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“Master Nevels and his staff are leaders in instruction and caring for all their students. Building confidence and respect with every lesson. Highly recommend you check them out.” - L. Susko

We Offer Discounts to All CISD Employees
Dear Coppell ISD Family,

We have four core values that guide our district — authentic relationships, collective engagement, redefining success and great teaching. For the 2021-2022 school year, we are focusing on our great teaching core value. We value great teaching, because we believe it is key to deep learning.

Great teaching occurs each and every day in CISD because of our educators and their commitment to our learners. I truly believe that our teachers are the best of the best in our area, region, state and nation. Our educators are at the top of their field because of their commitment to lifelong learning, professional development, sharing best practices with their peers and ensuring that they give their all and their best to their students.

I believe great teaching is about innovation, collaboration and connection. Great teaching means establishing a love of lifelong learning with students, while modeling this behavior in professional learning and sharing new and creative ideas and best practices with colleagues. Our teachers are amazing and deserve our trust, support, thanks and praise. They are experts in their field who, in partnership with our families, work tirelessly to educate and take care of our children. I cannot thank our teachers enough for what they do each and every day to serve our students, the education profession and our community.

Our teachers worked hard over the pandemic and will continue to go to extraordinary lengths to address the unfinished learning experienced by many of our students. Our teachers will continue to meet our students where they are in order to get them where they need to be.

As you read the stories in the magazine, I hope you notice the impact teachers have on our children. None of us would be where we are today without a great teacher. I believe we have the best, most exceptional teachers here in CISD, because of their great teaching practices and their commitment to investing in relationships with their students, colleagues and families.

I am honored and blessed to have begun my teaching career with CISD and to lead this district that I call home. I hope you will continue to learn more about CISD and support our teachers and our district family.

Sincerely,

Superintendent
Coppell ISD
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Connect with CISD:
Website: District announcements, upcoming dates and news stories are available at www.coppellisd.com. Links to each school’s website also are available at this site and these sites include specific key dates. The Parents page on the CISD website also has resources and tips for our families.

District e-Newsletter: The CISD Informed Newsletter is delivered via email each week. www.coppellisd.com/informed

Issues & Concerns: As issues or concerns about your student arise, parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with these individuals closest to the issue. Begin with the child’s teacher, then use campus resources such as a counselor, assistant principal and principal. Staff members in Coppell ISD want to partner with you and ask you to be inclusive of your campus personnel when seeking answers to your questions or sharing your concerns.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): www.coppellisd.com/ADA

CISD Child Find: Coppell ISD is obligated to identify and evaluate individuals from birth through 21 years of age who may have a suspected disability that results in a need for special education services. This includes concerns related to physical development, vision, hearing, speech/communication, social-emotional, learning disabilities, Autism and delays in overall development, including daily living skills. Please call Intervention Services for Child Find concerns at 214-496-6955.

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Submit Article Ideas
To submit article ideas for future issues of this magazine email communications@coppellisd.com
Coppell ISD spans 23 square miles and includes the communities of Coppell, Dallas (Cypress Waters), Lewisville, North Irving and Valley Ranch.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

23 SQUARE MILES

- Coppell ISD spans 23 square miles and includes the communities of Coppell, Dallas (Cypress Waters), Lewisville, North Irving and Valley Ranch.

**Teachers Experience**

- Beginners: 6.9%
- 1-5 Years: 29.8%
- 6-10 Years: 20.7%
- 11-20 Years: 28.8%
- 20+ Years: 13.8%

**AP District Honor Roll**

- 7 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

**High School Graduation Rate**

- 99%

**908 Seniors in the Class of 2021 Were Offered About $17 Million in Scholarships**

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

- CTE program allows students to develop both college preparation and real-world workforce skills.

- 21% of High School Students Participate in a CTE Course

**Athletics**

- 29% of High School students and 37% of Middle School students are Student-Athletes

**Sports Offered in High School:**
- Baseball, Basketball (boys and girls), Cross Country (boys and girls), Football, Golf (boys and girls), Soccer (boys and girls), Softball, Swimming and Diving (boys and girls), Tennis (boys and girls), Track and Field (boys and girls), Volleyball and Wrestling (boys and girls).

**Sports Offered in Middle School:**
- Basketball (boys and girls), Cross Country (boys and girls), Football, Soccer (boys and girls), Tennis (boys and girls), Track and Field (boys and girls), Volleyball and Wrestling (boys and girls).

**Fine Arts**

- 100% of elementary students take art and music

**Coppell ISD Offers:**

- Band, Choir, Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance, Lariettes Drill Team and Cheerleading for High School students

**Based on the latest available data from the College Board and TEA**
I love CISD and my teachers because they make every bit of learning fun. After coming back from virtual learning, I was really nervous, but because of the teachers I look forward to school everyday. CISD makes students learn and think in a whole different way, and, most importantly, CISD makes school fun!

— Srushti Shelar, 5th Grade, Cottonwood Creek Elementary

I love CISD because the district has compassionate teachers, an invigorating learning environment and values relationships.

— Neel Mavalli, 8th Grade, Coppell Middle School North

I love CISD because they do a very good job of making things personal and doing a really great job of making connections with the students. The teachers are great, and everybody here is really awesome.

— Tristan Davis, Senior, New Tech High @ Coppell

I love CISD because the educators make learning engaging every day. Beyond textbook learning, CISD leads by example and teaches students compassion, character and kindness. My child wakes up excited for the school day!

— CISD Parent

I love CISD because of its quality teachers who are trained and knowledgeable in their area of expertise. CISD offers practical knowledge rather than just teaching strictly from textbooks. Students build relationships for life with their peers and their teachers that will always be remembered.

— CISD Parent

I love CISD because we care about meeting the academic needs of all learners, and we care even more about their social and emotional needs. We understand the importance of the mental, social, and emotional health of our learners.

— Lamar Day, 2nd Grade Teacher, Denton Creek Elementary

www.iHeartCISD.com

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Performing pioneering research alongside nationally recognized scientists is just part of a regular school day for CHS senior Isabella Malick. She is a student researcher at the Collins Lab after being selected for the prestigious UT Southwestern STARS Summer Student Research Program in the summer of 2021.

“I had such a great summer with the Collins Lab, so I decided to take advantage of UT Southwestern’s opportunity to allow high school students to intern at the lab in exchange for high school credit,” Malick says. The specific project Malick is working on studies neoblasts or stem cells in juvenile schistosomes. She is working with Dr. Jim Collins, as well as Sarah Cobb, who is a Ph.D. student at UT Southwestern and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Amgen Scholar.

