2017 Capital Improvement Program projects at Eastern Hills High school include a dynamic new entrance.
The 2020-21 Fort Worth ISD school year was a great success in many ways. This report attests to that, with its inspiring stories and featured students and educators.

Our District continued to build on innovative college-and-career-readiness programs. We proudly showed off the finished projects of the 2017 bond program to the community. Our seniors earned a record amount of scholarship money. And, we helped take care of one another.

In fact, our mission of preparing all students for success in college, career and community leadership took on a deeper, expanded meaning during the pandemic. While there were unprecedented demands on everyone, there were also opportunities to model leadership and courage, find creative ways to connect, and work through problems together.

We will carry these successes into the next school year, with renewed optimism and an even greater commitment to fulfilling our mission.
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jacinto Ramos Jr.  
DISTRICT 1

Tobi Jackson  
DISTRICT 2

Quinton “Q” Phillips  
DISTRICT 3

Daphne Brookins  
DISTRICT 4

Carin “C.J.” Evans  
DISTRICT 5

Anne Darr  
DISTRICT 6

Dr. Michael Ryan  
DISTRICT 7

Anael Luebanos  
DISTRICT 8

Roxanne Martinez  
DISTRICT 9

OUR STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
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<td>White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
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<td>American Indian/Alaskan</td>
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<td>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>At-Risk</td>
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<td>Bilingual</td>
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<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
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<td>Gifted &amp; Talented</td>
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OUR EMPLOYEES

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<td>376</td>
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OUR BUDGET

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<td>Other</td>
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*unaudited

OUR ACCREDITATIONS

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<tbody>
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<td>District</td>
<td>High Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Education Agency</td>
<td>Southern Association of Colleges and Schools</td>
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TEA Rating  
Not Rated*

*due to COVID-19

OUR OPERATIONS

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<tr>
<td>Buses Running Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Routes</td>
<td>1,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Transported Daily</td>
<td>7,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals Served (including summer)</td>
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INSTRUCTION  
INTERACTION SUPPORT  
DISTRICT OPERATIONS  
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION  
OTHER
BACK TO SCHOOL VIRTUALLY

Instruction in Fort Worth ISD was all-virtual the first four weeks, in alignment with health officials’ recommendations and rapidly changing state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

Leading up to Sept. 8, 2020, the first day of school, the District created tutorials to help families prepare for virtual learning from home. A virtual learning checklist included how to sign on to a digital learning platform, plus a short video on how to set up a home-learning environment for success.

Our academics team put together model lessons and activities for teachers to use during the first weeks of school, and also put support staff on campuses to assist with virtual instruction.

Our teachers worked hard to adapt to the virtual classroom and connect with their students. They persevered then, and later, when our schools opened to an equally challenging hybrid model of in-person and remote instruction and learning.

FOOD AND TECH TAKEOUT

With the start of school, FWISD, its partners, and volunteers continued the essential curbside pickups that had begun in March 2020, when the pandemic first forced schools to close.

The ongoing services included twice-weekly free breakfast and lunch meals-to-go for children under 18.

Efforts to get students the technology they needed, especially for virtual learning, also ramped up as the new school year neared. Back in the spring, the FWISD Board of Education ratified the emergency purchase of thousands of Chromebooks and internet hotspots. Over the summer, FWISD staff, partners, and volunteers distributed more than 3,000 Chromebooks and 6,000 hotspots to provide households equal access to the District’s learning network.

PREPPED FOR IN-PERSON

The move back to in-person learning began in late September, with teachers and staff reporting back to campus. Safety measures included health check-ins, social distancing, and new cleaning protocols. The District expanded the safety standards when students choosing to learn in-person returned to school in October.

A VERY DIFFERENT START TO 2020-21

LILY B. CLAYTON ELEMENTARY
Young students adjust to expanded safety measures in the classroom and on campus.
BUILT-IN SUPPORT SYSTEM

The Gore Triplets

The Gore triplets have a lifetime of relying on each other. They grew up together, attended Como Montessori and graduated from Arlington Heights High School together, took the same path (education) at the same college (the University of Oklahoma), and returned to Fort Worth ISD, all three, as elementary school teachers.

So, as Jessica, Janelle, and Jasmine prepared for 2020-21, they knew advice was only a phone call away – just as it was this past school year with its myriad challenges.

“It was so wonderful to have two other people who were working just as hard as I was to create good, rigorous, virtual learning resources and lessons,” said Jessica, a second-grade teacher at West Handley. “From figuring out how to effectively use our Bitmojis to make lessons more fun to incorporating our fun ideas into a virtual setting, my sisters and I collaborated on so many things this year.”

They worked together on setting up Google classrooms and other virtual tools. They modeled lessons together and recorded videos. Luckily, the Gore sisters had yet another family member for a sounding board. Their mother, Rose Gore, taught orchestra for nearly 30 years in FWISD before retiring, and still substitutes exclusively for her daughters.

“Our mom would give us feedback on our lessons and sometimes even pretend to be a student in one of our classes,” said Janelle, a kindergarten teacher at J.T. Stevens. “When we transitioned to in-person, both of our parents were pretty helpful. They helped cut out laminated material, stapled and hole punched, and, via Facetime, my sisters and parents helped me set up my classroom in a socially distanced way.”

Jasmine, who teaches kindergarten at Harlean Beal, called it a year of rediscovery.

