



## School Notes

For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2015

### NISD School Notes, September 30 – October 28

#### **Four NISD Students Selected as National Merit Semifinalists**

Northwest High School senior Andrew Smith and Byron Nelson High School seniors Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler and Brendan Woodcock have been selected among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 61<sup>st</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$32 million that will be offered next spring. Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, where all National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected. Winners will be announced in April. These scholarship recipients will join more than 308,000 students with the title of Merit Scholar.

PHOTOS INCLUDED: BNHS\_NatMeritSemi (left to right: Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler, Brendan Woodcock) and Smith\_NHS

#### **NISD Announces 17 Commended Scholars in National Merit Scholarship Program**

Northwest ISD is proud to recognize 17 students as Commended Scholars in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program:

Jacey Allen, Byron Nelson High School  
Sarah-Anna Baxleyova, Northwest High School  
James Bergeron, Byron Nelson High School  
Paul Cockrum, Northwest High School  
David Green, Byron Nelson High School  
Caroline Gross, Byron Nelson High School  
Zachary Holloway, Northwest High School  
Michael Knowles, Northwest High School  
Elorm Koto, Northwest High School  
Shamika Kurian, Byron Nelson High School  
Luke Livingston, Byron Nelson High School  
Alexander Miller, Byron Nelson High School  
Kenneth Phipps, Byron Nelson High School  
Patrick Rogers, Byron Nelson High School  
Savannah Schneemann, Northwest High School  
Savanna Smith, Byron Nelson High School  
Lydia Tamas, Northwest High School

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, these select students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

#### **Five Seniors Named National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar**

Northwest ISD announces five students selected as National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars by College Board. James M. Steele Accelerated High School senior Eric Trevino, Northwest High School senior Philo Waters, IV and Byron Nelson High School seniors Kasi Flores, Catherine Porter and James Cuellar have been selected from 5,000 academically outstanding students representing more than 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. Approximately 200 of the top-scoring PAA students from Puerto Rico are also included.

Trevino is a member of Steele Accelerated High School Excel (similar to student council), the school's Running Club, Russian Club, Visual Novel Club and is creating a Chess Club. He would like to major in biology or chemistry with a

focus on pre-med. Waters is vice president of his senior class at Northwest High School and is a member of the varsity basketball team. He has not yet decided on what university to attend but he aspires to become a doctor. Cuellar is a member of the Byron Nelson High School varsity tennis team where he has been recognized as an All-District and Academic All District competitor. He has also been named District 5-6A Newcomer of the Year. Porter is also a member of the Byron Nelson High School varsity tennis team. Additionally, she is on the varsity band and the National Honor Society. She volunteers weekly with special needs children and is planning to major in nuclear engineering. Flores is a member of the BNHS theatre department where has led the department as head set designer. She volunteers at a music venue and plans to major in scenic design.

To be eligible for this award, students must be at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino and achieve a minimum PSAT/NMSQT or PAA score for their region. Students with a cumulative junior year grade-point average of 3.5 or higher are designated as Scholars.

PHOTOS INCLUDED: Trevino, KasiFlores, CatherinePorter, JamesCuellar, Waters

### **Steele Accelerated High School Student Participates in National Leadership Conference**

Steele Accelerated High School senior Maria Galvan represented her campus by participating in a national leadership conference in Washington, D.C. Galvan was elected district president of Skills USA District 4 this summer qualifying her for the national conference. While in D.C., she used her e-portfolio to showcase assignments and was the recipient of the Statesman Award for Texas. Additionally, Galvan was selected by her cohort to speak to a legislative committee about career and technical education classes.

Galvan has been in a student in Northwest ISD since pre-kindergarten. She is enrolled in the cosmetology and collegiate academies at Steele Accelerated High School.

PHOTO: Maria Galvin, senior at James M. Steele Accelerated High School, poses in front of the nation's capital during a national leadership conference in Washington, D.C.

### **New Feature Available on NISD's Mobile App**

New this year, the NISD Mobile App allows you to report sensitive information to school officials regarding bullying, violence, drug use or other situations that concern you. These reports are submitted to school district officials and shared with local authorities, if necessary. All reports are anonymous. To make sure you have the latest feature, simply close the app and re-open.

The NISD Mobile App is available for download on an Apple or Android device. For more information, go to [www.nisdtx.org/mobileapp](http://www.nisdtx.org/mobileapp).

