

Paw Prints

OCTOBER 2024



KING AND QUEEN CROWNED

Elgin High School students Jackson Clowdus and Cayli Johns were crowned Homecoming King and Queen on Friday, Oct. 18 at Wildcat Stadium. See PAGE 9 for more on Homecoming Week festivities.

**ELGIN MIDDLE CROSS-COUNTRY
TEAM WINS DISTRICT: PAGE 3**

**WILDCAT BAND COMPETES AT
REGIONAL CONTEST: PAGE 8**

From Dr. Rueter



In a notable recognition of their commitment to educational excellence, the Elgin ISD School Board has been nominated for the prestigious HEB Excellence in Education Award. This nomination highlights the board's dedication to fostering a supportive and innovative learning environment for students across Elgin ISD.

The HEB Excellence in Education Awards, established in 2002, celebrate outstanding public school educators, school districts, and school boards throughout Texas. The awards aim to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of education, making a positive impact on students and communities. As such, the Elgin ISD School Board has demonstrated exemplary leadership through various initiatives designed to enhance educational outcomes. Their commitment to supporting student access to engaging, innovative learning experiences to enhance student choice and opportunity is setting a benchmark for excellence in education within the District and around the region.

Our district has launched a Community-Based Accountability System aimed at addressing the diverse needs of Elgin's student population. Elgin ISD completed a strategic planning process toward this effort which targets a new strategic plan focused on what the Elgin community values. Input, garnered from the community through various formats and venues, is utilized by the district to inform practices, community discussions, surveys and family engagement activities through our district scorecard priorities. These efforts not only improve student success but also foster a sense of connection among students, families, and community.

Moreover, the Elgin ISD board has prioritized community engagement by actively seeking input from parents, local organizations, and students themselves. This collaborative approach is helping to facilitate tailored educational strategies that resonate with the community's values and aspirations. It shows the Board's and District's approach is unwavering toward our commitment to equity and inclusion. Our board's nomination for the HEB Excellence in Education Award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our educators, staff, and community members. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, and we are proud of the strides we have made together.

Looking ahead as the district prepares for the next round of evaluations for the award, Elgin ISD remains focused on continuous improvement and adaptation to the changing educational landscape. We are committed to further enhancing our programs and practices to ensure every student thrives academically and socially.

The nomination for the HEB Excellence in Education Award reflects Elgin ISD's ongoing efforts to create an enriching educational environment. Our focus on student success, innovation, family engagement, and community collaboration will serve as an inspiring example for others. As the board moves forward in the nomination process, the board will stand as an example of educational excellence, dedicated to positively shaping the future of our students and community.

**DR. JANA RUETER,
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS ELGIN ISD**

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



The Elgin Middle School eighth-grade cross-country team captured a district championship this year. Finishing in the top 10 at the NEC district meet were:

- Erik Trevino (second place overall)
- Christian Garcia (fifth place)
- Javier Ramirez (seventh)
- Mason Lopez (eighth)
- Jaime Cienfuegos (ninth)

FOUNDATION RAISES FUNDS FOR DISTRICT

Elgin Education Foundation on Sept. 25 hosted its annual fundraiser at TopGolf in Austin. EEF raises funds for teaching grants and annually hosts a recognition banquet for outstanding Elgin High School seniors.

For more on the Elgin Education Foundation, please visit elginedfoundation.wixsite.com.



Martinez To Lead Trinity Ranch

Neidig Elementary School Principal Dr. Arthur Martinez has been selected as the new principal for Trinity Ranch Elementary School, opening in fall 2025.



"We are happy to announce Dr. Arthur Martinez as the first Principal of Trinity Ranch Elementary School," said Elgin ISD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jana Rueter. "Dr. Martinez will look to provide engaging and innovative experiences for all students, so they are provided choice and opportunity for their future."

Dr. Martinez is currently the Principal of Neidig Elementary and previously served as an assistant high school principal, as well as an English teacher and instructional coach. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Huston-Tillotson University, a Master's degree from Lamar University, and Doctoral degree from Concordia University. Additionally, he has been an adjunct professor at Huston-Tillotson since 2022.

