



School Notes

For Immediate Release
Feb. 1, 2017

NISD School Notes, Feb. 1-13

District schools name Exemplar Educators of the Year

Twenty-seven Northwest ISD schools have named their Exemplar Educators of the Year, honoring the district's top teachers by campus for the 2016-17 academic year.

Elementary schools spread the awards over every grade level and several educational professions – including art teacher, counselor and librarian – and secondary schools similarly spread the award among a variety of subjects. Northwest ISD will honor these teachers at the district's annual Inspire Celebration, where the district's overall Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year will be crowned from the list of winners. Those two winners will then represent the district in the Region XI Teacher of the Year competition.

The Inspire Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, April 13, will also acknowledge the district's Employees of the Year, retirees and some of Northwest ISD's longest-serving staff members celebrating their major work anniversary milestones.

Northwest ISD's Exemplar Educators, seen in the lists below, were selected by campus staff for their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom.

Elementary Exemplars of the Year

- Beck Elementary: Carla Gamache (Art)
- Cox Elementary: Tiffany Holland (1st Grade)
- Granger Elementary: Kelsey Wallace (3rd Grade Language Arts & Social Studies)
- Haslet Elementary: Jamie Kercheval (5th Grade)
- Hatfield Elementary: Chelsea Dullye (2nd Grade)
- Hughes Elementary: Emily Rivera (Intervention Specialist)
- Justin Elementary: Charlie Garrett (Counselor)
- Lakeview Elementary: Sarah Montes (2nd Grade)
- Love Elementary: Crystal Williams (Intervention Specialist)
- Nance Elementary: Kimberly Spring (4th Grade)
- Peterson Elementary: Rayna Anderson (2nd Grade Math & Science)
- Prairie View Elementary: Karla Granillo (Kindergarten)
- Roanoke Elementary: Kelley Ramsey-Valdez (Librarian)
- Schluter Elementary: Elizabeth Smith (Gifted & Talented)
- Sendera Ranch Elementary: Susanna Craig (2nd Grade)
- Seven Hills Elementary: Marisa Tindel (4th Grade)
- Thompson Elementary: Ashley Mooneyham (4th Grade Math & Science)

Secondary Exemplars of the Year

- Chisholm Trail Middle School: Yari Kemp (Math)
- Medlin Middle School: Julie Hinshaw (Language Arts)
- Pike Middle School: Patricia Lutkenhaus (Science)
- Tidwell Middle School: Holly Duesterheft (Language Arts)
- Wilson Middle School: Andrea Driver (Language Arts)
- Byron Nelson High School: Bryan Combest (Math/Statistics)
- Eaton High School: Rae Jean Johnson (English)
- Northwest High School: Jeanette Jones (Social Studies)

- Steele Accelerated High School: Keith Smith (Math)
- Denton Creek: Rick Ford (Science)

Northwest ISD's Adam Feind named CTO of the Year

Adam Feind, Northwest ISD's chief technology officer, has received one of the top honors in the state for his position and been named the Grace Hopper Outstanding CTO of the Year Award.

The Texas K-12 CTO Council, an organization for chief technology officers from school districts across Texas, awarded Mr. Feind with the honor at its annual winter meeting in January. It annually provides the award to the district CTO who "best represents the model of leadership set forward by Grace Hopper, a pioneer of computer programming" who was a leader in the U.S. Navy as a rear admiral.

Nominees are considered based on their effective leadership, ability to foster community involvement, innovative use of technology, impact on learning and technology partnerships with other entities.

Mr. Feind joined Northwest ISD in 2014 and is responsible for the design and implementation of technology and instructional technology programs to ensure a digital platform for learning exists in all district classrooms. He previously served as the executive director of technology for 16 years at Midway ISD in Waco.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Adam Feind Award.jpg]: Northwest ISD's Adam Feind (center), chief technology officer, received the Texas K-12 CTO Council's Grace Hopper Outstanding CTO of the Year Award. Mr. Feind received the award for his effective leadership, ability to foster community involvement, innovative use of technology, impact on learning and technology partnerships with other entities.

Eaton wrapping up Northwest ISD spring musicals this week

Eaton High School will wrap up Northwest ISD's spring musical performances with its rendition of "The Wizard of Oz," following the recent Byron Nelson High School performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and Northwest High School performance of "Big Fish."

Performances of "The Wizard of Oz" will take place daily from Thursday, Feb. 2, to Sunday, Feb. 5. All performances are at 7 p.m. except for Sunday performance, which take place at 2 p.m. Performances will take place in the Eaton performing arts center, with tickets costing \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Northwest ISD staff and Gold Card members receive free admission.

POSTERS INCLUDED [Eaton Wizard of Oz Musical.pdf]

Beck elementary named 2017 Texas School of Character

Character.org, a national advocate and leader for the character education movement in collaboration with the Texas Elementary Principal Association, has named Northwest ISD's Beck Elementary School a 2017 Texas School of Character. This program recognized Beck as a school that has demonstrated its use of character development to drive a positive impact on academics, student behavior and climate.

Beck is one of only seven schools in Texas to receive the designation for 2017, and just 80 nationwide have received the designation for their states. For eligibility, schools must adhere to the organization's 11 principles of effective character education, including providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in character-building efforts.

Principal Sandy Conklin said the distinction demonstrates the Beck's commitment to nurturing well-rounded students who represent their school and community with honor.

"Developing a strong character education program is equally as important as developing academic excellence," Mr. Conklin said. "We are appreciative of Character.org and TEPSA for its efforts to support schools in this endeavor. We are eager to carry this distinction for years to come and are hopeful our example will lead other schools in Texas to participate in this program in order to enhance students' lives statewide."

The Schools of Character application process is an opportunity for schools and districts to receive thoughtful feedback for growth and excellence in the area of character development through Character.org's 11 Principles of Effective Character Education framework. It is also a method of recognizing exemplary schools and districts in the nation.

Student holiday scheduled for Feb. 20

Monday, Feb. 20, will serve as a student holiday and staff development day. This day was scheduled as a bad weather make-up day, but inclement weather has not caused schools to close this year.

To view the full 2016-17 Northwest ISD academic calendar, [click here](#).

Next school board meeting taking place Feb. 13

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will hold its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building, located at 2001 Texan Drive in Fort Worth.

###