“Research in high school is important to me, first and foremost because I enjoy it. It is something that I look forward to every day, and it motivates me to better myself by learning new things.”

The Collins Lab studies schistosome flatworms, which are parasites that cause schistosomiasis, a neglected tropical disease that has an impact comparable to malaria. Patients with the disease can experience severe symptoms like anemia, learning disabilities and paralysis. Schistosomiasis afflicts more 240 million people in tropical areas like South America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

“Research in high school is important to me, first and foremost because I enjoy it. It is something that I look forward to every day, and it motivates me to better myself by learning new things.”

Malick credits her teachers for playing an integral role in her interest in science and research.

“My teachers have supported me through all my endeavors, whether school related or not, and I would certainly attribute my success to them,” she says. “I hope that more students will have this same opportunity to define their own paths to success in the future.”
CHS Junior Emily Fishchetti considers being dyslexic as her superpower.

“As being dyslexic only means that I learn differently,” she says. “I am still kind, still smart, still outspoken, still me, only better, because now I know more about how I learn.”

As an elementary and middle school student, Fishchetti had excellent grades and studied hard to please her teachers and family. She says she didn’t realize the pressure she was putting on herself to be perfect until she was diagnosed with dyslexia, ADHD, anxiety and depression. Once this happened, Fishchetti says the pressure to be perfect eased.

“I wish high school students knew that your grades don’t define you,” she says. “It is better to be kind and inclusive and to be able to talk to people than to put so much pressure on yourself to have a high GPA.”

“Your grades won’t matter after high school and college, but how you treat people will.”

Fishchetti defines success as making someone’s day better.

“If I can make someone smile, make their day better and be known for being kind, then that is being successful in my book,” she says.

A member of the CHS softball team who plays first base, Fishchetti plans to continue to play softball in college while studying to become a special education teacher.

“SUCCESS

SOFTBALL PLAYER EMILY FISCHETTI

Defines Success on Her Own Terms

“SUCCESS

SOFTBALL PLAYER EMILY FISCHETTI

Defines Success on Her Own Terms

Food for Thought Defines Success for

EAST 9TH GRADER ANABELLA “A.B.” PERK

Developing the Foodie Fridays video segment for the CMS East Bronco News is what is on the menu of success for 8th grade student Annabella “A.B.” Perk.

Foodie Fridays is one way for Perk to combine her love of cooking with her passion for making learning disabilities more normalized, as she has dyslexia, dysgraphia and apraxia of speech.

“I also have straight As, am in honors classes, play three sports and try to create new recipes each week,” Perk says.

Perk shares her love of food and cooking on her YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/ChefAnnabellaPerk.

CMS East teachers are always encouraging Perk by referencing her future career as a chef.

“My gardening class with Mrs. [Katie] Seifert is fostering my love of garden-to-table cooking,” Perk says. “My debates with my science teacher Mr. [Lance] Hertlein on whether a beignet is a donut has led me to research the origins of food. Every week in Coach [Andrew] Smith’s social studies class, he tells me he can’t wait to eat at my restaurant and asks what meals I am working on next.”

“All of this reminds me that my teachers believe in my dreams and me as much as I do.”

Thriving with her learning differences has helped A.B. define success differently.

“Success can be someone talking to a new person for the first time, turning in all your homework on time or making the perfect macaron,” she says. “I have failed at that last one 17 times, but I still consider myself successful because I’m still trying. Not giving up is a success by itself.”
Thirty-nine Coppell High School seniors and one New Tech High @ Coppell senior have been selected as 2021-2022 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Selection is based on the students’ scores on the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. National Merit Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.


National Merit Semifinalists Share How Great Teaching Has Helped Them Succeed

“I really grew through the Project Based Learning experience at New Tech. My teachers gave me the opportunity to apply my learning to real-world problems. Learning about parabolas by creating a rollercoaster and literary devices by putting Jack Merridew from ‘Lord of the Flies’ on trial truly cemented the concepts in my memory, ensuring that I not only did well on tests, but that I also understood how these concepts could be applied to the real world.”

— Anekah Kelley
New Tech High @ Coppell
CISD is a community that promotes students to take challenges and risks with their academics. This has allowed me to grow both as a student and as a person.

— Sahan Yerram
Coppell High School

“Since I did not do any outside test preparation, I owe much of this success to great teaching. Many of my English teachers encouraged me to make a habit of reading every day, which gave me the skills to analyze passages in the reading section of the PSAT. I thank all of my math teachers for equipping me with math fundamentals, and especially my GT Geometry teacher, Michael Wang, for teaching me to look at challenging tests like puzzles to be solved. I love the effort my teachers have put into making the classroom a collaborative and engaging learning space.”

— Lauren Chamberlain
Coppell High School

CISD teachers are always pushing us to be the best we possibly can, and they put so much effort into making sure that we understand new concepts. They truly take the time to work with us and help us learn and grow.

— Kashvi Singh
Coppell High School

The math and English classes at CISD helped me become a National Merit Semifinalist by teaching me the coursework needed for the test. Since most of the subjects tested on the PSAT were taught during class, it helped me prepare and study for this exam.

— Beomseok “Sam” Ko
Coppell High School

I LOVE THAT ALL OF THE TEACHERS AT CISD GENUINELY ENJOY TEACHING AND CARE ABOUT THEIR STUDENTS. THEIR SUPPORT AND LOVE FOR THEIR SUBJECTS MAKE CLASSES AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE.

— Adarsh Pulasseri
Coppell High School

CISD really caters its learning towards the students. There are so many opportunities here, which is what allowed me to properly prepare for the PSAT. Without the support of my teachers and administration, I would not hold this title today.

— Priyanka Prasad
Coppell High School
Career Ready CTE Lab at CMS West
ENGAGES STUDENTS IN HANDS-ON LEARNING

On a sunny, Friday afternoon at CMS West, you can find 7th graders in Shari Zoda’s iExplore class preparing for surgery, putting together an enticing meal, practicing for an emergency response, building a robot, designing a logo and even solving a crime. All of these activities are part of the new interactive Paxton-Patterson Career Ready CTE (Career and Technical Education) Lab, which opened in August 2021 at CMS West.

The lab is designed to help iExplore students in their future career preparation. According to Zoda, there are 14 modules in the West CTE lab.

