one of its designated bad weather make-up days – April 2 – from a staff development day to a student instructional day. The action was announced during Monday’s EISD Board of Trustees meeting.

Originally, the district calendar had been adopted with April 2 as a staff development day, meaning there would be no classes but staff would be in training. But the district opted to designate Jan. 16 as a staff/student holiday due to inclement weather that day.

“Bad weather make-up days” built into the school calendar allow the district to still meet state requirements for total instructional minutes despite the Jan. 16 calendar adjustment.

April 1 and March 29 remain student and staff holidays on the Elgin ISD calendar.



EES Principal Selected to Lead Harvest Ridge Elementary

Elgin Elementary School Principal Megan Wehrle has been selected as the new principal for Harvest Ridge Elementary School, opening next

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school year.

“We are happy to announce Ms. Megan Wehrle as the first principal of Harvest Ridge Elementary School. Ms. Wehrle will be able to establish a student-centered campus culture of providing engaging and innovative experiences for all students so that they are provided choice and opportunity for their future,” Dr. Jana Rueter, Superintendent of Schools, stated.

Wehrle previously worked as a first-grade teacher in Austin ISD, a first-grade and fourth-grade teacher at Elgin Elementary, and as Assistant Principal at Elgin Elementary. Wehrle is currently in her second year as principal and in her 12th year in education. She graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Learning and Development and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

Harvest Ridge Elementary is currently under construction in the Harvest Ridge subdivision near Elgin High School. It was designed to accommodate up to 900 students and will open in fall 2024 as the fourth elementary school in Elgin ISD. It is the first of two new elementary schools constructed through the voter-approved 2021 Elgin ISD Bond.

RUN YOUR BEST RACE



Elgin ISD Wellness

Employee Wellness Corner

Elgin ISD TRS-ActiveCare plans cover mental health. Employees can find information on specific conditions, risk factors, mental health providers and more online:

www.bcbstx.com

Students Take Part in ‘Thank You’ Video Shoot

An Education Service Center Region 13 film crew visited Elgin Intermediate on Feb. 6 as part of its “Thank You Notes” initiative. The crew taped interviews with Elgin Intermediate and Elgin Elementary students that morning. The clips are expected to be posted to YouTube later this school year.



Noted Cartoonist Visits Pair of Campuses

Award-winning cartoonist Kat Fajardo visited Elgin Middle School and Neidig Elementary on Jan. 30. Fajardo, the creator of “Miss Quinces,” a graphic novel about a girl who would rather do anything other than celebrate her quinceañera, presented on creating cartoons at both campuses. Students also received free copies of the book.



Schools Closed on Monday



Feb. 15-16 are staff development days, and Feb. 19 is a district holiday for Elgin ISD. There are no classes on those days. Classes resume at normal times on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

District Website Gets Upgrade

Elgin ISD on Friday, Feb. 9, launched our updated website. The new website adds features without losing any current capabilities. These include the following:

- New website design (more visually appealing)
- Ease of use and navigation
- Fast performance and security
- Optimization for search engines and mobile devices
- Translation services

The website address will continue to be the following:
www.elginisd.net

As with any new release, this website is a work in progress. Please bear with us as we work to take full advantage of the new capabilities afforded to us in the coming months.

We are excited to move forward with an enhanced website that will provide a stronger communication tool for our district and community partnership.

100 and Counting



Elementary campuses recently marked the 100th day of school. Pictured above: Booker T. Washington celebration

Getting Educated

Did you know Elgin Elementary was rebuilt after a fire in the '80s? Have you met our current two-time state champion?

Look for information all about your school district and Wildcats in our Educated on Elgin ISD social media campaign, on our Elgin ISD [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

EDUCATED ON
ELGIN ISD

ELGIN ISD P-TECH
STUDENTS EARN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND
PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS IN **THE WELDING
INDUSTRY.**



