

SPRING 2026

THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

COMMUNICATION OF NEDERLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Nederland ISD is proud to recognize two outstanding educators who exemplify excellence in the classroom. Mrs. Denise Hudson, a 5th-grade teacher at Helena Park Elementary, and Mrs. Joanna Lane, a 7th-grade teacher at Central Middle School, have been selected as recipients of the 2026 Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Award, presented by the Beaumont Foundation of America.

Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Lane were chosen from a highly competitive pool of nominees representing schools across Southeast Texas. Their passion for teaching, commitment to student success, and ability to inspire those around them reflect the very best of Nederland ISD.

Both educators will be honored at the Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Awards Gala on May 19, 2026, held at the Setzer Student Center on the Lamar University campus. As part of this prestigious recognition, each recipient will receive a \$10,000 cash award.

Nederland ISD congratulates Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Lane on this remarkable achievement. Their dedication makes a lasting impact on their students, their campuses, and the entire Nederland community.

GOMEZ NAMED REGION 5 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Nederland ISD congratulates Torrey Gomez, now Principal of Hillcrest Elementary, on being named the 2026 Region 5 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).

This peer-selected honor recognizes outstanding leadership and a commitment to student success across PK–8 campuses. Mr. Gomez was recognized for his role in fostering a positive and supportive learning environment.

“Torrey has been instrumental in fostering a supportive and vibrant learning environment in his school community,” said TEPSA Executive Director Harley Eckhart.

Nederland ISD is proud of Mr. Gomez and his continued leadership serving Hillcrest Elementary and the district community.



EMPOWERING INNOVATION: S.T.E.A.M. FISH-O-RAMA GRANTS TOTALING OVER \$38,000



Nederland ISD is thrilled to announce a major investment in classroom innovation thanks to our dedicated community partners. Indorama Ventures: Indovinya - Port Neches Operations and the Beaumont Children's Museum have awarded \$38,911.43 through 12 S.T.E.A.M. Fish-O-Rama Teacher Grants!

These generous funds will allow our educators to bring hands-on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences to life, sparking curiosity and creativity for students across the district.

We are incredibly grateful for these Partners in Education who share our commitment to "Growing Greatness Together." Thank you for investing in the future of our students!

BULLDOG POWERLIFTERS SHINE AT STATE

Nederland ISD is proud to celebrate the success of our powerlifting teams at their respective State Meets.

Girls' Team Highlights (Edinburg):

- Marley Hebert: 5th place (State Medalist)
- Jenny Le & Grace Chen: 7th place finishes

Boys' Team Highlights (Abilene):

- Gabriel Hacker: 1,410 lbs total (PRs in all lifts, including a 585 lb squat)
- Landen Hulin: 8th place (1,085 lbs total, 430 lb PR deadlift)
- Elijah Ignacio: 13th place (1,280 lbs total, PRs in all lifts)

These athletes represented Nederland with incredible strength and dedication. Congratulations to both teams on a phenomenal season!



INVESTING IN INNOVATION: NEDERLAND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS \$15,500 IN GRANTS

The spirit of "Growing Greatness Together" was on full display recently as the Nederland Educational Foundation made its rounds across the district. We are excited to announce that the Foundation has officially delivered 23 teacher grants across seven different campuses!

Totaling over \$15,500, these funds are specifically earmarked to support creative and impactful classroom projects. These grants give teachers the resources to launch innovative initiatives, improving students' learning experiences and encouraging educators to think outside the box.

A huge thank you goes out to the Nederland Educational Foundation for their unwavering support and for continuing to make a tangible difference in our schools. We can't wait to see these projects come to life!



STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE: NHS BANDS SECURE SWEEPSTAKES

Congratulations to the NHS Concert, Symphonic, and Honors Bands for earning unanimous First Division ratings at the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest! These top scores have earned the program the prestigious UIL Sweepstakes Award.

This success highlights a district-wide achievement: seven Nederland ISD bands, representing over 520 students, have all secured the Sweepstakes Award this year. We are proud of our musicians for maintaining the high standard of excellence at NHS!

NEDERLAND ISD NAMED CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS® NATIONAL SHOWCASE SCHOOLS & DISTRICT

Nederland ISD is proud to announce its selection as a 2025-2026 Capturing Kids' Hearts® (CKH) National Showcase District.

This honor recognizes our District's commitment to a culture where every student and staff member feels safe, connected, and supported. By prioritizing relationships and intentional social-emotional practices, Nederland ISD has distinguished itself as a leader in fostering a positive learning environment.

National Showcase Schools (NSS)

In addition to the District award, we are thrilled to celebrate seven individual campuses honored as National Showcase Schools:

C.O. Wilson Middle School
Central Middle School
Helena Park Elementary School
Highland Park Elementary School
Hillcrest Elementary School
Langham Elementary School
Nederland High School



Congratulations to the students, staff, and families who help us in "Growing Greatness Together" every day!