All 7th grade learners in CISD are required to take iExplore, a class developed to help them discover their future career interests, so students can better choose their high school endorsement concentration area in 8th grade.

“We all learn better with hands-on opportunities,” Zoda said. “With this lab, my students can really dive into a possible career choice and really experience it, rather than just reading about it or researching it online.”

Students have a voice in which CTE lab module they want to work on each cycle and are assigned one based on their preferences, though they will participate in several different modules throughout the school year. According to Zoda, sometimes the students choose the module, and sometimes the module chooses them.

Student Shreeya Kerthipati, who was working on the design and marketing module, said, “This is a fun experience, because we get to explore different careers that we are interested in, so we know what we want to do when we are older.”

Classmate Bianca Podval, who was working on the surgical module agreed. “We get to do something that people actually do in the real world, and we usually don’t get to do that in other classes, so it’s fun,” she said.

Aarush Sanjay added, “Building the robot has been my favorite part of the lab so far. Every day, we get to experience something interesting and new, and I really like that.”

As a teacher, Zoda appreciates watching her students be so engaged in learning.

“My learners come in excited and eager to learn and wanting to jump in right away on their current module,” she said.

This experience causes Zoda to invoke a saying from former CMS West Principal Vern Edin.

“He said, ‘teachers have to evolve from being a sage on the stage to a guide on the side’ in terms of facilitating learning,” Zoda said. “This lab enables kids to lead their own learning path, while I am there to guide them through the journey.”

CISD is exploring funding options to install Paxton-Patterson Career Ready CTE Labs at both CMS North and CMS East in the near future.

“We have everything from the health sciences, to robotics, computer aided drafting, hospitality and tourism, design and marketing, emergency and fire response, video and audio training, digital manufacturing, child development and more. The modules are interactive and provide real-world experience and scenarios.”

— Shari Zoda, 7th Grade Teacher, Coppell Middle School West
Representing their school through unique journalistic styles, Coppell Student Media high school students who are part of the KCBY television station, Round-Up yearbook and The Sidekick newspaper are telling stories through a student lens.

2018 Alumna Disha Kohli says that these programs allow students to pursue their creative interests, while effectively learning integral leadership skills that will impact their future.

"Through my position as The Sidekick Business Manager, I learned time management, leadership and balance. Fast forward three years since I graduated high school, and I am currently the captain of a college dance team at Texas A&M, where those three factors play the biggest role as a college student and a competitive dancer."

— Disha Kohli

KCBY Sports Director Will Manchester, a senior at CHS, says his participation in the TV news program ignited his interest in a potential career in sports media.

"The more that I immerse myself in KCBY, the more I find myself wanting to get involved in some sort of sports media program. KCBY has taught me how to operate in a workplace as a team lead. It can be a lot of work at times, but I would much rather face it at a young age than having to adapt to it once I start working at a higher level."

— Will Manchester

Within each program, students have the ability to showcase their leadership skills, while developing their professional skills.

KCBY Program Director Hally Leonard, a CHS senior, believes she is able to make her peers and teachers proud through her work at the station.

"I have also learned many things that will help me later in life, from how to have business professional conversations to making cinematic media worthy of Lone Star and national Emmys. I am so blessed to be a part of such an amazing community."

— Hally Leonard

The Round-Up student yearbook committee works hard all year long to curate the long anticipated keepsake book. This year the Round-Up has a new adviser, Jenna Grinnan.

"I am in charge of a student-led business and I have found it very rewarding. I am really enjoying my new role, and that has a lot to do with how amazing my student staff and leadership team is this year. I feel I impact my students by being someone they can look to if they ever need anything."

— Jenna Grinnan

NATIONAL ACCOLADES INCLUDE:

- 2021 National Scholastic Press Association Online Pacemaker Award (4 time recipient)
- Round-Up Yearbook Chosen for Josten’s Look Book — Among Best Yearbooks in the U.S.

www.CoppellStudentMedia.com

www.KCBYCoppell.com

By Priyanka Bhutani
CHS 11th grade student and head intern for the CISD Communications and Community Engagement Department

THE SIDEKICK

KCBY

Fall 2021

COPPELL ISD OUR STORY

13
BAND HITS
SEVERAL HIGH NOTES
with Top Finishes in 2021 Competition Season

A famous song in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical Carousel is “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” For the Varsity Coppell Band, their competition performance show Carousel meant they would never march alone, as they hit high note after note in top finishes in prestigious band competitions.

The Coppell Band achieved several top placements in competition season, including 5th in the State 6A UIL Competition, 1st in the 6A UIL Area Competition, 8th in the Bands of America Super Regional Competition in San Antonio, 3rd at the Bands of America Super Regional Competition held in St. Louis and more.

“Everyone has worked so incredibly hard over the past few months putting this show together, and our competition season results were a display of excellence from everyone involved,” said Head Band Director Kimberly Shuttlesworth.

Owen Clark, a senior at New Tech High @ Coppell who serves as President of the Coppell Band, said, “It feels amazing to place at the top of these major competitions. We haven’t placed this high in big competitions in my time here, so this is huge.”

Band Vice President Sahan Yerram said seeing his fellow band members buy into the concept of Carousel and give it their all was inspiring.

“This season means so much to me not only because of our groundbreaking achievements, but also because of how much we grew closer together as a band,” Yerram said. “Playing a part in such a historic marching season will be the highlight of my four years in high school.”

CISD Fine Arts Coordinator Gerry Miller, former Head Band Director, said the Coppell Band’s success in the 2021 competition season is a culmination of years of hard work.

“The performances offered by these band students are the culmination of many years of great instruction in music dating back to their CISD elementary music and middle school band classes,” Miller said. “These results are another stepping stone on the road to the bright future of the Coppell Band.”

Both Miller and Shuttlesworth credit parent volunteers for the band’s success.

“Our Coppell Band family is what makes our success possible,” Shuttlesworth said. “From driving their kids to practice, to volunteering with props and concession stands, to chaperoning our events, we couldn’t do what we do and achieve what we have achieved without our parents.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Band of America St. Louis Super Regional</td>
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<td>5th UIL 6A State Competition</td>
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<td>1st UIL 6A Area Competition</td>
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<td>8th Band of Americas San Antonio Super Regional</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Band of America Dallas/Fort Worth Regional</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th Consecutive UIL Marching Sweepstakes Award with a Superior Rating</td>
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RELATIONSHIPS GUIDE

NEW BAND LEADERS

HEAD BAND DIRECTOR KIMBERLY SHUTTLESWORTH, ASSISTANT BAND DIRECTOR RIAZ MOHAMMED

Though the Coppell High School Band welcomed two new faces at its leadership helm this school year, they are marching to a familiar beat, as both cite relationships as the hallmark of their first semester with CISD.

