



School Notes

For Immediate Release
April 29, 2015

NISD School Notes, April 29 – August 15

18 NISD Seniors Participate in Signing Day Ceremonies

On Wednesday, April 22, 18 NISD seniors signed their letter of intent during the NCAA April Signing Ceremony. The following students will play at the collegiate level:

Byron Nelson High School

Blake Bounce, wrestling, United States Merchant Marine Academy
Alwin Crawford, football, McPherson College
Kyle Green, tennis, St. Mary's
Breanna Greer, softball, Hardin Simmons University
Josh Johnson, football, Norwich University
Joel Kabongo, football, Southwest Oklahoma State
Kevin Lentzner, baseball, Seminole State College
Duke Smith, football, Minnesota Crookston
Chase Therrien, soccer, University of Incarnate Word

Northwest High School

Cale Carr, golf, Bethany College
Majidah Cochran, tennis, Chapman University
Jesse DeVries, basketball Hawaii Pacific University
Anastasia Herskind, soccer, Eastern Oklahoma State College
Sydnee Hinkle, softball, Murray State College
Parker Johnson, tennis, Seminole State College
Eli Ponce, basketball, MidAmerica Nazarene University
Sam Reynolds, soccer, Point Park University
Marcus Thomas, wrestling, Ottawa University

This school year, 39 seniors have signed an NCAA letter of intent. 13 students were recognized in November, and eight in February.

Photos Courtesy of Mike Fisher (BNHS and NHS)

NISD Announces New School Leaders

At the April 27 school board meeting, the NISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of three new campus principals:

Seven Hills Elementary

Kim Blackburn has been selected to lead Seven Hills Elementary School as principal. Blackburn is currently the principal at Grapevine Elementary School in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD. She has also taught in Keller and Birdville Independent School Districts. She will begin her role as principal at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

W.R. Hatfield Elementary

Northwest ISD's Carrie Pierce has been named the principal of W.R. Hatfield Elementary School. Pierce is currently the assistant principal at NISD's J.C. Thompson Elementary School. For the past decade she has served the NISD community as an assistant principal, campus instructional teacher and gifted and talented specialist. She will begin her new position with the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Chisholm Trail Middle School

Justin Vercher has been named the new principal of Chisholm Trail Middle School. Vercher is currently the principal of Watauga Elementary School in Birdville ISD. He has ten years of administrative experience additionally serving as a principal in Forney ISD and assistant principal in Katy ISD. His teacher experience includes kindergarten, first grade and physical education. He will begin his position at Chisholm Trail Middle School with at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

PHOTOS INCLUDED

NISD Wins National Budget Presentation Award

For 12 consecutive years, Northwest ISD has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. This award reflects the commitment of Northwest ISD to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive this award, the district met nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation such as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and a communications device. NISD received a proficient in all four categories. The NISD financial services department will be recognized at an upcoming school board meeting this spring.

BNHS Student Receives Congressional Art Grand Prize Award

Byron Nelson High School senior Solymia Bolyukh received the Congressman Burgess Congressional Art Contest Grand Prize Award. She was recognized at an awards ceremony on April 27. Her work will be displayed at the United States Capitol for one year. The artistic discovery is an annual Congressional High School Art Competition. Since the U.S. House of Representatives created the contest in 1982, hundreds of thousands of high school students have served as artistic ambassadors to their communities.

PHOTO CAPTION [Group]: From left to right: Executive Director of Fine Arts Kevin Lacefield, Ed.D., Byron Nelson High School Principal Ron Myers, Ph.D., Grand Prize Winner and BNHS senior Solymia Bolyukh, Congressman Burgess and Byron Nelson High School art teacher Mylene Davis.

NISD Board of Trustees Approves Amended 2015-2016 School Calendar

On Monday, April 27, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees approved amendments to the 2015-2016 academic calendar. The following modifications have been made as a recommendation from the NISD District Education Improvement Council, (DEIC) made up of parents, teachers and community members:

- Spring Break has been moved to March 14-18
- An additional bad weather make-up day has been added for a total of three make-up days:
 - February 15
 - March 25
 - April 22 (newly added)

For more information, go to www.nisdtx.org/calendars.

NISD Announces Modified Three Tiered Bell Schedule for 2015-2016

Northwest ISD announces the following modified bell schedule effective this August 2015:

Elementary Schools: 7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
 Middle Schools: 8:45 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.
 High Schools: 8:35 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
 Steele Accelerated/Special Programs Center: 8:25 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Northwest ISD initiated a triple-staggered schedule in the 2011-2012 school year. By implementing a tripled-staggered transportation schedule, the district was able to save more than \$1 million. At the April 27 school board meeting, the contract with Durham transportation was approved and renewed. Additionally, Durham Transportation has reduced rates by 3% on all costs. Thanks to the district's conservative spending, coupled with the reduced rates from Durham Transportation, there will be no change in cost with the modified three-tiered bell schedule.