“I had to rediscover technology in a new way,” she said. “I also had to rediscover why I am a teacher. I am here to help the students no matter where they are – at school, at home, or riding in the car. No matter what, I am here for the students and what’s best for them.”
Voter approval of the November 2020 Tax Ratification Election (TRE) quickly began providing vital resources for teaching and instruction in Fort Worth ISD. Passage of the TRE added $66 million annually for the District to put to work primarily in these areas:

**COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS**

The TRE allowed the District to be more competitive in attracting and retaining excellent teachers. Immediately after the election, the FWISD Board of Education provided a one-time payment to full-time employees at a cost of approximately $15 million. And, the largest portion of the 2020 TRE dollars was devoted to an incentive compensation plan that will align with the state Teacher Incentive Allotment program. See page 43 to read more.

**INTERNET CONNECTIVITY**

At the same meeting in which TRE voting results were canvassed, the Board approved the purchase of approximately 24,000 student laptops at a cost of $12 million, to achieve a ratio of one device per student.

The TRE also allowed FWISD to develop its Wi-Fi plan for robust District-wide internet service. It is a plan that complements one already in progress by the City of Fort Worth.

Phase One of the Wi-Fi plan addresses 25% of families most in need of stronger internet service. In June, the Board approved the rental of three mobile trailers to create temporary cell tower sites in three different neighborhoods. These towers will bring families strong internet connectivity by the first day of school, Aug. 16, 2021. At the same time, workers will begin erecting more permanent mounting poles on the grounds of Dunbar High, Morningside Middle, and Rosemont Middle. The plan’s Phase Two, scheduled to begin in December 2021, will address the remaining 75% of targeted households in zip codes 76102, 76103, 76104, 76105, 76115, 76119, and 76164.

**SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY**

In December, the Board authorized a $1.8 million purchase of personal protective equipment. And, in January, trustees approved the purchase of bipolar ionizers for our elementary campuses with rooftop air conditioning units. This technology improves air quality at schools.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

New safety equipment can be found both in and outside the classroom.
2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM NEARS COMPLETION

In 2017, voters approved a $750 million bond package that emphasized improved learning environments in our neighborhood high schools, especially for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and for Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Construction is nearly complete on upgrades to libraries, fine arts and athletics facilities, and collaborative learning spaces at our high schools.

REDAV O CER F O RT W ORTH ISD

AWESOME UPGRADES

How much are we loving the amazing renovations and new additions at Fort Worth ISD high schools? We’re showing them off in community tours. The walk-throughs are part of the “Rediscover Fort Worth ISD” campaign to provide an up-close look at the final projects of FWISD’s 2017 Capital Improvement Program. The campaign includes billboards, TV commercials, and other ads that thank voters for approving the bond program and urge families to register their children for fall 2021.

The highlights of the tours are user-friendly, college-like collaboration spaces in all high schools; updated science labs and athletic facilities; state-of-the-art Gold Seal career studios; and beautifully renovated front entries. Improving existing high schools falls in line with the District mission of college and career readiness to help guarantee a healthy, vibrant Fort Worth economy for years to come.

Modern enhancements at every FWISD high school include secure vestibules at entrances, student collaboration areas, and convenient charging stations where lockers once were. Redesigned Go Centers are welcoming spaces where students can plan their next step. College and career-readiness coaches help them research universities and courses of study, as well as fill out applications for grants and scholarships.

Campuses received new cutting-edge Career and Technical Centers, where students in Gold Seal Programs of Choice build workplace skills and earn industry certifications and even their associate degrees in high school. These include media studios, a media production bus, a mariachi hall, athletic field houses, a JROTC facility, a cosmetology studio, a two-bay automotive technology center, and a mock elementary classroom for future teachers.

One of the early 2017 Bond projects was Overton Park Elementary, a completely new 92,000-sq. ft. facility that opened in August 2020 to address overcrowding at the nearby Tanglewood Elementary campus.

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Mariah Touisithiphonexay heard about the Auto Tech program as an incoming freshman at North Side High School. She thought it sounded cool and practical.

“I always liked the idea of the class because it was something I could learn that I would actually use in the future,” she said.

Mariah took full advantage of the opportunities offered by the program, which included a professional Auto Tech workspace funded by the 2017 Capital Improvement Program.

“I enjoyed the hands-on part of the class, and learning how to do things that I might have to do in the future, like maybe change a tire on the side of the road,” Mariah said.

Mariah maintained close to a 4.0 GPA throughout school and also starred on the Steers softball team, which coincidentally was coached by her Auto Tech instructor, Carlos Flores.

“She wasn’t sure if automotive was the path she wanted to travel down, but as she took in more and more knowledge, she found ways to put it to use in her everyday life,” Mr. Flores said. “Now she’s building a classic truck for herself.”

Mr. Flores was also instrumental in Mariah’s decision to attend McPherson College in McPherson, Kan. She has a partial softball scholarship along with additional academic and merit-based scholarships.

“I am going to be majoring in automotive restoration, the only program of its kind in the nation to offer a bachelor’s degree,” Mariah said. “I would like to one day hopefully open my own shop focusing on restoration of classic cars.”
TWO DIPLOMAS

Nine O.D. Wyatt 2021 graduates became the school’s first Gold Seal Dual Credit students to earn both their high school diplomas and their associate degrees from Tarrant County College – tuition free.