“Being a part of Coppell ISD has been one of the best experiences of my career,” says Coppell Head Band Director Kimberly Shuttlesworth. “The support, encouragement and relationship building this district prides itself on is very real. This truly is a special place to work.”

Shuttlesworth, who is in her 16th year of teaching, is the former Director of Bands at Tom Glenn High School in Leander ISD. She also served as the Director of Bands for James Bowie High School in Austin ISD.

“You and I are in the business of making the difference,” Shuttlesworth says. “We want to be the glue that helps the students become successful.”

Shuttlesworth says the best part about being in CISD is the family feel.

“Everyone has been extremely welcoming and supportive, whether they are parents, teachers and staff, administration or community members,” she says. “I have never witnessed anything like it before in my years of teaching, it is truly remarkable.”

New Assistant Band Director Riaz Mohammed agrees.

“In my career, this has been one of the most welcoming first few months here in Coppell ISD,” Mohammed says. “There has been continuous support and encouragement from both students and staff.”

Mohammed is in his seventh year of teaching, having previously served as the Associate Band Director at James Bowie High School in Austin ISD and Assistant Band Director at Campbell Middle School in Cy-Fair ISD.

“My relationships with students is something I consider to be genuine,” he says. “Our intention is to maintain high standards in our approach to what we do as a team and approach education from a human perspective. We want to teach a strong work ethic, while building trust, and making sure we work hard and play hard.”

He continues, “From my interview process to the present day, I have felt like this is a place that I belong. There is a certain family aspect that is built into the culture of not only the district, but the community as well.”

“This is certainly an amazing place to be.”

The relationship with the students is centered around love, encouragement, standards, honesty and trusting one another,” Shuttlesworth says. “We like to work hard, but also enjoy what we do. It is wonderful to be a part of the good amount of laughter and smiles in between the strong work ethic these students have.”
Throughout the fall, community members and organizations, as well as local businesses helped CISD celebrate teachers and staff with Fun Friday events. Fun Fridays are weekly pop-up celebrations in appreciation of CISD employees, who are working so tremendously hard to provide the best educational experience for all district students.

“I believe tokens of thanks, gestures of support and activities of appreciation go a long way in letting our educators and employees know they are valued and loved. It is crucial to take care of our teachers and staff, so they can best take care of our students. These Fun Friday activities were an important step in this process.”

— Dr. Brad Hunt
Superintendent

Whether it was sponsoring an ice cream social, bringing in snacks for teachers and staff, having a prize wheel, providing breakfast or dessert treats, or experiences such as painting, mug making and flower arrangements, lawn game activities or exercise classes, the CISD community and businesses helped thank CISD staff for their hard work and dedication to students.

“Our community and business partners are highly engaged and always willing to lend a hand when asked.”

— Angela Brown
Executive Director of Communications and Community Engagement

THANK YOU TO CISD FUN FRIDAY
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS:

Coppell ER
Amy Maxey
Las Colinas Federal Credit Union
Emily Martinez
CISD Board of Trustees
Kate Hawkins with New York Life
Jennifer Fishman
Rhonda Causety with Grand Canyon University
Market Street
Joe the Baker
Jason’s Deli
Equitable Advisors — Ryan Hammer
Nothing Bundt Cakes Lewisville
CISD Education Foundation
Barre 3
Realtor Toni Bouchard and Team
Championship Martial Arts — Kevin and Amanda Nevels
Infoquest — Melissa Meyr
Lenahan Law
Define Orthodontics — Dr. Kirat Sodhi
Saint Taco — Carrollton Linda Shin
Twisted Root Coppell
Sage Hill Apartments — Erik Johnson
Realtor Kathy Shafer
Spotlight on GREAT TEACHING
MEGHAN TINSLEY AT CANYON RANCH ELEMENTARY

For Meghan Tinsley, great teaching means constantly evolving.

“I have never stopped learning how to meet the kids where they are, and I am never going to stop,” said Tinsley, who is a kindergarten teacher at Canyon Ranch Elementary and has taught in CISD for 16 years.

Her ultimate goal is to get her learners ready for first grade by instilling in them confidence, strategies and skills for a lifetime of learning. The key to accomplishing this goal is to establish relationships with her learners.

“I advocate for them and support them, so they are comfortable and feel like they can come to me for anything,” she said. “We are a team, and we do everything together.”

Tinsley describes her teaching philosophy as striving to create a warm and loving classroom environment where her students can feel comfortable taking risks and expressing themselves in every way possible.

One example of Tinsley’s great teaching in action is how she engaged her students in a lesson on personal financial literacy held in spring 2021. This project was a result of a collaboration with Tinsley’s former Wilson kindergarten team and her current Canyon Ranch kindergarten colleagues.

Over a two-week period, each of her learners had a job and earned a “paycheck” in the form of plastic coins, which also helped in a math lesson. By the end of the two weeks, students would gather all the “money” they received to “buy” a gift for their parents. Tinsley held the market outside, so virtual learners could participate.

“Meghan understands how important engagement with students and families is to learning at this age,” said Canyon Ranch Elementary Principal Ashley Minton. “This lesson was hands-on and had real-world applications, and the kids and families loved it.”

Tinsley describes CISD as a great place, where she feels valued and supported.

A recent highlight for her is being able to open Canyon Ranch Elementary in 2019.

“Opening a new school is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Tinsley said. “I loved seeing our school work together as a family to provide a warm and loving environment for the kids.”

Tinsley said she wishes the community knew that their child is the center of every decision made by educators.

“We arrive early and leave late, so we can prepare and plan, so we can create some of the most amazing lessons here in CISD,” she said.

According to Tinsley, all of her students are her success story.

“I love hearing about them flourishing in the real world, and I love how they can remember what happened in my classroom,” Tinsley said. “All I do in the classroom I do for the kids. They are my greatest accomplishment.”
**Bringing Home the Gold:**

**ALUMNA**

**CHIKA OGBOGU**

**WINS GOLD IN VOLLEYBALL**

Olympic gold medalists are one of the most exclusive group of athletes on the globe. Now, CISD’s own Chiaka Ogbogu has entered into this category of athletes.

