



ThePflyer

Pflugerville ISD | April 2025

THIS EDITION //

- ACADEMY 4 VOLUNTEERS MAKE LASTING IMPACT
- ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SHINE IN JR. CHEF COMPETITION
- CELEBRATING STAFF AT EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS BANQUET
- BASKETBALL AND POWERLIFTING SEASON RECAPS

PFUTURE READINESS IN PFISD | PG. 10-11

Engaging Students with College and Career Opportunities

Cover: WHS Applied Ag Engineering student



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Math Awareness Month

School Library Month

Month of the Military Child

- 2** World Autism Awareness Day
- 2** Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- 3** **Board Workshop Meeting**
- 4** **Intradistrict Transfer Window closes**
- 4** Nat'l School Librarian Appreciation Day
- 7** Nat'l Assistant Principal Day
- 7-11** Nat'l Library Week
- 15** **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**
- 18** Student & Staff Holiday
- 20** Volunteer Recognition Day
- 22** Earth Day
- 22** School Bus Driver Day
- 23** Administrative Professionals Day
- 24** **Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony**

SAVE THE DATE

ELECTION DAY

- Early Voting: Tuesday, April 22 -
Tuesday, April 29, 2025
 - Election Day: Saturday, May 3, 2025
- pflsd.net/board-elections**



JOB FAIRS

Special Education Teacher Job Fair/informational

April 24 | 4:30-6:00pm
The Rock Gym

Auxiliary Job Fair

May 12 | 3:30-5:00pm
The Rock Gym

Bilingual/ESL Teacher Job Fair/Informational Meeting

May 20 | 4:30-6:00pm
The Rock Gym

Teacher Job Fair

June 5 | 1:00-3:00pm
The Rock Gym

All Positions Job Fair

July 10 | 1:00-3:00pm
The Rock Gym



The Rock Gym

702 W Pecan St
Pflugerville, TX 78660

[Learn more about job fairs and other career opportunities.](#)



Visit [PflSD.net/calendar](https://pflsd.net/calendar) for full academic and events calendar.

FROM THE SUPT

DR. QUINTIN SHEPHERD

Listening to Our Student Voices: Insights on Safety, Connection

One of my goals this year as Superintendent has been to get in front of students and hear directly from them. To make that happen, we launched a Superintendent Student Advisory Committee to meet with our middle and high school students. So far, I've had the opportunity to meet with students from three high schools and five middle schools, and I have to say, it's been one of the most energizing experiences of the year.

As a former teacher, there's nothing quite like being back in a classroom, engaging in candid conversations with students. I deeply value their openness and willingness to share their perspectives. During our meetings, we focused on two key topics: safety in our schools and the course options available to students; however, safety and student mental health took center stage in all of our conversations.

As someone who has been a Superintendent for 20 years in three states, I've seen how safety has evolved in our schools. We all know that school safety is a major topic, both statewide and in the legislature. What consistently surprises me, though, is the difference in conversation when talking to adults versus students. As adults, our first thoughts are physical safety measures... more officers, cameras, and fences. While those measures are undoubtedly



important, students often have a broader perspective. For them, feeling safe is closely tied to feeling connected. Connected to someone on campus, connected to a group, and connected to their school community.

Their insights remind me that if we truly want to address school safety meaningfully, we have to think beyond just physical barriers. We must continue building environments where students feel seen, heard, and supported. That sense of belonging can be one of the strongest deterrents to unsafe behavior and one of the most impactful ways to promote well-being.

I'm incredibly thankful for the students who took the time to share their thoughts with me. They didn't hold back, and that's exactly what we hoped for! Their voices will help shape how we move forward as a district, and I can't wait to see how their ideas come to life. After all, no one knows what it's like to be a student today better than they do.

Thank you to our students for your honesty and insight. And to our parents and community members, I look forward to continuing these conversations and working together to create the safest, most supportive environment possible for our students. Together, we can make a real difference. ♦





CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Pflugerville ISD takes pride in celebrating the exceptional achievements of its educators, students, and staff who continue to raise the bar for excellence.

PfISD Communications Team Earns Multiple TSPRA Star Awards

The PfISD Communications Team shined at the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) conference, earning multiple Star Awards for their outstanding work in keeping the community informed. Their accolades included seven Gold Awards (one Best in Category), one Bronze Award, and a Crystal Certificate of Merit.