FRESHMEN FIND THEIR PATHWAY

Ninth-grade students started their work-based learning adventures in these brand-new Fort Worth ISD P-TECH academies (Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools):

• Manufacturing P-TECH at Dunbar High
• Cybersecurity P-TECH at Eastern Hills High
• Health and Science Technology P-TECH at North Side High
• Education and Training P-TECH at Polytechnic High

NEW ECHS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

The Early College High School (ECHS) Collegiate Academy opened at Southwest High. It became one of three Gold Seal ECHS Collegiate Academies in the District, joining Dunbar and O.D. Wyatt high schools.

NEW STEM TRAILER DRIVES CHANGE

Fort Worth ISD’s new mobile STEM lab pulled up to elementary and middle schools throughout the year with enough gadgets, games, and gear to excite every child. Hands-on activities at the STEM trailer include Building Materials, Alternative Energy, Robotics, and 3D Electronics. It’s an interactive introduction to the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math – and to the District’s Gold Seal Programs and Schools of Choice with a STEM focus. Students are able to connect the fun things they explore at the STEM trailer to possible future careers.

BRANCHING OUT FOR STUDENTS

Gold Seal partner corporations and organizations went out on a limb for Fort Worth ISD, pledging to help prepare students for college and career success. Thirty-seven partners signed the branches on a poster-size version of the FWISD logo tree at a ceremony at the District’s Teaching and Learning Center. Outstanding new partners taking part in the pledge included American Airlines, Facebook, and UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
In the span of five months, beginning in September 2020, Bianca Gaucin lost her mother and two grandparents. The Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences (TABS) 2021 graduate wasn’t sure if she could get through it.

“It was hard for me to cope with the losses of my loved ones, especially my mom, as I was a high school and college student at the same time,” Bianca said. “I was going through a lot of sadness and didn’t understand why.”

Bianca poured herself into schoolwork and extracurricular activities, knowing her mother would have wanted her to keep going. Her teachers understood her situation and gave her time to complete her work. As a student at a FWISD Early College High School, Bianca was on track to earn both her high school diploma and associate degree from Tarrant County College.

“School, to me, is very important because not everyone gets the opportunity to have an education like I did,” Bianca said. “I was fortunate to attend one of Texas’ top schools.”

Bianca leaned on her father, siblings, extended family, and others. TABS counselor Tammy Asbury helped guide Gaucin through a challenging senior year.

“She has always demonstrated an ability to manage difficult tasks and a demanding workload, but her integrity and character have been validated amid this devastating loss,” Ms. Asbury wrote in a recommendation letter for Bianca.

The TABS staff honored Bianca with the Ann Brannon Award, given to students who have demonstrated hard work and improvement throughout the year. She also received substantial scholarships from Latinas In Progress and the Ford Driving Dreams programs.

“My experience has taught me many things,” said Bianca, who plans to attend Tarleton State University and major in nursing. “It has taught me to keep going, no matter what, to achieve your goals. It has taught me to love and cherish your loved ones because you do not know how much time you have with them.

“Most importantly, it has taught me to help others, no matter your differences. My mom was always one to care for others and never told anyone ‘no,’ so I want to do the same to continue her legacy. My purpose in life is to work hard and care for those around me.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE
In response to the pandemic, the FWISD Equity and Excellence Department collects items and distributes care packages to Fort Worth’s homeless community.

ACADEMIC CHAIRS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

In a school year unlike any other, with changes in nearly every aspect of public education, Fort Worth ISD and its dedicated community partners came through and once again selected 16 teachers as the 2020-21 Academic Chairs for Teaching Excellence.

The process was all virtual. A record 140 teachers applied across 16 categories. They answered questions about teaching in a pandemic, submitted video demonstrations of teaching in their virtual classrooms, and sat for interviews by panelists via Zoom. Each teacher selected received a $5,000 honorarium. They and their sponsors are:

Angela D. Paulos Chair for Teaching Excellence in Visual Arts: Shelli Aulisio, Sam Rosen Elementary

Central Market Chair for Teaching Excellence in Acquisition of Language: Patricia Lambis, Burton Hill Elementary

Bayard H. Friedman Chair for Teaching Excellence in Performing Arts: Timothy Brendler, I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM & VPA

Blue Zones Project Chair for Teaching Excellence in Health & Physical Education: Shay Garcia, Trimble Technical High

Broadway at the Bass Chair for Teaching Excellence in Dance & Theater: Jennifer Whitman, Daggett Montessori

Chase Chair for Teaching Excellence in Secondary English: Sean Strange, North Side High

Crescent Real Estate Chair for Teaching Excellence in Career & Technical Education: Bernita Jackson, Trimble Technical High

Atmos Energy Chair for Teaching Excellence in Secondary Science: Brittany Madkins, Morningside Middle

Kroger Chair for Teaching Excellence in Special Education: Mary Jackson, Applied Learning Academy

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Chair for Teaching Excellence in Elementary Reading: Peter Hernandez, Sam Rosen Elementary

Lockheed Martin Chair for Teaching Excellence in Elementary Math & Science: Sendy Casas, Cesar Chavez Elementary

Lockheed Martin Chair for Teaching Excellence in Middle School STEM: Nettie Scott, Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Middle

Lockheed Martin Chair for Teaching Excellence in High School STEM: Orion Smith, Arlington Heights High

Sewell Lexus & Infiniti of Fort Worth Chair for Teaching Excellence in Humanities: Travis Arnold, Arlington Heights High

TTI, Inc. Chair for Teaching Excellence in Secondary Math: Marisa Phillips, Southwest High

XTO Energy Chair for Teaching Excellence in Early Childhood Education: Sharon Gartrell, Charles E. Nash Elementary
From the suits he wears every day to the extra responsibility he has assumed within Fort Worth ISD, Peter Hernandez takes his role as a champion for literacy seriously. The Sam Rosen fourth-grade teacher considers it a “huge honor” to be named the 2020 Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Chair for Teaching Excellence in Elementary Reading.