“All of our kids can look at Chiaka and know that if you set a goal for yourself you can achieve that goal. That goal doesn’t just happen because you are smart and talented, it takes a lot of hard work,” said CISD Superintendent Dr. Brad Hunt.

Achieving gold is a difficult feat, one that came with years of dedication.

“We see everything that Chi has done and accomplished leading up to her gold medal, but what you might not know is that she’s been an overnight success years in the making,” said former CHS Principal Mike Jasso, who was Ogbogu’s principal when she was a CHS student. “It’s important to know that gold medal doesn’t just happen. Ogbogu spent hours in the gym honing her skills physically.”

Ogbogu grew up in Coppell, attending Town Center Elementary, Coppell Middle School North and Coppell High School, where she graduated in 2013.

Ogbogu’s volleyball journey began in seventh grade, when she tried out for the CMS North volleyball team. Making varsity her junior year, Ogbogu led the volleyball team to win back-to-back Class 5A state titles, along with being named all-district, all-state and being named the Gatorade Texas Player of the Year in 2012.

During a parade in Ogbogu’s honor on Aug. 14, 2021, CHS Principal Laura Springer announced that Ogbogu’s No. 11 will be retired and that a new banner will hang alongside the 2011 and 2012 volleyball state titles congratulating her on winning gold.

Ogbogu committed to the University of Texas her junior year, where she later attended college on scholarship. While playing for UT, Ogbogu racked up an impressive set of athletic achievements, including being a three-time American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American, the seventh three-time All-American in UT history.

Since graduating from UT in 2017, Obogu has played for a total of five professional volleyball clubs: Il Bisonte Firenze, Chemik Police, A. Carraro Imoco Conegliano, Eczacıbaşı VitrA, Istanbul and VakıfBank. After playing with Team USA in the 2018 PAN American Cup, Ogbogu was named to the Olympic team roster.

During the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Team USA made history as the first U.S. Olympic Volleyball gold medalist team.

Ogbogu said, “I think the number one question I’m being asked is if I ever thought I could get here. If I’m being honest, I didn’t. It really does take a village and I’m so grateful for the village in this room. Thank you to everyone who is here, I would not be here today without all of you. I have so much gratitude and love for Coppell. Thank you for everything.”

Photos courtesy of Nandini Muresh, a junior at CHS and the Photo Editor for the CHS Sidekick student newspaper and USA Volleyball.

By Torie Peck
CHS 11th grade student and the Sports Editor for the CHS Sidekick student newspaper. A version of this story originally was published by Coppell Student Media at www.coppellstudentmedia.com.
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Coppell ISD is welcoming several new coaches to the Athletics team for the 2021-2022 school year. These coaches join the district family as experts in their sports and engaged teachers and mentors focused on student athletics and helping CISD athletes be the best they can be both on and off the field.

**Fleur BENATAR-WHITTEN**
Girls Soccer

“I am excited to be here and have truly been welcomed and love the family feel that the Coppell ISD athletics, academics, support staff and community has shown me in my first few months here. I am impressed with the positive outreach and general excitement for me and my sport. Coming from the college level, I feel the athletics program has a great infrastructure and support both academically and athletically in a professional manner.”

**Gary BEYER**
Girls Golf

“I cannot imagine teaching or coaching anywhere but Coppell High School. The support I receive from my fellow coaches, families and students is amazing. I love how Coppell ISD is all about relationships. Each and every day I work to make a difference in the lives of my students, and CHS supports me in this endeavor.”

**Ashley MINICK**
Softball

“I am very fortunate to be a part of the Coppell ISD family. Everyone I have met so far has welcomed me with open arms, encouraged me, and supported me during this transitional time. I have enjoyed building relationships with the staff, student-athletes, students and parents. Coppell ISD has shown me that we are one unit, one community and one family. I am proud to say that I work with some of the best people and in the best school district around!”

**Landon WREN**
Cross Country and Girls Track and Field

“Coppell ISD has such a great reputation around the state. From day one, I have felt welcomed by the administration, fellow teachers and coaches, the kids, the parents and the community. The absolute best part of my job each and every day is getting to work with young people. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the kids in the classroom and in athletics. I view what I do as less of a job and more of a calling, and I feel blessed to be able to follow my calling in a community as wonderful as CISD.”

**Amanda ROSS**
Swimming and Diving

“It is such an honor and a blessing to be part of the Coppell ISD family. I love being a coach and a teacher at CHS9. The best part of this school year so far has been the CHS9 pep rally. The students who have been practicing and planning this year did such an amazing job. Our administrators also aren’t afraid to have fun to engage with our kids. I am so grateful for this opportunity.”

**Fall Athletics ACCOLADES**

- CHS Junior Andrew Mullen placed 7th at the UIL 6A Cross Country State Championship
- Team Tennis finished their season as Regional State Semifinalists
- 11 student-athletes committed to continue their athletic careers at Ivy League, Division I and Division II colleges during the Nov. 10 signing day
Since watching his sister play basketball from the stands when he was a kid, CHS senior and varsity basketball player Ryan Agarwal has always had a love for school spirit.

“I love seeing that I am able to express my love for basketball and share that love with the student body,” said Agarwal. “It truly is the best feeling when you see your friends and family rooting for you.”

The CISD community can continue rooting for Agarwal after he graduates in May 2022, as the star basketball player has committed to attend Stanford University.

“Stanford truly was my dream school, and they offered me a great scholarship,” Agarwal said. “One of my goals in life was to not make my parents pay for college, as they have gone through so much to make me the athlete I am today and have stood with me my whole life.”

“Stanford offered me an opportunity in which I could do what I love while still receiving a great education and allowing me to uphold this goal.”

Off the courts, Agarwal prioritizes his academic career, as he recognizes the importance of education and school as he believes that education is a driving force in society.

“Playing basketball entails a lot of responsibility and time,” said Agarwal, who takes several AP classes. “Besides practice, we work out multiple times a day and focus a lot on strength and agility. Some days I have to miss a workout to put in extra work to study for a test or finish homework.”

Through his achievements and recognitions, Agarwal hopes to encourage young kids to shoot for the stars. He especially wanted to act as a role model for future Asian athletes.

“As an athlete of Indian heritage, I never really saw Indian players playing basketball after high school, so I wanted to be different,” said Agarwal. “I wanted to show my peers that we can do it too.”