Please note the key changes listed below:

- Middle school times will be 8:45 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.
- Middle schools will continue to open their doors at 8 a.m. for tutoring, drop-off, etc.
- If your child has been accepted to a Northwest ISD academy at one of the four high schools (Byron Nelson, Northwest, Eaton or Steele), they will be transported to their home campus first and take a shuttle bus to their academy campus in the morning. In the afternoon, they will be routed from their academy campus to their corner stop.
 - For example, if your child lives in the Northwest High School attendance zone, and attends The Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Services at Byron Nelson High School, your child will ride the bus from their corner stop to Northwest High School, then be shuttled to Byron Nelson High School in the morning. In the afternoon, your child will board the bus at Byron Nelson High School and be transported to their corner stop.
 - This will save the district approximately \$500,000 in transportation costs.
- These schedule changes will take place with the 2015-2016 school year.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to place kids first and strive for continuous improvement. For further questions regarding the modified schedule, please contact Outsourced Operations Manager Dana Chandler at 817-215-0190.

Justin Elementary Teacher Receives Eco-Educator Award

Justin Elementary School teacher Kelly Barrett received the WFAA Eco-Educator Award in a surprise presentation and a \$1,000 check for the school on April 28. WFAA's Project Green highlights North Texas eco-educators who have demonstrated innovation and creativity by executing a "green" initiative at their school. Ms. Barrett was nominated by a fellow teacher for her efforts with the school's garden and Green Team. Ms. Barrett has initiated creative tasks for students to do each month such as a butterfly garden area, planting trees and creating fairy gardens inside of unique objects. Viewers had an opportunity to vote all week on the WFAA-TV Project Green website. She was nominated along with six other teachers in the area.

PHOTO CAPTION [eco_educator]: Kelly Barrett, Justin Elementary School teacher, poses with an oversized check presented to her by WFAA as the recipient of the Eco-Educator Award.

Wear College T-Shirt on May 1

Friday, May 1 is GenTX Day. This day celebrates seniors and promotes postsecondary plans. Northwest ISD is encouraging students and staff to wear a college t-shirt on Friday, May 1. Photos and social media posts can be shared using #GenTXDay. For more information, go to <http://gentx.org/gentxday/>.

District Sets Dates for Kindergarten Round-Up

Children who will attend kindergarten this August are asked to register online beginning April 20. To register, kindergarten students must be five by September 1, 2015. Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for May 4-8. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this event to meet staff, tour the facility and provide the necessary documents needed to complete the registration process. Please bring the following items in order to complete your child's enrollment:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records (immunizations must be up-to-date to attend school)
- Proof of residency (housing contract, rental agreement, utility bill etc. – not a telephone bill)
- Student's social security card
- License or other suitable photo ID of the parent/guardian.

If parents do not have access to a computer at home, computers will be available at the campus during this time.

Keeping Your Kids Safe Online

Due to the inclement weather in March, Northwest ISD has rescheduled the Keeping Your Kids Safe Online meeting to Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). The meeting will feature guest speaker and Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Aisha Saleem.

STEM Presents Annual Showcase

The Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) proudly presents the annual STEM Showcase on Thursday, May 14 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Northwest High School Main Street East Entrance (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Watch as students celebrate their best work from the 2014-2015 school year.

NISD Presents the Night of No Limits

NISD proudly presents the third annual Night of No Limits on May 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School (2775 Bobcat Boulevard, Trophy Club, 76262). Kindergarten through high school students will present their best inquiry projects and problem-based learning experiences. Families can experience the Perot Museum's Portable Universe and Meteorologist Jeff Jamison will also showcase the Mobile 11 Storm Chasing vehicle. All of NISD's Academies will be present to highlight their programs as well. Please join us for a night showcasing the extraordinary learning that happens throughout NISD.

NISD Sets Second Bad Weather Make-Up Day

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requiring school districts that used days for inclement weather to make up two days in order to apply for a waiver for the third missed day. Northwest ISD used Friday, April 3 as the first make-up day. The second make-up day will be Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. The district will apply for a waiver for the third day. For more information about the district calendar, go to www.nisdtx.org/calendars.

District Announces Summer School Opportunities

NISD offers a variety of programs for pre-kindergarten through high school students to enhance their educational experience in the summer. Registration is now available for summer opportunities for students. To view a listing of courses and for information on how to register, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/Page/1262>.

NISD to Host Third Annual Back to School Fair

Northwest ISD is partnering with United Way of Denton County to host the third annual Northwest Back to School Fair on Saturday, August 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, at Pike Middle School (2200 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). School supplies will be distributed to families who need extra assistance, based on their financial need (verified by their registration for free or reduced lunch), at the Northwest Back to School Fair where they can also receive free services, community health information and get to know local service providers. By partnering with individuals, businesses, and community organizations, we hope to provide these students in Northwest ISD with a set of age appropriate school supplies and a new backpack.

We Need Your Help! Please consider partnering with us and conducting a school supply drive for loose supplies or participate in our Stuff the Bag Campaign and help us 'stuff the bus' on August 6.

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