“It was also a bit of a culmination of the trust that other teachers and my community have placed in me,” Mr. Hernandez said. “And I was very grateful to show my co-workers and parents, who have believed in me all these years, that their trust was not misplaced.”

Mr. Hernandez has spent eight years at Sam Rosen and served as the Fort Worth After School site supervisor. He takes on a new role at FWISD for the 2021-22 school year as a data analyst at the World Languages Institute.

Mr. Hernandez didn’t set out to be a teacher. He originally wanted to be an architect, but began to chart a new career late in his college experience. The desire to help students from bilingual backgrounds, such as his own, led Mr. Hernandez to the path he is on today.

“Language makes us human,” Mr. Hernandez said. “Through language skills we learn about and navigate the world, and we express ourselves to one another. It is through writing that we have gleaned the hard-earned wisdom of the past, and with this knowledge we shape our futures. I know from personal experience the impact that reading mastery has on our lives.”

Mr. Hernandez received the Teaching Chair honor in a surprise ceremony orchestrated by Sam Rosen principal Alberto Herrera and attended by Mr. Hernandez’s family, colleagues, and students on the steps of the school. Of course, he was perfectly dressed for the special occasion.

“The suit is a gentle reminder to myself of what I am here to do,” Mr. Hernandez said. “There’s something about putting on a tie and suit jacket that causes a Pavlovian response in my mind to take what I’m doing seriously. So, I like to wear these to help me focus on my work and ensure I try my best every day.”
NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

It’s said that when one door closes, another opens – or is it a window? No matter, the adage has never been more true for Fort Worth ISD than in the 2020-21 school year.

ONLINE TOWN HALLS AND FORUMS

Yes, instruction by Zoom early in the pandemic left much to be desired. But online meeting platforms helped us not only close out 2020-21, but also plan the next school year. FWISD successfully used Zoom to answer questions and gather information – in English and Spanish – around these important topics:

• Fort Worth ISD Forward – Planning for 2021-22, we needed teachers, staff and families to tell us what worked and what didn’t the previous spring. Instead of live town hall meetings, we held a series of virtual forums (in addition to a survey).

• Tax Ratification Election – We held 17 virtual presentations leading up to the TRE called by our District. Superintendent Scribner presented to FWISD school pyramid communities, the Association of Texas Professional Educators, the Fort Worth ISD Council of PTAs, United Educators Association, and others.

• Phalen Leadership Academy at J. Martin Jacquet Middle – This virtual meeting provided an exchange of information with Dunbar pyramid families about a new partnership to create extra learning opportunities and community resources at Jacquet Middle. Read more on page 43.

• Lone Star Governance – The FWISD Board of Education hosted four community forums about the Lone Star Governance model adopted by trustees, and their goals and commitments.

• ESSER Funds – FWISD Leadership held two presentations on the $261 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds earmarked for the District. Stakeholders offered suggestions on how to spend the money.

• Pre-K and Kindergarten – FWISD hosted two online information sessions for parents all about Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Attendees were eligible for door prizes from Kroger and Central Market.

• Summer Launch – In two online sessions, parents learned about FWISD’s extensive summer program for students to catch up or accelerate their learning, and recover credits lost because of COVID-19.

The 2020-21 school year started with new school feeder patterns in two District pyramids: Benbrook and Western Hills. Smaller changes were made to the Eastern Hills, Polytechnic, and Dunbar pyramids. These were the first of several realignments and boundary changes called for in a plan approved by the Fort Worth ISD Board of Education in early 2020. The plan was designed to address overcrowding, demographic shifts, and equity for all students.

The boundary changes are meant to keep students in a cohort, allowing them to continue on to middle school and then high school with the same classmates they had in elementary school. This can help students better manage transitions between schools and other potentially stressful situations.

Experts say that when students remain in a cohort in a coherent feeder pattern, teachers and campus leaders are more able to positively impact their students. For example, teachers and staff members can share their experiences and their knowledge of students and their families – whether from elementary school to middle school, or from middle school to high school – helping to ensure their success.

PATTERNS OF SUCCESS

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“Let’s Talk! And Listen!”

Who didn’t have questions about this school year! The “Let’s Talk!” tab on our website was immensely helpful for answering questions and getting feedback from teachers, parents, students, and others. During the year, we logged approximately 30,000 dialogues, many about online registration, Programs of Choice, Pre-K, school calendars, dress codes, and meals.

ONLINE JOB NETWORKING

Twice monthly, Fort Worth ISD’s Human Capital Management Department held virtual sessions for prospective and current employees wanting to move into new roles. Participants were able to sign up for 15-minute, one-on-one online meetings with a department representative.

“I have bookmobile, will travel”

Our Bookmobile brought miles of smiles and resources to schools, community centers, churches, shopping centers – wherever there was a pop-up pantry or vaccine site. FWISD Family and Community Outreach and Marketing Department employees trained to drive the Bookmobile. They and our awesome volunteers gave out books, registered students for school, answered questions, and rolled to the next destination.

“Coherent school feeder patterns are good, for not only academics, but also athletics, extracurricular activities, fine arts, band, and lifelong friendships.”