PfISD Students Shine in TMEA All-State Ensembles

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) selects the state's top musicians through a competitive audition process, with only 2.6% earning a spot in the All-State ensembles. From Hendrickson High School, these students earned a spot in the Texas All-State 5A Symphonic Band:

- Benjamin Edwards – Horn
- Danny Homerosky & Madden Nguyen – Trumpet
- Dylan Loerwald – Bass Trombone
- Ethan Tworek – Euphonium
- Chase Wortham – Percussion
- Nathan John – Contra Bass Clarinet (3rd-year All-State)

Representing Pflugerville ISD in the Texas All-State Mixed Choir:

- Jett Johnico – Weiss High School

PfISD Dancers Shine at TDEA All-State

The Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA) All-State Dance Team recognizes top dancers from across the state. This year, PfISD was proudly represented by:

- Mikaela Ancira (Hendrickson High School)
- Mary Rose (Pflugerville High School)
- Kiera Gonzalez (Weiss High School)
- Isabella Alba-Borke (Connally High School, 2nd-year All-State dancer)



JARED STEVENSON

**WIELAND ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL NAMED
TEPSAN OF THE YEAR**

Jared Stevenson, principal at Wieland Elementary, has been honored as the 2025 Region 13 TEPSAN of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). His leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact on his school community.

TEPSA Executive Director, Harley Eckhart, praised Stevenson's contributions, stating, "We are proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of Jared, whose dedication and leadership have significantly advanced the goals and mission of our Association."

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

María Carmen Ruiz Alonzo, River Oaks ES

María Carmen Ruiz Alonzo is the heart of the kindergarten team at River Oaks ES. A natural leader and mentor, she uplifts her colleagues and inspires excellence across her campus.

Her warmth, creativity, and dedication ensure every student feels valued and eager to learn. A role model throughout PfISD, her passion and positivity make her an exceptional educator and a treasured part of our district.



SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Paula Dean, Hendrickson HS

Ms. Paula Dean exemplifies servant leadership and teamwork. Known for her reliability and positivity, she brings energy and enthusiasm to everything she does.

Always going above and beyond, Paula supports students and staff with a collaborative spirit that strengthens the entire HHS team. We're grateful for her dedication to our campus and district.



GUEST EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH

Tanda Maxwell, Mott ES

Tanda Maxwell is a vital part of the essential academics team at Mott Elementary. As a guest educator, she steps in with professionalism, compassion, and a positive attitude.

Her calm, encouraging presence lifts students and staff alike. Tanda makes a lasting impact, and we're fortunate to have her on our Guest Educator Team.



SHOUTOUTS

CELEBRATE THE WORK OF PFISD STAFF!

If you know a staff member who goes above and beyond, let them know how much they're appreciated by submitting a Shoutout.

[Click here to share your message of gratitude.](#)

Carlos Perez

Carpenter Elementary - Crossing Guard (via Cindy V.)

"Mr. Perez is always committed to the safety of the students. He's on crosswalk duty no matter the weather, smiling and waving, making every morning brighter. Thank you!"

Theresa Grillo

Murchison Elementary - Librarian (via Eric Barner)

"The level of excitement and impact Ms. Grillo has on students is AMAZING! She fosters a love of reading, organizing author visits to bring books to life. Thank you!"

Margaret Tominey

Spring Hill Elementary - 3rd Grade Teacher (via Elizabeth K.)

"She has reinforced my daughter's love of Math and Science. I can tell she is truly thriving in her class this year."

Yvonne Longoria

Spring Hill Elementary - 3rd Grade Teacher (via Elizabeth K.)

"She truly encourages a love of learning. My daughter enjoys her class and loves how she teaches!"



GREAT PFUTURES BEGIN HERE

Now accepting:

- All **NEW K-12** students living in PfISD boundaries
- Out of district applications



Individualized learning that meets the needs of ALL students

Current PfISD Families: Let Us Know Your Plans!

Check your email! Parents of current PfISD students should have received a message asking you to complete the Intent to Return form for the 2025-2026 school year.

Why Now? This helps us plan for staffing, resources, and a smooth school year!

Annual forms will be available in Skyward over the summer, but for now, please take a moment to submit your Intent to Return.

Thank you for helping us prepare for another great year at PfISD!

Looking for a New School Home?

Pflugerville ISD welcomes Out of District students! If you live outside our boundaries and want your child to thrive in a PfISD school, we'd love to have you join our community.

How to Apply:
Complete the [Out of District Transfer Request Form](#) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Visit www.pfisd.net/enroll for more details



BROADCASTING BRILLIANCE: KVUE NEWS ANCHOR INSPIRES COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS

Weiss High School students got an inside look at the world of journalism when news anchor Jenni Lee shared her experience and expertise during a recent campus visit. She spoke about the fast-paced nature of the industry, emphasizing the importance of communication, critical thinking, and adaptability in roles ranging from researching stories to delivering them on air.

Jenni also joined the production of Weiss's Wolf TV, giving students a behind-the-scenes glimpse into what it takes to create a successful broadcast.