Agarwal is excited to see what comes next in his career, as he is eager to take his roots of empathy, respect and teamwork to the next level at Stanford University.
Kristan Perryman  
Austin Elementary  
I became an educator because I love working with kids and wanted to make an impact in their lives. After a childhood of “teaching” my Cabbage Patch Kids, I was ready to move into the classroom!  
I love to travel! From the mountains to the beaches.

Ashley Minton  
Canyon Ranch Elementary  
I love working with people and seeing their potential for growth! I believe educators are some of the most amazing people, and their commitment to our kids is second to none. I love getting to come alongside them to support our learners and families.  
I grew up in East Texas.

Dr. Andra Penny  
Cottonwood Creek Elementary  
This is my “calling”…. I was meant to be a principal! My passion is helping others (especially children) become their best selves!  
I started as a drama major in college, but changed majors to Elementary Education.  
I still love the microphone!

Shannon Edwards  
Denton Creek Elementary  
I wake up every morning excited to serve the learners, staff, and families of Denton Creek! I see my role as a servant leader who is called to do whatever it takes to ensure DCE is a safe, strong community.  
I love all things Disney.

Gema Hall  
Lakeside Elementary  
I am committed to making Lakeside the best it can be. I love coming to school every day. I wanted to provide children with the opportunity to positively impact their lives and our world.  
I am a huge University of Kentucky basketball fan.

Chantel Kastrounis  
Richard J. Lee Elementary  
I serve as a principal, because I get the privilege to build community and make a difference with others. I’m honored to serve Coppell ISD, and there is no place I would rather be!  
I am a pretty good pinball player. I have my own Elvis pinball machine at home.

Laura Flynn  
Mockingbird Elementary  
I serve as a principal because I love helping others and watching them reach their full potential or find their passion. It is a gift to be able to watch all that happens in our school from a “bird’s eye view.”  
I was a Piccolo Section Leader in the Longhorn Band at UT.

Kristi Mikkelsen  
Pinkerton Elementary  
I serve as a principal because I want to make a difference in the lives of children. The people I work with each day inspire me. The moments I get to see on a weekly basis as they connect with kids are the best.  
I am a certified dance fitness instructor. I teach at Highland Village Jazzercise.
Jennifer Martin  
Town Center Elementary  
I serve as a principal because it allows me the opportunity to help our staff and kids do great things. It’s a partnership that inspires and fulfills me.

I was a camp counselor at local camps and Sky Ranch for several summers.

Cynthia Arterbery  
Valley Ranch Elementary  
I serve as a principal because I want to make a positive impact on learners and be an encourager for other educators.

I enjoy game night with my family and going to concerts with my daughter.

Cooper Hilton  
Wilson Elementary  
I serve as a principal because I have the honor and responsibility of making decisions daily that positively impact my school. I got into education because I believe that everyone deserves a chance.

My bachelor’s degree is in Spanish Literature.

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Angela Campbell believes that all learners should have access to enriching physical education and sports experiences. This dedication to students with special needs is among the many reasons Campbell is the 2021 Region 10 Randy Foederer Whatateacher Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year, sponsored by Whataburger.

This award honors an Adapted Physical Education (APE) professional who goes above and beyond in providing physical education classes and opportunities for athletics inclusion for students with special needs.

“Having the opportunity to learn from Randy Foederer while working at Region 10 and now receiving the award named in his honor is definitely a highlight of my career,” Campbell said. “I learned so much from Randy, and I’m thankful I have had the opportunity to have an even greater impact on the learners I serve with the knowledge I gained.”

A veteran educator with 24 years of combined special education and APE experience, Campbell has served CISD for almost 20 years. Her knowledge in adapted PE combined with her experience as a special education teacher gives her a unique view and perspective to serve her students.

Campbell’s journey into adapted PE began when she was a special education teacher in a classroom for learners with severe and profound disabilities in 2001 in CISD.

“During my second year in this classroom, we hired our first adapted PE teacher for the district,” Campbell said. “We had great discussions about our learners’ needs and instructional strategies.”

One day this teacher told Campbell she would be a great adapted physical education teacher and suggested she check out Texas Woman’s University’s master’s program in adapted PE.

Campbell enrolled in the TWU program and was able to combine her love of sports with her passion for her special education students into her adapted physical education career.

Campbell prioritizes collaborating with others to provide the best and most effective service possible, and she gives extra to ensure her students have access to all the opportunities available, while demonstrating what it means to truly advocate for those with disabilities.

“Angela works daily to have an impact on her students and colleagues lives,” said CISD Director of Intervention Services Stephanie Flores.

The Randy Foederer Whatateacher APE Teacher of the Year Award is named in honor of Randy Foederer, who in his more than 40 years of teaching adapted physical education has been a pioneer in his field. The Region 10 Service Center covers more than 130 ISDs, charters and private schools across 10 north Texas counties, serving more than 880,000 students and 112,000 school staff, of which 58,000 are teachers.
Building relationships with his students through a mutual love of sports has always been a priority for John Kelder, CMS West Athletic Coordinator. When CMS West moved to its new location in 2018, Kelder began exploring ways to enhance his relationship with his physical education learners who came from a different sports background than he did. This led to the new tradition of cricket Friday at CMS West.

After purchasing some cricket equipment for physical education classes, Coach Kelder and his fellow P.E. educators began to have the CMS West students teach the coaches how to play the sport.

“Fridays are typically our big group game days, we will either stay inside for a big game or go outside in nice weather and let the students choose their own activity,” Kelder says. “We definitely always have requests to bring the cricket equipment out on Fridays, if we go to the field, and that’s how cricket Friday was born.”

Kelder says there are CMS West students whose parents still play in cricket leagues across the Metroplex, and these students have enjoyed teaching the coaches and friends how to play the international sport.

Seventh grade CMS West student Angad Raut, who plays for a 13 U cricket team with the North Texas Cricket Association, is one of the students helping Kelder learn more about cricket.

“I knew that we had some students that were really into cricket. This led me down a rabbit hole on YouTube and watching a Netflix show ‘Cricket Fever’ to learn more about the game.”

— John Kelder

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“I remember when I talked with Coach Kelder about the basics of this game, and now it’s awesome to see how excited Coach is about the sport,” Raut says. “Coach Kelder watches live cricket matches, and we talk about the games.”