More boundary changes take effect in the fall of 2021 within the Eastern Hills, Polytechnic, South Hills, and O.D. Wyatt pyramids.

CREANDO UNA AMISTAD

Fort Worth ISD celebrates its 5th Annual Creando Una Amistad (Creating a Friendship) at Evans Avenue Plaza.
When Principal Keri Flores arrived at Western Hills High School four years ago, she found a campus full of pride for its students and their work. She realized quickly an opportunity was there.

“It was clear to see why the faculty loved Western Hills High School,” Mrs. Flores said. “I knew we needed to do more within our pyramid.”

The Western Hills pyramid consists of five schools: Leonard Middle, Luella Merritt Elementary, Waverly Park Elementary, and Western Hills Elementary/Primary. Mrs. Flores believed the small size could be an asset in strengthening bonds among the schools.

Going for a “small town” feel, she requested pop-up banners and posters featuring all schools in the pyramid. Neighborhood businesses displayed the posters to show their support and “pyramid pride.”

That pride was seen at the Western Hills Showcase, a pyramid-wide celebration that invited all students and parents to the high school. Tables and booths manned by high school students shared what Western Hills had to offer. Middle and elementary school booths showcased their campuses.

Western Hills also hosted Fine Arts Night on the high school football field for the pyramid schools. Each school’s choir students performed, followed by band music from the middle schools and high school. The Western Hills Alumni Association donated food.

“Any time you have food and kids perform, parents will come,” Mrs. Flores said.

“It’s human nature to want connection and a sense of belonging,” she added. “Creating a positive school identity gives the staff and students something special to be a part of.”

Creating that identity has involved consistent messaging, including the slogan “Together as One,” and mirroring the words with actions.

“If we all believe in holding kids to a high standard, then we show that in our actions with all students,” Mrs. Flores said. “If we believe all students can be successful, given the right supports, then we show that in our actions in the classrooms.

“If we remind students over and over that this is a great school with the best teachers and students, they will begin to show it in their actions.”
PARADE OF TEACHERS
Our 134 Campus Teachers of the Year are celebrated with two parades — one for elementary and one for secondary. Joining the fun in the FWISD Administration Building parking lot are student musicians and administrative staff, waving banners and cheering.

Superintendent Kent Scribner greets each teacher and personally delivers their prizes – a plaque and a $50 gift card from Central Market.

Our annual Campus and District Teachers of the Year Awards are prized recognitions of the “best of the best. It says even more about the quality of the winners in this unusual year, when so many great educators outdid themselves to keep students learning.

Rising to the very top were Anthony Smith-Wright, Elementary District Teacher of the Year, and Vanida Chanthaphone, Secondary District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Smith-Wright is a fifth-grade teacher at Eastern Hills Elementary. Ms. Chanthaphone teaches seventh and eighth grades at William Monnig Middle.

This year’s celebrations leading up to, and including, the naming of two Teachers of the Year were as festive and fun as ever, despite the necessary masks and social distancing. Much of the credit goes to Central Market, a longtime FWISD partner and title sponsor of the District and Campus Teacher of the Year Awards.

DESERVING WINNERS
Central Market makes unannounced visits to Eastern Hills Elementary and Monnig Middle, surprising each of the winners, Mr. Smith-Wright (shown above) and Ms. Chanthaphone, with a $5,000 honorarium. The other eight finalists receive $1,500 each.

FINALISTS NAMED
Five elementary teachers and five secondary teachers were selected from 134 Campus Teachers of the Year as finalists for District Teachers of the Year:

Elementary
- Angela Ferguson, fourth grade Math and Science – Lowery Road Elementary
- Brigit Lopez, K-1 Physical Education – Western Hills Primary
- Mary McKinnie, Pre-K – sixth grade Special Education – Jo Kelly School
- Olivia Olalde, fifth grade Bilingual – Alice Contreras Elementary
- Anthony Smith-Wright, fifth grade Science and Social Studies – Eastern Hills Elementary

Secondary
- Ann-Denise Anderson, ninth – 12th grade Art 1, Photography 2 & 3, AP Studio Art, Drawing, 3D – Polytechnic High
- Vanida Chanthaphone, seventh and eighth grade English and Reading – Monnig Middle
- Casey Kirchner, 11th and 12th grade U.S. History, Pre-AP U. S. History, Leadership – R. L. Paschal High
- TeNeal “Charlie” Metcalf, ninth, 11th and 12th grade AP & Pre-AP Biology – Young Women’s Leadership Academy
- Tobie Moser, sixth and seventh grade Science – Young Men’s Leadership Academy

BEST OF THE BEST
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Student success is at the heart of everything Anthony Smith-Wright and Vanida Chanthaphone do as Fort Worth ISD’s 2020-21 Elementary and Secondary District Teachers of the Year.

Mr. Smith-Wright teaches fifth-grade Science and Social Studies at Eastern Hills Elementary. The University of Texas at Austin graduate, who earned a master’s degree from Texas Wesleyan, believes in empowering his students to be successful and building lasting bonds.

“The biggest approach to this year is figuring out how to still find success in an environment that looks very different,” said Mr. Smith-Wright, the fifth-grade team lead. “Starting this year all-virtual was very different and quite a bit of a challenge, but I was still able to work with my team to get to know all of our students really well, and their families. Making those connections and getting to know them has been a real victory.”

Ms. Chanthaphone teaches English and Reading at William Monnig Middle. As a child of immigrants, she did not speak English until the age of five. She would go on to graduate from Purdue University and has taught for three years.