Her visit sparked excitement among students interested in media and audio/video production, leaving many inspired to pursue careers in the field. ♦



PfISD is always looking for passionate professionals to share real-world experiences with students.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Melajiah Armstrong, CTE Work-Based Learning Specialist.

WHY DO YOU LOVE PFISD?

Hear from Connally HS Student Emma Martinez on what she loves about PfISD.





COMMUNITY PARTNERS, LASTING IMPACT

HOW VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN PFISD SCHOOLS

In Pflugerville ISD, student success is a shared effort. While teachers and staff are at the core of every child's educational journey, partnerships with outside organizations and dedicated volunteers play a vital role in supporting the whole child.

One such partnership is with Academy 4, a nonprofit that connects volunteers with fourth-grade students for monthly one-on-one mentoring. At campuses like Barron Elementary, volunteers from all walks of life sit side-by-side with students to build leadership skills, confidence, and relationships rooted in encouragement and trust.

Programs like Academy 4 are not just about academics—they support social and emotional learning, too. Teachers have noticed the shift.



"IT WAS NEAT HOW WE CONNECTED AND CLICKED IMMEDIATELY,"

-Darius Washington



Left: Volunteer Darius and Mentee Christopher. Right: Londa teaches cooking to Barron ES students. Top: Debra plays board games with mentee.

"It was neat how we connected and clicked immediately," said volunteer Darius Washington. "He's a glass-half-full thinker. He wants to tackle the world. It's just really inspiring."

"We've seen the changes in our students," said Ricardo Campos, a fourth-grade teacher. "This one-on-one mentoring is really helping them become better students, not only academically, but also socially."

Principal Jerry Ortiz noted that the ripple effects are felt schoolwide. "The students are excited when the mentors show up. And we've seen how that one hour a month makes a real impact."

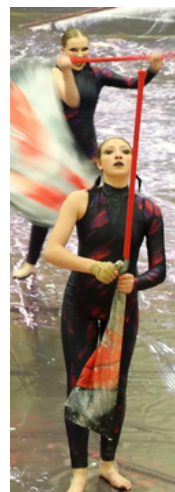
Whether through mentoring, volunteering, or other community collaborations, PfISD continues to seek meaningful ways to enrich the student experience and build strong connections beyond the classroom.

These partnerships remind us: when the community comes together, our students thrive. ♦

PFESTIVAL OF THE WINTER GUARDS

PHOTO RECAP

Groups from all of our high schools performed at the PfISD Pfestival of the Winter Guards.



Pflugerville High School Color Guard competed in the Texas Color Guard Circuit Scholastic State Championship Finals in College Station on Saturday, March 29th. They were awarded 1st place in the AA Scholastic Blue Category!

SHOUTOUTS

SUSAN KRUGER



"I want to wholeheartedly thank Mrs. Kruger for her consistent passion for everyone on the PES campus. She always finds a perfect way to go above and beyond to support not only her students but also her colleagues" - Anonymous

Marlo Saunders

Hendrickson High School – Coach (via Tania Culpepper)

"Coach Saunders has helped my daughter grow as an athlete and person. His guidance has built her confidence and love for the sport."

Simbran Ali

Murchison Elementary – 5th Grade Teacher (via Jennifer Khoravi)

"Ms. Ali is patient, understanding, and encourages inquisitive minds. My son truly enjoys her class."

Eric Fitzgerald

Hendrickson High School – Teacher (via Marilyn Bryant)

"His kindness and support made a huge impact on my child during a difficult time. His compassion is truly appreciated."

Corey Soto & Sari Akin

Hendrickson High School – Teachers (via Marilyn Bryant)

"Your support has been a shining light during a tough year for my daughter. Thank you for going above and beyond!"



PFUTURE READINESS IN PFISD:

ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Workforce and college readiness initiatives continue to be a major focus in Texas public schools. More stakeholders are reimagining how to prepare students not just after graduation, but during high school. Words like “choice” and “opportunity” have taken on new meaning. Like many districts, PfISD has heard the call from business and civic leaders for schools to prepare the next generation of workers.

With the approval of the 2022 Bond, PfISD will build its first-ever CTE Center, opening in Fall 2027. As we prepare for this exciting future, ensuring students have access to high-quality programs and pathways remains a top priority.

The Office of School Leadership has partnered with Career and Technical Education (CTE) to prepare high school leaders and teaching staff for the launch of the PfISD CTE Center. This work requires collaboration and a clear understanding of the programs that will be offered to ensure alignment with workforce needs and student interests.

“BY REMOVING BARRIERS AND STRENGTHENING STUDENT CHOICE, WE ARE NOT JUST PREPARING THEM FOR CAREERS BUT EMPOWERING THEM TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURES.”