“It’s an awesome feeling to have a coach be willing to learn something new, for our enjoyment as kids. I’m pretty sure Coach Kelder loves this sport. Everyday, I very much look forward to discussing cricket with him.”

— Angad Raut

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— Angad Raut

Kelder says, “That really means a lot to me. I’m glad Angad is enjoying teaching us, as much as we are enjoying learning from him.”

Kelder hopes one day to have enough cricket equipment to possibly have an entire PE unit on the sport.

“I would love for us to be able to eventually teach everyone how to play and expand this program to all the middle schools, but for now we are enjoying our cricket Friday tradition at CMS West,” he says.
On May 7, 2016, Coppell ISD voters approved a $249 million bond package. Here is a brief look at the return on this investment into your school district.

NEW CAMPUSES WERE BUILT & EXPANDED CURRENT CAMPUSES TO ADDRESS ENROLLMENT GROWTH

$146 Million

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>11,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>12,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>13,202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- New Coppell Middle School West was built in Cypress Waters. This state-of-the-art facility can educate up to 1,500 students.
- The former Coppell Middle School West campus, originally built in 1968, was renovated and converted into the Coppell High School Ninth Grade Campus (CHS9) to educate up to 1,200 freshmen.
- To accommodate the significant growth in the southern portion of the district, Canyon Ranch Elementary was built to educate more than 870 students.
- A new wing was added to Coppell Middle School East, creating eight additional classrooms and expanding capacity to up to 1,200 students.

RENOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

$65 Million

- Coppell High School, originally constructed in 1989, was updated and modernized throughout to educate a 21st century student and to operate more efficiently.
- Middle School East, Middle School North, New Tech High, and Victory Place all received security and technology upgrades and other building improvements.
- Elementary campuses received building improvements including restroom renovations, new ceramic floor tile, new gym floors, solatube skylights, and other building and site upgrades.

TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

$35 Million

- Technology devices provided to ALL students at ALL campuses to increase access to digital instructional resources.
- Students in 6th-12th grade were provided Apple iPads with keyboards and interactive pencils.
- Replaced outdated devices and equipment, including computers, servers, and network infrastructure.
- Upgraded wireless network infrastructure and expanded wireless access points at all campuses to improve increased bandwidth demand.
- Upgraded district-wide network and internet security including firewalls, internet and content filtering.
- Installed interactive digital display panels in all elementary classrooms and where instructional and content appropriate in secondary classrooms.

SAFETY & SECURITY

$3 Million

- Main building entries were updated to be more physically secure and visitor screening kiosks were added to all 18 campuses.
- Replaced outdated security cameras throughout the district and expanded coverage with 200 additional internal and external cameras to deter and detect possible security threats.
- New LED exterior parking lot lighting was added across district campuses.

ALL PROJECTS COMPLETED ON TIME & UNDER BUDGET

TRANSPARENCY & OVERSIGHT

- The Board of Trustees formed a Bond Oversight Committee of 14 community members.
- The Bond Oversight Committee was charged with ensuring projects remained faithful to the purposes and priorities approved by the Coppell ISD voters.
- The Committee provided input from the community on how to provide the best value to the taxpayers.
- The Committee reviewed project timelines, financial reports, project budgets and overall compliance.
- The Committee provided progress reports to the CISD Board of Trustees at least quarterly.
CISD’s mission is, “Working together, we are committed to creating profound learning experiences for each child, while nurturing meaningful relationships, to positively impact our world.”

According to CISD’s new Coordinator of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning Anne Leheuw, now, more than ever, the critical part of the district’s mission statement is “meaningful relationships.”

“We all have had varied experiences from the pandemic,” Leheuw said. “CISD staff has been working diligently with our learners to create a safe, welcoming space for them to return to school and transition back to in-person learning.”

Many students experienced enhanced mental health and social and emotional needs due to the pandemic.

“Socially and emotionally, students, families and staff may be experiencing a higher level of stress and anxiety for a variety of reasons,” Leheuw said. “We are working to support learners in order for them to feel safe and connected to their campus, so that they can be successful. The CISD Counseling team also is working on vertically aligning our curriculum to support learners in a variety of situations.”

An important part of addressing the social and emotional needs of students is partnering with families. One avenue in which the district does this is through its Parent University program.

“This year, CISD has partnered with the Grant Halliburton Foundation to bring programs to parents and guardians to help them address their children’s needs and work together with our counselors to address these needs so that engaged learning can occur,” Leheuw said.

Parent University programs offered so far included a free, virtual screening of the documentary Angst featuring Olympic Gold Medalist Michael Phelps and others talking about their struggles with anxiety. It was followed by a discussion with mental health professionals.

Another virtual Parent University event focused on educating parents and guardians on how to recognize and respond to a young person in crisis, while sharing tools and resources to keep children safe.

There are also national and state mandates in effect to address students’ social and emotional needs, which include programs on mental health awareness, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying prevention, school safety and college, career and military readiness, and more.

Bills from the recent 87th Texas Legislative session also address social and emotional learning. Senate Bill 179 states that school counselors must spend 80 percent of their time counseling students, which allows them greater opportunity to address learners’ needs. Senate Bill 279 requires school districts to include mental health or suicide hotline information on middle school and high school student ID cards, so learners have access to this information in an easily accessible place.

Leheuw said, “Parents, teachers, counselors and the community are important partners in recognizing the mental health needs of our students and addressing these needs, so our children can learn and thrive.”

www.CoppellISD/ParentUniversity.com
Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to educate a child. A crucial component of the CISD village is the Coppell ISD Education Foundation.

The Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to help the district succeed in its mission of, “Working together, we are committed to creating profound learning experiences for each child, while nurturing meaningful relationships to positively impact our world.”

“We exist to support CISD staff and students by generating and distributing funds for educational, motivational and innovative programs. In a nutshell, we are the PTO [Parent Teacher Organization] for the entire district.” — Allynson Dale Education Foundation Co-President

Some Education Foundation events and programs include Robotics camps for students, the Run to Fund in the spring, the Super Star student and staff recognition program and the end-of-year Recognition Banquet for students in the top 5 percent of their class.

One of the primary ways the Education Foundation supports CISD is through the Give for Grants fundraising program. In its more than 20 years, the Education Foundation has raised and distributed more than $1 million in teacher grants across all 18 CISD campuses.

From supporting strings in elementary schools through ukulele programs to designing complex puzzles for an escape room to bringing designs to life using 3D printers, to bringing innovative reading programs to expanding foreign language skills to providing STEAM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) kits to learners to enhancing school gardens and spreading kindness, the ideas for grants CISD educators develop is impressive.