Trinity Ranch Elementary is currently under construction in the Trinity Ranch subdivision just south of U.S. Highway 290 at Grist Mill Lane and Upper Elgin River Road. It was designed to accommodate up to 900 students and is slated to open in fall 2025 as the fifth elementary school in Elgin ISD. It is the second of two new elementary schools constructed through the voter-approved 2021 Elgin ISD Bond.



Local firefighters, Police visit CDC

Elgin Police officers and firefighters visited with students of the Elgin ISD Child Development Center this month.

Police stopped by on Oct. 23, while North Bastrop County Fire Rescue visited the Elgin ISD Child Development Center on Friday, Oct. 4. Students visited with the first responders and took photos.

The Elgin ISD Child Development Center serves children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old.



PRINCIPALS MONTH

This month, we honor those who put in work in support of their campus educators and students. Thank you for all you do, Elgin ISD Principals!



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Elgin ISD campuses celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, which took place from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Among the celebrations was an Oct. 10 event at Elgin Intermediate featuring the talents of the campus choir and theater performers.



'THE WILDCAT' PROWLING ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL



Elgin High School Auto Tech on Sept. 27 introduced "The Wildcat," a fully electric vehicle created by seniors in the Practicum of Transportation Systems class at the high school.

The Wildcat is powered by 32 batteries that produce 105 volts of energy. It has a maximum speed of 90 miles an hour and an estimated range of 50 miles.

The vehicle is made to be built, torn down and rebuilt each year by senior automotive students.

EHS Automotive instructor Michael Silkett noted the vehicle is street legal and a tool to help students handle the changing automotive landscape.

Students in the Practicum of Transportation Systems class who built the initial version of The Wildcat signed their names on the vehicle. Some were in attendance at the Elgin-Pflugerville varsity football game on Sept. 27 to take photos with The Wildcat. They also watched as Silkett drove it along the Wildcat Stadium track after EHS scored touchdowns on the field.



OPEN HOUSES

Elgin ISD elementary schools hosted open houses during the past month. Shown: Booker T. Washington Back to School Night, held Sept. 26

NEW GRADUATION ATTIRE

Elgin High School seniors will be wearing redesigned gowns at graduation in May.

Graduation ceremonies take place May 23, 2025 at 7 p.m. at Shoreline Church in Austin.



KXAN LENDS BOND UPDATE

KXAN's Nabil Remadna writes about the growth in Elgin and Elgin schools:

<https://www.kxan.com/news/education/more-people-funding-fuels-elgins-school-expansion/>

ALL-DISTRICT CHOIR

Congratulations to the 17 Elgin High School students who are the newest members of the All-District Choir:

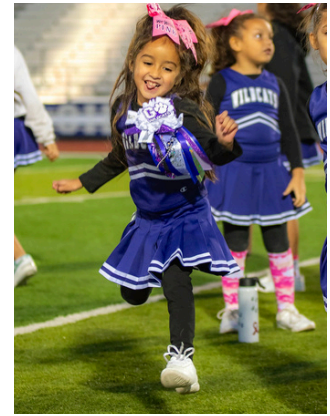
- Silvia Yanez
- Bella Navejas
- Cyanne Nuells
- Gabrielle Valle
- Toby Hernandez
- Carlos Basilio
- Noah Carter
- Charles McInnis
- Edgar Lopez
- Given Ukanda
- Caleb Clemons
- Nehemiah Brown
- Drake McCoy
- Jake Johnson
- Benjamin Kyser
- Otini Vonmotz
- Michael Cordona

WILDCATS GO MARCHING IN

Your Elgin High School Wildcat Marching Band competed in the Class 5A regional marching band competition at The Pfield in Pflugerville on Oct. 22, as well as the Lost Pines Marching Competition in Bastrop on Oct. 5.



HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES



In addition to Homecoming festivities at the Wildcats-Crockett football game on Oct. 18, we hosted our first-ever Homecoming Community Pep Rally on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at Wildcat Stadium. Our students and staff were full of Homecoming spirit before the big game that Friday. It was wonderful to see the smiles on students across all grade levels in attendance.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Veronica Seever and the Elgin Chamber of Commerce for her help with the event.

