



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

May 2021

Teacher Appreciation Week



We hope our teachers felt the love and support they deserve.

Teachers of the Year

Waco ISD surprised four teachers with top honors to celebrate their outstanding achievements in the classroom. Learn more about our 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year at: bit.ly/3xO1fY5



Lindsey Melancon, Bell's Hill Elementary School
Waco ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year



Lacey Merrifield, University High School
Waco ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year



Kelly Miah, Hillcrest PDS
Virginia DuPuy First-Year Elementary Teacher of the Year



David Gerada, Cesar Chavez Middle School
Virginia DuPuy First-Year Secondary Teacher of the Year

Thank you!



We could not have celebrated this week without the community's help! Everyone from local businesses to parents - Thank you for always supporting our teachers.

Message from the School Board President



Dear Waco ISD Community,

Facilities Long-Range Master Plan

As we near the 8th and final meeting of the Waco ISD Community Advisory Committee, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of our committee for their active and engaging participation in the long-range planning process so far.

Since January, community members have assisted our board and district staff in goal setting for future facilities needs.

We've been guided by three primary principles: 1) Create facilities throughout Waco ISD in support of the District's vision for academic excellence; 2) Ensure equity across primary and secondary campuses for academic and co-curricular programs; and 3) Maintain and protect the community's investment in facilities while improving operational efficiency.

The committee has been evaluating options ranging from maintaining existing campuses as-is to comprehensive renovation and replacement projects. There is strong consensus around addressing schools with the highest need including Waco High School, Carver/Indian Spring/Tennyson middle schools, and South Waco, Kendrick, and Alta Vista elementary schools.

I am also encouraged by similar committee support for the continuous and long-term priorities which will inform a 10 to 15-year Facilities Master Plan. I'm looking forward to our final meeting on May 24 and hearing the committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Angela Tekell

Waco ISD Board of Trustees President



UHS First Responders Day

UHS First Responders Day



Waco ISD Career and Technical Education students had the unique opportunity to gain insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of local police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency personnel at University High School's First Responders Career Day. A huge thanks to our participating departments and agencies: Waco ISD Police Department; Waco Police Department; Waco Fire Department; Texas Department of Public Safety; Mclennan County Sheriff's Office; and AMR Waco.

Student Accomplishments



Congratulations to all of the students who competed at Texas History Day! Join us in wishing Lily Coffman luck at Nationals this June 13-19.



University High School's Dyamon Griggs competed in UIL's State Meet last week. We are incredibly proud of her. Can't wait to see what her senior year brings!



What a ride the cast, crew and directors of UHS's STATE-QUALIFYING production of "The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek" took us on. Congratulations for making school history!

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

This school year our teachers have gone above and beyond, staying resilient and adapting to the realities of educating children during a pandemic. And this past Teacher Appreciation Week has shown that the hard work and dedication of Waco ISD educators hasn't gone unnoticed.

From providing snacks and treats, to sending personal messages of thanks, our parents, families and community expressed their gratitude to our teachers each day. A highlight of the week was the surprise presentations to our Teachers of the Year. I encourage you to read more about these amazing educators by visiting our District headlines here: bit.ly/3xO1fy5.

It's also an exciting time for our seniors as preparations are well underway to celebrate their accomplishments this year. I'm delighted that prom will be held for Waco High on May 15 and for University High the following week on May 22. Both events will be held outdoors with a number of health and safety procedures in place including offering free COVID tests for students leading up to the dances.



Based on the positive feedback from last year, we've decided to hold outdoor graduations again at Waco ISD Stadium, with some small changes. Ceremonies will be in the evening which should provide for cooler weather, and each graduate will be allowed six guests. Graduation is set for Waco High School for Friday, June 11, and University High School for Saturday, June 12. We'll share plenty of photos from the celebrations in next month's newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Kincannon
Waco ISD Superintendent



UHS First Responders Day

Pre-K Roundup Fun Fest



Pre-K Registration Roundup Fun Fest was a great success! It was amazing to see the Class of 2035! Thank you to our sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and district staff for making this such a huge success: Junior League of Waco, Cooper Foundation, Superior HealthPlan, Waco Fire Department, Peter Piper Pizza, H-E-B, McLennan County Sheriff's Office, Kona Ice of Waco, Baylor University, Waco Family Medicine, ESC Region 12, Waco High School band, University High School cheerleading, WISD Child Nutrition Services, WISD Special Education, WISD English Learners and Waco ISD Police Department.

Community Partners



Each month, we recognize a community partner making a difference with the Waco ISD Award for Outstanding Community Partners. The district recognized McLennan County for April. County Judge Scott Felton accepted the award. May's Outstanding Community Partner will be announced at our next board meeting on May 27.



Speaking of community, staff at Brazos High School thought of a unique way to address student attendance so their #knightsfinishstrong. They set up shop, literally! Students that meet their weekly attendance goal can shop at the Knights' Korner Store. Read more about this great incentive and how our community has helped along the way at bit.ly/3e5KAaA