-Traci Hendrix



Planning has begun to coordinate staffing, schedules, transportation, marketing, and teacher certifications so all stakeholders are ready when the center opens. The first in a series of meetings took place in February, with additional sessions planned at each high school to ensure shared understanding and input into our Pfuture vision.

“The Pflugerville ISD CTE Center is more than just a building—it’s a commitment to re-imagining the

(continued on next page)

workforce and college readiness for our students,” said PfISD’s CTE Director Traci Hendrix, who is leading this innovative effort. “Our challenge is ensuring that every student, regardless of their campus, has access to high-quality pathways that align with both their passions and the evolving demands of the workforce. By removing barriers and strengthening student choice, we are not just preparing them for careers but empowering them to shape their futures.”

One of the center’s core goals is to ensure all students can access the career pathways they’re passionate about, regardless of which campus they attend. Matching programs to student interests across a district can be challenging, and the CTE Center aims to remove those barriers.



CHS Construction student

Currently, the district offers 21 programs of study. Four are unique to individual campuses, such as Connally High School’s Advanced Manufacturing Career Academy and Pflugerville High School’s Automotive Career Academy. Both offer Level 1 Certificates from Austin Community College, helping students directly enter the workforce or continue toward an associate degree. Six CTE programs offer Level 1 Certificates, and 20 offer industry-based certifications. The CIT P-TECH at Connally High School allows students to earn an Associate’s degree in Cybersecurity.

In addition to earning credits and credentials, many CTE programs offer real-world learning experiences such as internships, site tours, and professional projects. All programs also include Career Technical

Student Organizations (CTSOs), where students apply their learning through competitions, leadership, and service.

“IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, PFISD CTE PROGRAMS WILL BE KNOWN AROUND THE STATE AS EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES”
-TRACI HENDRIX

“If we do this right, PfISD CTE programs will be known around the state as exceptional educational experiences that empower students with career exploration, preparation, and real-world experience, equipping them with strong employability skills while connecting them to their community,” says Hendrix. “Through strategic partnerships with business and industry, we align students with in-demand, high-skill careers — creating pathways to generational wealth and strengthening both families and the local economy.”

At every grade level, students should have the chance to dream about their future. Building a future-forward PK-12 experience means rethinking how we support students in both early education and high school through programs, internships, and college-going experiences.

For PfISD, being “Pfuture Ready” begins now—and continues into the Pfuture. ♦



PHS Healthcare Therapeutics students

Safety



KEEPING OUR CAMPUSES SAFE

INSIDE PFISD'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

Ensuring the safety of students and staff is a top priority for Pflugerville ISD. To effectively manage various emergency situations, PfISD has implemented the Standard Response Protocol (SRP), a comprehensive, standardized approach designed to provide clear and consistent responses during crises.

Clarifying Terminology

It's important for parents and the community to understand these specific terms. Students might sometimes use the term "lockdown" to describe any situation where movement is restricted. However, a Lockdown refers to a specific protocol distinct from Hold or Secure actions.

Recognizing these differences helps in accurately understanding and responding to reports from students about safety drills or incidents.

Coordination with Law Enforcement

To ensure a cohesive and effective response during emergencies, PfISD collaborates closely with local law enforcement agencies. Both school personnel and law enforcement officers are trained using the SRP, fostering consistency and coordination in their actions. This unified approach enhances the safety and security of all individuals on campus during critical situations.

By implementing the Standard Response Protocol and maintaining open communication with parents and the community, PfISD strives to create a safe and prepared educational environment for all students and staff.

Communications During Emergencies

PfISD is committed to keeping families informed when safety protocols are activated. Depending on the urgency or severity of the situation, parents may receive updates via email, text message, and/or phone call.

Critical Updates

Information about ongoing or widespread incidents will be shared on the [Critical Updates](#) page of the PfISD website. This page serves as a centralized and trusted source of information for families and the community, especially during emergencies or when conflicting reports may be circulating. A direct link to the Critical Updates page can be found on every campus website.

Please note that this page is meant to supplement, not replace, other forms of emergency communication such as email, phone calls, and text messages. It provides an additional way for parents to stay informed and access timely, accurate updates during unfolding situations.

Understanding the Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

The SRP encompasses five specific actions, each tailored to address different types of emergencies:



Hold

This action is used when hallways need to remain clear due to an internal, non-threatening situation.

Examples: A student needs medical attention in a hallway; a maintenance issue like a broken water pipe.



Secure

Used when there is a possible threat outside the building. All exterior doors remain locked and learning continues inside.

Examples: Police activity in the neighborhood; a stray animal near campus grounds.