“We work with teachers, principals and CISD administrators on the grant writing process and then offer the district community to fund the grants they believe in at the schools they choose.” — Jobby Mathew Education Foundation Co-President

The Education Foundation is run by volunteers who are passionate about serving CISD. Education Foundation volunteers are former and current PTO presidents, engaged parent volunteers, members of the community who want to give back, business and community leaders and more.

“We all work and join together in a common call to action to continue to enable CISD to be the best school district it can be.” — Jobby Mathew

Recent innovative support opportunities from the Education Foundation have included selling football game t-shirts, a Christmas wreath raffle, a scavenger “Hunt” involving a cardboard cutout of Superintendent Dr. Brad Hunt and more.

www.CoppellISDef.com
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

- **91.60%** Property Taxes
- **6.69%** State Aid
- **1.24%** Other Local Aid
- **0.47%** Federal Aid

**Total Operating Budget**

$162,189,770

**$162 Million**

PROPERTY TAX RATE

- **M&O Tax Rate**
  - $1.0472
- **Debt Services Tax Rate**
  - $0.2448
- **Combined Tax Rate**
  - $1.292

**EXAMPLE:**
On a $100,000 home, CISD tax will be $1,292.

$1.292

WHAT DOES THE OPERATING BUDGET PAY FOR?

- **49.2%** Instruction
  - $79,809,290
- **9.7%** Student Support Services
  - $15,713,061
- **9.1%** Non-Student Support Services
  - $14,678,395
- **5.6%** Leadership
  - $9,132,813
- **2.3%** Administrative
  - $3,812,345
- **0.6%** Other
  - $927,060

**Recapture**

$38,116,806

State takes 23.5% of CISD Budget in Recapture and uses for the support of the property-poor school districts and charter schools.

"Charter schools are publicly funded through taxation and operated by privately owned management companies. Charter schools are often established, operated, and maintained by for-profit organizations, and are not necessarily held to the same standards as traditional public schools."


*** If CISD did not have to pay recapture to the State, the M&O tax rate could be dropped approximately $0.27 and still generate the same amount of net revenue to the District. The approximate Tax Rate could have been $0.78 (M&O) + $0.2448 (Debt Services) = $1.0248.

On a $100,000 home, approximate CISD tax could have been $1,024 instead of $1,292. ***
Journey of a CISD Student from Early Childhood to Graduation

**EARLY CHILDHOOD** (PreKindergarten)
- Coppell ISD offers full day tuition-free PreKindergarten for all eligible students. Visit www.coppellisd.com/prek for eligibility requirements.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL** (6th-8th)
- PreK Enrollment Application opens in March
- PreK Language Proficiency Testing will begin in April
- Middle School Counselors will hold meetings for 5th grade parents in early March to share information on 6th grade course registration
- All Middle School students must complete two years of PE or Athletics
- All 6th grade students will have two periods (double block) of Math
- All 7th grade students must take Endorsement Explorations class
- All Middle School students must complete one year of Fine Arts - Art, Band, Choir or Theatre

**CTE (Career & Technical Education)**
- Three of the five Endorsements offered in CISD are in the Career & Technical Education areas. CTE program allows students to develop both college preparation and real-world workforce skills development through this customized education program.

**STAAR**
- Course registration for rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders will begin in February
- Students must pass the five STAAR assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, U.S. History, and Biology to earn a high school diploma.

**HOMECOMING**
- Parade, Pep Rally and Football game will be held in September or October

**Graduation Ceremonies**
- Graduation Ceremonies will be held at the end of May

**“ADULTING” DAY**
- Teaching adult life skills such as changing a tire, pay taxes, renting, financial planning, self defense and more will be held for 12th graders

**High School credits required to graduate**
- All students begin their high school careers on the Foundation + Endorsement High School Plan. During the four years, students are required to take 4 English classes + 4 Math classes + 4 Science classes + 3 Social Studies classes + 2 Foreign Language classes + 1 Fine Art class + 1 Physical Education class + 7 Elective classes = 26 credits.

**COPPELL ISD**
LEARNING JOURNEY

**ELEMENTARY**
(Kindergarten-5th)

- Coppell ISD offers full day Kindergarten for children who will be five years old on or before September 1 at all our Elementary Campuses
- Kindergarten Enrollment starts in March
- Kindergarten Round-Up will be held in May to share information and help your child prepare for school

Each year until the student graduates, Returning Student Enrollment will begin at the end of April.

**STAAR**

- STAAR testing begins in 3rd grade for Reading and Math
- All Kindergarten students are assessed to determine whether they exhibit a need for Gifted and Talented (GT) services. CISD will continue to screen all 1st-5th graders for a need for GT services.
- Coppell ISD uses Standards Based Report Card for PreK-3rd grades. K-3rd grades uses a grading key—Met Standard (MS), Approaching Standard (AS) and Insufficient Progress Towards the Standard (IPS). For 4th and 5th grades Letter Grading will be used.

**HIGH SCHOOL**
(9th-12th)

- Students entering 9th grade will have a choice to start at CHS9 (with transition to CHS for grades 10-12) or complete grades 9-12 at NTH@C
- CHS9/NTH@C Counselors meet with 8th graders in January for 9th grade course registration overview
- Course registration for rising 9th graders will begin late January

8th graders will tour CHS9 and NTH@C in early February

**COLLEGE**

- Over 200 colleges and universities will attend College Night at Coppell High School each fall to share college planning process with students and families
- College applications are due for 12th graders between November and February
- Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application should completed in October by 12th graders

**PSAT**

- PSAT is given each year in October to all 10th and 11th graders at no cost. Scores from the test during 11th grade can qualify a student for a National Merit Scholarship.
- Eleventh graders will take the SAT for the first time in March. If needed, re-take in May or June. Last recommended date is in October during 12th grade.
- There are 7 ACT test dates per year between September and July. Ideal time to take ACT is between spring of 10th grade and summer of 11th grade.

**REPORT CARD**

- Students must choose an endorsement during 9th grade course registration

An endorsement is a set of courses that allows a student to learn more about a particular area of interest. Students are required to complete a certain number of courses to earn credit towards their endorsement. Often times, these courses will be counted as an elective for the purpose of the student’s graduation requirements. The five Endorsements students may choose from are: Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, Multidisciplinary, Public Services and STEM.