“Because I was a student who struggled a lot with my language and I struggled to find a place in school, I wanted to be the teacher who advocated for all students, no matter what,” Ms. Chanthaphone said. “Learning is possible in all elements, whether that’s academic learning or life learning or a skill that you just learn to love.

“I love teaching because I get to work with students who come from all different skill sets, and I get to challenge students because I want to be someone who changes the world for the better. Teaching has allowed me to really do that, and that’s where we find our meaning.”

Seeing that connection when students truly learn and better themselves drives both teachers.

“The biggest teaching victory is when students have come up to me and told me, ‘Man, that was a hard lesson, but I got it,’” Ms. Chanthaphone said.

Mr. Smith-Wright added, “I want to make sure that I’m providing them the best education they can possibly get so they’re seeing success not only in fifth grade, but in all of their pursuits.”
There were plenty of bright spots amid one of the toughest school years we’ve ever faced as a District. Among the brightest were our seniors—Fort Worth ISD’s Class of 2021. Whether they learned remotely for much of the year or on campus, determined students kept moving forward, never losing sight of their goals.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

FWISD seniors earned $158.1 million in college scholarships and grant offers. That’s well above the $126.6 million for 2020 and the $109.6 in 2019, before the pandemic.

Among the recipients were 33 future Horned Frogs who were awarded full scholarships through Texas Christian University’s Community Scholars program, valued at more than $260,000 each.

**Diamond Hill-Jarvis**: Hugo Dominguez, Danna Gaytan, Eduardo Guerrero, Kadia Weyawo

**Dunbar**: Jade Combs, McKayla Cook, Joselyn Martinez, Kamron Poland, Matthew Viera, Anaya White

**North Side**: Holly Lemoine

**O.D. Wyatt**: Andrea Coronado, Stacey Gomez, Yusuf Hussein, Morgan Livingston, Zayett Lopez, Joannarie Ayuso, Maduro, Bae Reh

**Polytechnic**: Maria Hernandez

**South Hills**: Jennifer Delgadillo, Maria Alonso Morales, Jesse Rodriguez, Jun Ha Seo, Mariel Vargas

**Trimble Technical**: Angela Hernandez, Aurora Hernandez, Maritza Santos, Emelin Soto, Stephanie Vanquez

**Young Men’s Leadership Academy**: D’monyae Davis, Elijah Klein, Camron Dylan Thomas, Akin White

**NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS**

Three Fort Worth ISD students were named semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship: James Bartham and Cooper Fitch, Paschal High; Francis Coddington, Benbrook Middle-High.

Fort Worth ISD hosts spring 2021 commencement ceremonies in June with 22 graduations.

Most ceremonies take place outdoors at Farrington Field and Clark Stadium.
Marcell McCreary is a “student-athlete” in its truest form. Among the first Collegiate Academy at O.D. Wyatt High School graduates to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree, Marcell will be playing college basketball at the U.S. Air Force Academy on a full scholarship.

“I was able to experience a college environment and get myself used to that lifestyle,” Marcell said of his time in the Early College High School program. “It was a big reward for me to be able to show that it’s okay to be in it and be a successful high school athlete at the same time.”

The two-time All-State player graduated in the top 10 of his class.

“It meant a lot to me to show that the hard work that I put in during class actually produced something,” he said. “I was able to accomplish something that no one in my family did, which was to have a degree before a diploma, which I knew would help me in the long run.”

And, he gives much of the credit to sports.

“If you keep working on something, you are bound to get better,” he said. “In short, hard work pays off. It has molded me into a better teammate and leader on and off the court.”

That hard work didn’t end after basketball season. O.D. Wyatt principal Howard Robinson, who prides himself on being the first on campus each morning, noticed he had competition.

One day, Mr. Robinson entered the gym and found Marcell engaged in a full-blown workout, by himself, at 7 a.m.

“Marcell displays his humbleness every day,” Mr. Robinson said. “Here is a young man who earned his associate degree, two-time district MVP and two-time All-State, but carries himself like a regular teammate. Not a drop of arrogance. Just a regular, respectful, and polite young man.”

Marcell also appreciates his strong support system at home. His parents, Delton and Brandy McCreary, teach in Fort Worth ISD at the Leadership Academy at Forest Oak.

“With my parents being teachers in FWISD, they knew what to expect so I had nothing to worry about,” Marcell said. “They did their homework on the early collegiate program and encouraged me to attend. They really supported me with everything. They never made me do anything, but if they felt something would work out better for me, they would suggest it and provide their reasons why. Then, the decision would be up to me.”
SHOUT OUTS!

Talent, skill, and determination abound in Fort Worth ISD. Even in the pandemic year, there were numerous awards and recognitions to celebrate. Here are just a few.

GOLD SEAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL

Southwest High’s Gold Seal Broadcast News Production team placed fifth in the nation in SkillsUSA competition. The team included Lyраницa Cedillo and Daniel De La Cruz, anchors; Cecilia Delgado, floor director; and Mario Medina, director/technical director.

A Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) team from Herrera.

ATHLETICS

Benbrook Middle-High senior Dontre Sinegal won the 4A Division gold medal in the triple jump at the UIL State Track and Field meet with a 46 2/5” jump. The All-State Academic will play football at McMurry University.

Dunbar High senior Dariante Hall won silver in the 6A Division 400-meter dead with a time of 48.11 seconds. The All-State Academic will play lacrosse at the University of Demois Moy.