Lockdown

This is used when there is an immediate threat inside or very close to the school.

Examples: An unauthorized person enters the building; a potential weapon is reported on campus.



Evacuate

Used to safely move people away from danger to a secure location.

Examples: A fire alarm is triggered; a gas smell is detected inside the building.



Shelter

Used for severe weather or other environmental hazards where staying inside is safest.

Examples: Tornado warning; nearby chemical spill or gas leak.

SHOUTOUTS

Alma Balbuena

River Oaks Elementary – Kindergarten Teacher (via Cuff Baker)

"She goes above and beyond, sharing updates and photos of classroom activities. I'm so thankful my daughter has such a wonderful teacher and kindergarten experience!"

Selena Blackmon

Spring Hill Elementary – 1st Grade Teacher (via Elizabeth K.)

"Mrs. B makes learning fun! My daughter says she's her favorite person, always showing up with a smile to brighten the kids' day."

Amber Lane

Dearing Elementary – Pre-K Teacher (via Fernanda Frey)

"Ms. Lane made my son's transition to a new school so smooth. He loves going to class and adores her!"

Erica Herrera

Dearing Elementary – Teacher & UIL Coordinator (via Cate H.)

"Mrs. Herrera is truly the best! My daughter loves her so much she never wants the year to end!"

Alexis Hargy

Weiss High School – Theatre Director (via Paul Gonzales)

"She's doing incredible work! My children are thriving in theatre under her leadership."



SEASON SNAPSHOT: GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pflugerville ISD Athletics had another memorable girls basketball season, with outstanding performances from both high school and middle school teams. Beyond the wins and losses, the season also demonstrated the growth of young athletes, teamwork, resilience, and the importance of life lessons learned on and off the court. Here's a recap of the highlights from the 2024-2025 season:

High School Girls

- **Connally HS:** The Lady Cougars experienced continued growth under their first-year coach, Taylor Ross, who earned the distinction of **District 23-5A Coach of the Year**. Their improvement over the season reflects the commitment and teamwork of both the players and coaching staff.
- **Hendrickson HS:** The Lady Hawks had a spectacular season, finishing as **5A D1 Regional Finalists**, showcasing their talent & determination. Their performance in the postseason was a testament to their skill and hard work.
- **Pflugerville HS:** The Lady Panthers made a strong showing as **5A D2 Regional Semifinalists**, pushing deep into the playoffs and continuing to build momentum for future seasons.
- **Weiss HS:** The Lady Wolves made significant strides this year, earning a **5A D2 playoff spot**. This improvement was remarkable as they built upon their previous year's performance, which saw them win only one game. Their growth this season shows the dedication and development within the program.

Middle School Girls

- 7A Champion: Cele MS
- 7B Champion: Cele MS
- 8A Champion: Bohls MS
- 8B Champion: Cele MS

District & State Awards:

Connally HS

- 1st Team All-District: Aniya Toney
- 2nd Team All-District: Makrista Dolphus, Hannah Howie
- Honorable Mention All-District: Mikayla Palmer, Angeles Vega Castro
- Academic All-District: Makrista Dolphus, Mikayla Palmer, Angeles Vega Castro, Hannah Howie

Hendrickson HS

- Offensive Player of the Year: Niyah Waters
- All-District: Trinity Jackson, Jasmine Culpepper, Chinwendu Aguoru
- All-Region: Niyah Waters, Trinity Jackson
- All-State: Niyah Waters, Trinity Jackson
- Academic All-State: Jasmine Culpepper, Afomiya Michael

Pflugerville HS

- Defensive Player of the Year: K'Lyn McFrazier
- 1st Team All-District: Makiyah Lee, Addy Ross
- 2nd Team All-District: Sidhania Nimchan, Shanya Webb, Braelynn Williams
- Honorable Mention All-District: Makenzie Salisbury, Naleah Mackey
- TABC All-Region: Makiyah Lee
- TGCA All-State: Makiyah Lee
- Academic All-District: Brianna Allen, Jamia Allen, Lawrencia Jones, Makiyah Lee, Sidhania Nimchan, Samaia Reese, Addalynn Ross, Makenzie Salisbury, Kylie Vo
- Academic All-State: Jamia Allen, Kylie Vo, Sidhania Nimchan

Weiss HS

- Newcomer of the Year: Krystyna Dennis
- 1st Team All-District: Krystyna Dennis, Braelynn Gray
- 2nd Team All-District: Brooklyn Williams, Alivia Wright
- Honorable Mention All-District: Alivia Neito, Tiffany Singleton, Kayla Ketchens
- Academic All-District: Brooklyn Williams, Alivia Neito, Tiffany Singleton, Amora Everest