### **Northwest ISD Offers eSchoolPLUS Family App for Parents**

The eSchoolPlus Family mobile app is now available for Northwest ISD parents. The mobile application is a free download features activities, notifications, classwork, report cards, schedule, attendance, alerts and more. The eSchoolPLUS family app is available for the iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android and Kindle Fire. Download the app on your choice of device on the App Store, Google Play or Amazon. For instructions on how to download the mobile application, go to [www.nisdtx.org/eSchoolPLUSFamilyApp](http://www.nisdtx.org/eSchoolPLUSFamilyApp).

### **Shears of Steele Salon Open for Business**

The Shears of Steele Salon is housed at NISD's James M. Steele Accelerated High School and is open for business this school year. The salon provides hair, nails and skincare services and is completely run by NISD students enrolled in the district's Cosmetology Academy. For more information about appointments, salon hours and a list of services, go to <http://www.nisdtx.org/Page/50034>.

### **I Love NISD Campaign**

To show your support and secure your "I Love NISD" package, visit [www.northwestef.org](http://www.northwestef.org), or call the NEF office at 817-215-0173. With your purchase you will receive a 12"x18" yard sign, decal, and t-shirt. Your donation will benefit the Northwest Education Foundation and the Northwest Council of the PTAs. With your \$40 purchase you will be showing your support and pride in NISD, and also helping provide critical resources to ensure that every NISD student has the opportunity to be future ready.

PHOTO CAPTION: Westlake Mayor Laura Wheat shows her support for Northwest ISD while posing with an I Love NISD sign. Get your sign today by contacting the Northwest ISD Education Foundation office at 817-215-0173.

### Three NISD Schools Compete in Speeding to Read Challenge

Samuel Beck, O.A. Peterson and Sendera Ranch elementary schools traveled to Texas Motor Speedway on September 29 to kick off the 2015 Speeding to Read Challenge. Northwest schools will compete against elementary campuses in Crowley, Dallas, Denton, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw, Fort Worth and Lewisville independent school districts in this year's reading incentive program. NASCAR Camping World Truck Series 18-year-old-rookie John Hunter Nemechek spoke about the importance of reading as well as his racing career.

The Speeding to Read program began five years ago as an incentive to encourage elementary school students to read more frequently throughout the school year. This year's contest will have two divisions, each based off of enrollment size, to determine a champion for kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade.

PHOTO CAPTION [SenderaRanchCheering]: Sendera Ranch Elementary School students cheered loudly during the Texas Motor Speedway Speeding to Kickoff celebration on September 29. This is the fifth year Northwest ISD schools have participated in the reading incentive challenge.

### NISD Sets Early Release Times for October 9

Northwest ISD will dismiss early on Friday, October 9 at the following times:

Elementary Schools: 12:15 p.m.  
 Steele Accelerated High School/Special Programs: 1:05 p.m.  
 Northwest and Byron Nelson High Schools: 1:15 p.m.  
 Middle Schools: 1:25 p.m.

Monday, October 12 is a student holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday, October 13.

### NISD Offers Gold Card Program

To show appreciation for their years of support, Northwest ISD provides senior citizens living in the district the opportunity to be part of the district's Gold Card program. In addition to a free annual luncheon scheduled for October 13, Gold Card members receive free entry into district-sponsored events, performances, and athletic competitions. If you are 65 years of age or older, become a member of the NISD Gold Card program today. To join, please call 817-215-0175 or go to [www.nisdtx.org/goldcard](http://www.nisdtx.org/goldcard).

### Volunteer in NISD Schools

Interested in joining a group of 7,000 individuals who make a difference in the lives of NISD students and staff each day? Be an NISD volunteer! Here's how:

- Log on to [www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org), and click the Volunteer Background Check link under Quick Links.
- Once your background check has been approved, you can access your Virtual Volunteer account to sign up for opportunities to serve.

For more information, call 817-215-0172.

### NISD October School Board Meetings

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, October 12 and Monday, October 26 at 7 p.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth, 76177)

### NISD to Host College and Career Fair

In an effort to prepare students for their futures, NISD will host a College and Career Fair on Wednesday, October 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Northwest High School (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Students (k through twelfth grades) and their families can experience a night of breakout sessions ranging from topics such as financial aid, college admissions and applications, scholarship information and more. Be sure to join in the discussion on Twitter at #NISDFutureReady.

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