D’Myonae Davis became the first student from Young Men’s Leadership Academy selected to play in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star game. He scored the game’s first points and finished with 21 points, five rebounds, six assists, and one block. He will attend Texas A&M Commerce on a full athletic scholarship.

JROTC

JROTC students earned $9.7 million in scholarships.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Arlington Heights High student Alexis Holt won first place in Fort Worth ISD’s Senior Portfolio Art Competition. Paschal High’s Maria Dorrin and Arlington Heights’ Daniella Mares took second and third places, respectively.

Nine instrumental students and two choir students earned All-State:

- Arlington Heights High – Adam Parham, 11th Grade, Clarinet
- Benbrook Middle-High – Anthony Casares, 12th Grade, Percussion
- Carter-Riverside High – Elias Medina, 12th Grade, Clarinet; Maribel Rivas, 10th Grade, Euphonium
- North Side High – Kassi Wilson, 12th Grade, French Horn
- Paschal High – Stephen Coffey, 11th Grade, Clarinet; Liam Heffey, 12th Grade, Drum Set; Cil Rustad, 9th Grade, French Horn
- Southwest High – Ivory Spencer, 9th Grade, Contrabass Clarinet

Southwest High’s JROTC VEX Robotics Team placed 7th in the country at the national competition.

TEACHERS AND STAFF

Natasha Bruson, a Culinary Arts and Food Science teacher at Trimble Technical High, received the Educator Excellence Award at the Texas Restaurant Awards in San Antonio.

Emily Ryan, librarian at M.L. Phillips Elementary, was one of 20 educators nationwide to receive a grant for their campus library from the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries. The announcement was made by former first lady Laura Bush during a taping of The Kelly Clarkson Show.

SCHOOLS AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Seven Fort Worth ISD schools were named to the annual Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished Program Recognition:

- Cesar Chavez Elementary, Distinguished School Launch
- Diamond Hill Elementary, Distinguished School Launch
- H.V. Herling Elementary, Distinguished School Launch
- M.H. Moore Elementary, Distinguished School Launch
- North Side High, Distinguished High School
- Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences, Distinguished High School
- Young Women’s Leadership Academy, Distinguished School Gateway & Distinguished High School

The list celebrates schools districts and campuses committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs.

Fort Worth ISD took top honors in the 2021 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) School Music Communication Awards contest. Five entries earned “Excellence,” the highest award given in each category of communication tactics.
The Diamond Hill-Jarvis boys soccer team didn’t just score a first for Fort Worth ISD. The Eagles captured hearts across the city.

On April 17, DHJ became the District’s first soccer team to appear in a state championship game. The storybook season ended that same day with a loss for the Class 4A title. But, the team’s impact will live far beyond the final match.

“They’re a special group,” DHJ coach Kyle Reopelle said. “We have wonderful young men at Diamond Hill who have been working really, really hard for years, who had a phenomenal season last year that was cut short, but they persevered.

“They continued to work hard through difficult circumstances, and we couldn’t be more proud of these young men. Everything that they’ve gotten this season has been earned because they worked hard. They worked hard in the classroom … and they worked hard on the field to ensure the success that they’ve had this season.”

The community celebrated the Eagles with a parade through the Diamond Hill-Jarvis pyramid. The FWISD Board of Education recognized the boys at one of its meetings.

“You represented your community, your families, your heritage, your District – you represented us beautifully, and we can’t thank you enough for that,” Board President Jacinto Ramos Jr. told the team. “You make us super, super proud.”

Mr. Ramos and Superintendent Kent Scribner attended the state championship game, which Boerne won 3-1. The Eagles finished the season with a 26-5-2 record.

“They never gave up, and they handled themselves with class and with a great effort and great sportsmanship,” Dr. Scribner said. “I was impressed and proud that they’re a part of Fort Worth ISD.”

DHJ had five players named to the State All-Tournament team: Eduardo Lopez, Edward Zuniga, Jonathan Lopez, Ricardo Gonzalez, and Andres Montes. Jonathan Lopez, Zuniga and Gonzalez were also selected for the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches’ All-State First Team, with Luis Jaimes earning an Honorable Mention. Montes picked up the Soccer Player of the Week award from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.
WHAT IS TIA?
FWISD releases an animated video explaining the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
J. Martin Jacquet Middle is now Phalen Leadership Academy at J. Martin Jacquet Middle. In fall 2021, Phalen Leadership Academies (PLA) will take responsibility for day-to-day activities at the school and be accountable for the school’s academic and financial performance. PLA serves over 10,000 scholars at 22 schools across the country. The partnership is designed to create a positive transformation that benefits students, staff, and the Jacquet community.

TARLETON PARTNERSHIP
Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, Fort Worth ISD seniors who graduate in the top 25% of their class will be eligible for guaranteed admission and annual scholarships to Tarleton State University. Each year, Tarleton will also select one FWISD senior to receive a $10,000 scholarship renewable for up to four years.

TEACHER INCENTIVE ALLOTMENT
Fort Worth ISD is excited to offer our teachers a realistic pathway to earning substantially more money for their best work. It’s the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA), passed and funded by the Texas Legislature as part of House Bill 3, to help FWISD and other districts in Texas recruit, retain, and reward highly effective teachers.

Teachers will have the opportunity to be awarded on one of three levels: Recognized, Exemplary, and Master. Depending on the designation earned, teachers can increase their yearly compensation by $3,000 to $32,000.