Students Sign to Play in College

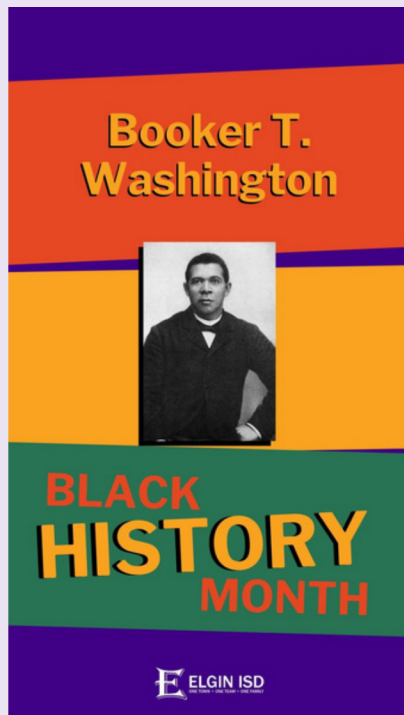


Congratulations to Courtney Shepard (Angelo State University: Cross Country/Track) and Nathen Lewis (Texas A&M Kingsville: Football) on their commitments to compete at the collegiate level in athletics. We had the opportunity to celebrate with these two student-athletes and their families on National Signing Day, Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Elgin High School cafeteria.

District Marks Black History Month

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery and rose to become a leading African-American intellectual of the 19th century, founding Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (Now Tuskegee University) in 1881 and the National Negro Business League two decades later.

He advised presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft.



Students Fare Well at Solo/Ensemble Contest

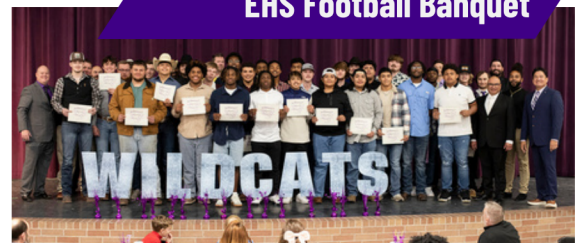


On Feb. 3, 27 Elgin High School choir students competed at UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest. Out of those, 18 students earned first divisions on their solos, and the rest earned "Excellent" ratings.

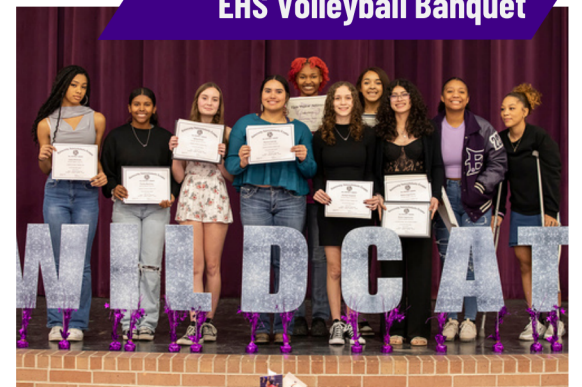
Congratulations to Zoey Graham, Toby Hernandez, Benjamin Kyser, Brooklyn Nickel, Caleb Clemons, Pricila Cruz, Stephanie Padilla (not pictured), Miranda Herring, C.J. McInnis and Otini Vonmotz for their superior ratings.

In addition, eight students advanced to state! Congratulations to Carlos Basilio, Brandon Clear, Jake Johnson, Edgar Lopez, Christopher (Ace) Medina (not pictured), Cyanne Nuells, Gabrielle (Parker) Valle and Aedan Henze.

EHS Football Banquet



EHS Volleyball Banquet



EHS Powerlifting



Powerlifting Teams Finish 1, 2 at Meet

The Elgin High School boys and girls powerlifting teams hosted the Wildcat Invitational meet Saturday, Jan. 27. The girls captured a first place meet finish, while the boys secured second place against a strong field of competition in the biggest powerlifting meet in the state that weekend.



Finishing first in their respective weight classes were:

- Elizabeth Nunez
- Maria Yanez
- Nya Kirk Jones
- Alejandro Arroyo
- Melanio Perez
- Miguel Nunez

Navy JROTC wins team trophy in Waco

The Elgin High School NJROTC academic team competed against 20 other schools in Waco on Jan. 27, and they pulled off a second place win, earning their team a trophy. They had to answer a wide variety of questions from different subject areas. Team members were as follows:

- Bradley Starks
- Makenna McKenzie
- Constantine Escobedo
- Benjamin Kanten



Navy JROTC

EHS Automotive



Automotive Students Compete

Elgin High School automotive students in late January competed at UTI Austin's Top Tech Challenge. Seniors Gabi King and Triston Carnes led the team, finishing seventh out of over 100 teams.

Purple Diamonds



Your Elgin High School Purple Diamonds performed their contest routines on Monday, Feb. 5 at Elgin High School. Our thanks to everyone who turned out that evening.



The Diamonds will be at Canyon High School on Saturday, Feb. 17 for contest.