SEASON SNAPSHOT: BOYS BASKETBALL

Pflugerville ISD boys basketball teams made their presence felt during the 2024-2025 season, with standout performances across all campuses. From historic playoff milestones to district and regional accolades, our high school and middle school athletes displayed grit, growth, and sportsmanship. Here's a high-level look at a season full of promising achievements and exciting moments on the court:

District & State Awards:

Connally HS

- Defensive Player of the Year: Josh Doe
- 1st Team All-District: Josh Doe, Anthony Phagans
- 2nd Team All-District: Michael Scruggs
- Honorable Mention All-District: Christian Sanders, Cameron Anderson
- Academic All-District: Josh Doe, Michael Scruggs, Cameron Anderson, CJ Gildon

Hendrickson HS

- Co-Newcomer of the Year: DJ Hardge
- 2nd Team All-District: DJ Hardge, Ryan Longoria, Tristan Thomas
- Honorable Mention All-District: Wyette Williams
- Academic All-District: Kevin Bretfelean, Julian Esparza, Ryan Espino, Avery Green, DJ Hardge, Ryan Longoria, Tristan Thomas
- Academic All-State (Elite Team): Kevin Bretfelean

Pflugerville HS

- 1st Team All-District: Quentin Goethe, Jaivion Martin
- 2nd Team All-District: Trenton Calvert
- Honorable Mention All-District: Ryan Buchanan, Myles Johnson, Troy Buchanan
- Austin American-Statesman All-Centex Honorable Mention: Quentin Goethe
- Austin Spurs Cen-Tex All-Star Game: Quentin Goethe

Weiss HS

- 1st Team All-District: Mekhai Bryant
- 2nd Team All-District: Brian Phelps, Adonis Wright
- Honorable Mention All-District: Cameron Johnson, Ethan Munoz, Blake Wilson
- Academic All-District: Legend Henderson, Ethan Munoz, Mekhi Stewart
- CentTX All-Star Game Participants: Mekhai Bryant, Brian Phelps
- Austin American-Statesman All-Central Texas 2nd Team: Mekhai Bryant
- Austin Sports Journal All-Austin Metro 5A 1st Team: Mekhai Bryant

High School Boys

- **Connally HS:** The Cougars made it to the **5A D2 Area Finals**, demonstrating resilience and a strong competitive spirit throughout the postseason.
- **Hendrickson HS:** Despite a young squad, the Hawks were competitive throughout the season, finishing just one game out of the playoffs. This performance provides a solid foundation for the future.
- **Pflugerville HS:** The Panthers fought hard and qualified for the **5A D2 Playoffs**, showing determination and grit as they made their mark in the postseason.
- **Weiss HS:** The Weiss Wolves achieved a historic milestone by advancing to the **5A D1 Regional Semifinals** for the first time in school history. This achievement marked a significant step for the program and highlighted the team's growth.

Middle School Boys

- 7A Champion: Bohls MS
- 7B Tri-Champion: Bohls MS, Cele MS, Park Crest MS
- 8A Champion: Bohls MS
- 8B Champion: Park Crest MS

SEASON SNAPSHOT: POWERLIFTING

The 2025 powerlifting season was one for the record books in Pflugerville ISD, with athletes across all four high schools achieving remarkable success at the regional and state levels. From school-record-breaking performances to historic firsts, our lifters showcased incredible strength, determination, and resilience. [Click Here to view Full Team Results.](#)

Connally HS

State Qualifiers & Meet Results:

- Sofia Farelas - 132lb class
- Nhi Nguyen - 10th place, 114lb class
- Jordin Black - 7th place, 181lb class (Highest finish by any Connally lifter at State)
- Jaydus Bell - 198lb class, First-ever two-time State Qualifier in Connally history!

Pflugerville HS

State Qualifiers & Meet Results:

- Xitlali Leon - 10th place, 97.5lb class
- Edo Edomarhoirho - 46th place, 198lb class

Weiss HS

State Qualifiers & Meet Results:

- Isel Rodriguez - 10th place, 165lb class
- Tyler Gottschalk - 32nd place, 242lb class
- Jonathan China - 5th place, 123lb class

Hendrickson HS

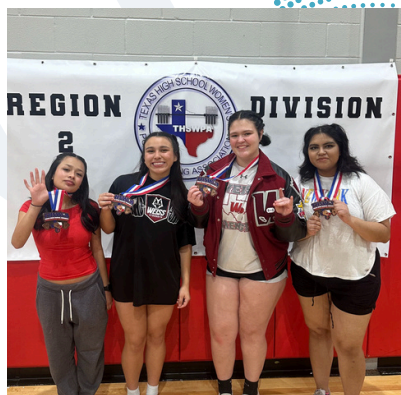
State Qualifiers & Meet Results:

- **Ryan Doggett - State Champion, 148lb class** (2x state champion, 3x state qualifier)
 - State bench press record: 315lb
- Lauren Riojas - 5th place, 148 lb class
- Rebecca Burkhard - 7th place, 148lb class
- Kensey Kalstad - 5th place, 114lb class
- Holley Matthews - 4th place, 165lb class
- Jordyn January - 6th place, 198lb class
- Mia Ndika - 13th place, 181lb class
- Larry Woodrum - 114lb class
- Ayden Kamenicky - 5th place, 132lb class
- Artis Duncan - 165lb class



"IT FEELS GOOD [TO WIN A STATE TITLE] BUT I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT MY AMAZING COACH"

-Ryan Doggett



BIG ON FLAVOR

ES STUDENTS SHINE IN JR. CHEF COMPETITION

Each year, PfiSD elementary students put their culinary creativity to the test during the Junior Chef Competition. Semi-finalists are selected from each campus, and from there, three talented finalists are chosen to have their signature dishes brought to life by District Chef Stephanie Goodson and her team.

The final dishes are judged by a panel of celebrity judges made up of PfiSD leaders and community members, who evaluate based on taste, presentation, and creativity.

Finalists:

- Marie Arnold, RLES
Hawaiian Salmon Bowl
- Christopher Shoemaker, CWES
Turmeric Chicken
- Leilani Gomez, ROES
Barquitos de Juncos con Jamón



Congratulations to this year's incredible finalists, Christopher Shoemaker and Leilani Gomez, and our 2025 Junior Chef Champion, Marie Arnold! Be sure to check out the winning recipe below and give it a try at home.

Bon appétit, PfiSD! ♦

RECIPE

HAWAIIAN SALMON BOWL

FROM THE KITCHEN OF:
MARIE ARNOLD, 4TH GRADER AT ROWE LANE ES

“My recipe is healthy because... salmon has protein, omega 3 fatty acids, and other vitamins and minerals. Avocado is a healthy vegetable. Brown rice is a good source of fiber.”

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

Salmon- 4 filets
1 cup brown rice
1 medium red onion
1 avocado
1/2 cup water
canned pineapple rings
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
3 cups chopped cabbage
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup light mayo
1.5 tbsp honey or maple syrup
Juice from 1 large lime
Salt to taste

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F
2. Pickle onions-Pack red onions into a mason jar (or other heat-safe container). In a saucepan, combine water, vinegar, maple syrup, and salt. Heat to a simmer and pour over onions. Let onions cool 20-30 minutes.
3. Place salmon skin-side down on baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 145 degrees F.
4. Cook rice according to package directions.
5. Heat skillet to medium-high heat and place pineapple rings on skillet and cook until caramelized, approximately 2-3 minutes on each side.
6. In a medium bowl combine cabbage, light mayo, lime juice, and salt. Toss to combine.
7. To plate, put rice on the bottom of bowl and top with salmon, slaw, pickled onions, sliced avocado, and grilled pineapple.



MEALS TO SMILE ABOUT

Serving nutritious and delicious meals

Some of the healthiest food your children can eat is served at your child's school for breakfast and lunch. The federal government passed the Healthy Hunger Free Kids act in 2010 to ensure children eat balanced and nutritious meals, that provide the fuel they need to grow and thrive, both inside and outside of the classroom. As your school's food service provider, ensuring that students are well fed throughout the school day is our top priority.

Believe in the Power of Food

Can food have a role beyond fuel in schools?
Can taste spark curiosity within the classroom?
Can global flavors provoke discovery and discussion?
Can a friendly hello change the course of a student's day?
We think so. At Aramark Student Nutrition, we believe eating nutrient-packed, delicious food powers potential.

Powering Potential in Student Nutrition

We have an extensive database of recipes available to our schools, with a large variety of flavor profiles! To help ensure that schools are offering an assortment of nutritious and delicious meals, we introduce multiple promotions each month to help focus attention on different foods. These include recognized food days, such as national taco day or world vegetarian day; school-specific events, such as Spirit Day, with a focus on local favorites; or national events such as Earth Day, with a focus on fruits and vegetables. One week per month, we introduce special promotions which provide a fun opportunity for students to try new foods that were developed by our chefs and dietitians. Our calendar of events includes delicious recipes influenced by global cuisines such as Asian, Greek and Mexican, along with on-trend sweet and spicy flavors. With all promotions, the option to taste-test is a key component offered at every school. Students, including those that might not typically eat a school meal, are encouraged to try a sample of a daily or weekly special.