LOOKING AHEAD

FWISD BOND ELECTION
The Fort Worth ISD Board of Education approved a resolution on August 10, 2021, calling for a bond election of $1.49 billion. The election will be held Nov. 2, 2021, and will not result in a property tax rate increase. The proposal will address renovations at the District’s middle schools, a new elementary school in Benbrook, and other items listed in four propositions:

- Proposition A would provide $1.2 billion for the construction, renovation, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings in the District. This includes upgrades to middle schools and the construction of a new elementary school.
- Proposition B allocates $98.3 million for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of existing fine arts facilities. This includes upgrades to auditoriums.
- Proposition C would provide $104.9 million for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of stadiums in the District.
- Proposition D would provide $76.2 million for the construction, renovation, and equipment of recreational facilities in the District. This includes the replacement of turf at fourteen existing football fields.

NEW TRUSTEES ELECTED
Marketing consultant Roxanne Martinez and former FWISD administrator Dr. Michael Ryan joined the Board of Education ahead of the new school year. Ms. Martinez received 54.81% of the votes cast in the June 5, 2021, runoff election for the District 9 seat being vacated by Ashley Paz. In the May 1 General Election, Dr. Ryan received over 63% of the vote, defeating longtime representative Norman Robbins for the District 7 seat. Officers and board members for 2021-22 are:

Officers
- Tobi Jackson, Board President
- Quinton “Q” Phillips, 1st Vice President
- Daphne Brookins, 2nd Vice President
- Carin “C.J.” Evans, Secretary

Board Members
- Jacinto Ramos, Jr. – District 1
- Tobi Jackson – District 2
- Quinton “Q” Phillips – District 3
- Daphne Brookins – District 4
- Carin “C.J.” Evans – District 5
- Anne Darr – District 6
- Dr. Michael Ryan – District 7
- Anael Luebanos – District 8
- Roxanne Martinez – District 9

TRUSTEES TAKE OATH
Newly elected Board members Roxanne Martinez and Dr. Michael Ryan are officially sworn in.

Tobi Jackson, who represents District 2, is elected President of the FWISD Board of Education on June 22, 2021.
OUR SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY
Beal, Harlean
Benbrook
Bonnie Brae
Briscoe, Edward J.
Burton Hill
Carlson, Alice ALC
Carter Park
Chavez, Cesar
Clarke, George C.
Clayton, Lily B.
Leadership Academy at Como Elementary
Como Montessori
Contreas, Alice D.
Daggett, E.M.
Daggett Montessori
Davis, Clifford
De Zavala
Diamond Hill
Dillow, S.S.
East Handley
Eastern Hills
Elliott, Bill J.
Ellis, M.G. Primary
Glen Park
Green, W.M.
Greenbeair
Helbing, H.V.
Howell, Natha
Hubbard Heights
Huerta, Dolores
Jara, Manuel
Kirkpatrick, Milton L.
Leadership Academy at Maude I. Logan
Lowery Road
McDonald, Arwood
McRae, D.
Meadowbrook
Mendoza, Rufino
Merrett, Luella
Leadership Academy at Mitchell Boulevard
Moore, M.H.
Morningside
Moss, Christene C.
Nash, Charles E.
North Hi Mount
Oakhurst
Oaklawn
Overton Park
Pate, A.M.
Peace, Hazel Harvey
Peak, Carroll
Phillips, M.L.
Ridglea Hills
Riverside ALC
Rosemont
Rosen, Sam
Sagamore Hill
 sellars, David K.
Seminary Hills Park
Shulkey, Bruce
Sims, T.A.
South Hi Mount
South Hills
Springdale
Stevens, J.T.
Sunrise-McMillan
Tanglewood
Turner, W.J.
Van Zandt-Guinn
Walton, Maudrie M.
Washington Heights
Waverly Park
West Handley
Westcliff
Westcreek
Western Hills
Western Hills Primary
Westpark
Leadership Academy at John T. White
Williams, Versia L.
Wilson, Richard J.
Woodway
Worth Heights
MIDDLE
Applied Learning Academy
Benbrook Middle-High
Como Montessori
Daggett, E.M.
Daggett Montessori
Elder, J.P.
Leadership Academy at Forest Oak
Glencrest 6th Grade
Hazard
Jacquet, J. Martin
James, William
Kirkpatrick, Milton L.
Leonard
McChung, Jean
McLean, W.P.
McLean 6th Grade
Meacham, W.A.
Meadowbrook
Monnig, William
Morningside
Riverside
Rosemont
Rosemont 6th Grade
Snipling, W.C.
Wedgewood
Wedgewood 6th Grade
World Languages Institute
Young Men’s Leadership Academy
Young Women’s Leadership Academy
HIGH
Arlington Heights
Benbrook Middle-High
Carter-Riverside, Amon
Diamond Hill-Jarvis
Dunbar, P.L.
Eastern Hills
Marine Creek Collegiate
North Side
Paschal, R.L.
Polytechnic
South Hills
Southwest
TCC South-PWISD Collegiate
L.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA
Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences
Trimble Technical Western Hills
World Languages Institute
Wyatt, O.D.
Young Men’s Leadership Academy
Young Women’s Leadership Academy
OTHER SCHOOLS
Boulevard Heights International Newcomer Academy
Jo Kelly School
Metro Opportunity High School
Middle Level Learning Center
Success High School
“READY, SET, LET’S GRADUATE”
I.M. Terrell Academy students celebrate the last day of school, June 18, 2021, with a color run. PHOTO CREDIT: MARISSA HECKMANN