Students who eat school breakfast
have been shown to achieve

17.5% HIGHER SCORES
on standardized math tests.*

*No Kid Hungry, Hunger
in Our Schools. 2017.



To ensure that students have access to food they enjoy,
**our dining program offers a diverse
range of menu choices**

that include a variety of fruits and vegetables
and age-appropriate entrée options.

Our dining professionals design healthy
menus that exceed USDA regulations,
while also taking into consideration the
community needs, feedback from
student surveys, and district resources.

Aramark chefs have
created

7,000+

K-12 RECIPES

including **over 250**
new recipes each year



HEALTHY MEALS. HEALTHY MINDS.

It makes Meal Sense.

As your school nutrition partner, we are dedicated to ensuring all students are well fed throughout the year and ready to learn. More students than ever before may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, like breakfast, lunch, and snacks —provided to students whose families meet certain income requirements. Families may apply at any time to ensure their child has healthy meals at school every day.



Why do families need to apply for free or reduced-price school meals?

Applications for free and reduced-price school meals must be submitted every year. We encourage you to check your family's eligibility and apply. It's easy, risk-free and confidential. Guidelines are available online to help you determine eligibility based on your household size and income level.

Visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) website for details:
www.fns.usda.gov/cn/income-eligibility-guidelines

Applying for the program helps students and schools

We are committed to helping your child's school maximize student enrollment into this program. Helping eligible children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, as well as ensuring they actually grab a school breakfast and lunch each day, keeps our students well fed and nourished. But also, for each free or reduced-price meal we serve in the cafeteria, the school district is eligible to collect federal funds available for this purpose. These funds are important for schools to maintain and enhance the food service operation.



Risk-free application.

Information collected in the application is confidential and will be used only for evaluating the eligibility of students for free or reduced-priced school meals. The process is non-discriminatory and the meal status is kept confidential. This means that other students will not know if a student is receiving free or reduced-price meals. If approved for free meals, students are provided a reimbursable meal at no charge. If approved for reduced-price meals, students are provided a reimbursable meal at a rate less than the full price of the meal.

Scan this QR code for more information and application for Free and Reduced Meals.

How can you advocate for others?

If you find yourself in a prominent position within your community, such as the Parent Teacher Association, you may be able to help raise awareness about this program. Many families that are going through financial hardships or experiencing food insecurity, and are eligible to participate, are unaware of eligibility requirements or the ease of applying.

We want families to feel comfortable to seek guidance and support. For many, this might mean reaching out to an existing relationship with school administrators and the PTA. You may help direct parents to an application, available through the Food and Nutrition Services department, schools, and at some locations throughout the community. An application can be filled out at any point during the school year for the remainder of that year.





YEARS OF SERVICE

PFISD CELEBRATES DEDICATED STAFF AT 2025 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS BANQUET

Pflugerville ISD proudly honored 236 remarkable individuals at the 2025 Employee Service Awards Banquet, recognizing milestone anniversaries of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service. Together, these dedicated employees have contributed more than 3,600 years of combined service to the district—an extraordinary testament to their commitment to our students, schools, and community.

A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of two exceptional employees who have each dedicated 40 years to PfISD: Rosalva Marques of Cele Middle School and Carol Peterson of Hendrickson High School. When they began their careers, PfISD consisted of just four schools—two elementary campuses, one middle school, and one high school. Their service spans decades of growth, change, and unwavering support for generations of students.

Each honoree has played a vital role in shaping the success of our schools and the lives of the students they serve. Whether they are marking a decade of service or closing out a lifelong career in education, their contributions have left a lasting legacy in our classrooms, campuses, and community.

To all our years of service honorees—thank you for your unwavering dedication, your passion, and your commitment to making a difference. Pflugerville ISD is stronger because of you. ♦

[View event program for full list of honorees >](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR HONOREES!



SHOUTOUTS

Jennifer Coleman

Jessica Carpenter Elementary – Librarian (via Rosa Galindo)

"Her creativity in planning book fairs makes reading magical for students!"

An Nguyen

Pflugerville Middle School – Science Teacher (via Michelle Ortiz)

"She genuinely cares, checking in on students and making learning enjoyable!"

Philip Clayton

Pflugerville Middle School – Staff Member (via Parent)

"Thank you for opening doors early in freezing temps to keep our kids safe!"

Elizabeth Towery

Murchison Elementary – Teacher (via Betsy, Student)

"She always makes me happy, and when I was sick, she let me rest and gave me water. She is a very fair and great teacher!"



THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING A SHOUTOUT!

If you know a staff member who goes above and beyond, let them know how much they're appreciated by submitting a Shoutout.

[Click here to share your message of gratitude.](#)