



Superintendent's Welcome



Karen G. Rue, Ed.D.
NISD Superintendent

Excitement is building across Northwest ISD as we look forward to the start of another school year filled with exploration, insight, and success. We are eager to greet students the first day of school, Tuesday, August 28.

In Northwest ISD, our vision is to be the best and most sought-after school district, where every student is future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace, and ready for personal success. I hope you will take note of the work we are doing to ensure the preparation of future-ready students. Our district is taking an active role to transform education so that students have the opportunity to develop skills, higher-level thinking processes, and knowledge to guide and prepare them for the ever-changing world in which we live. As we educate students today, one of our greatest challenges is preparing them to adapt, use new tools, and develop curiosity, realizing that the careers of the future will require these skills. The expectations and curriculum that was relevant when I was a child no longer serves to prepare our students for the world they will live in. Future-ready students requires commitment from us all!

I encourage you to be involved in your child's education and to lead them in dreaming of their future and setting high expectations and goals. With your help, your child can make the most of the educational offerings and experiences made available. Despite the trying economic times, we are proud to be able to offer students opportunities in their learning. We are also pleased that this school year will bring the unveiling of a fifth in-depth, career academy – Cosmetology Academy – to be housed at Steele Accelerated High School.

Northwest ISD and our surrounding communities continue to attract newcomers, and we anticipate 17,600 students this year. To help accommodate the district's growing student population, the district's fifth middle school, Truett Willson Middle School, will open its doors to students in the Sendera Ranch development and the building additions at Beck, Granger, and Roanoke elementary schools will be complete. As we look to the future of Northwest ISD, we continue to carefully plan and prepare for the district's projected student enrollment. We know that it is only a matter of time before the enrollment growth exceeds our current capacity, creating a need for a bond election to build High School #3 and other classroom spaces.

I greatly appreciate your support of children, Northwest ISD, and our community's vision to ensure future-ready students. Your encouragement, contribution, and understanding are vital to the success of our district and the future of our students. Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year.

Student Enrollment Continues to Climb as Families Flock to Northwest ISD

The number of students in NISD has nearly tripled in 10 years.

Northwest Independent School District is seeing rapid growth and is projected to serve more than 22,400 students – a 35 percent increase – in the next five years. At 234 square miles, the district spans three counties (Denton, Tarrant, and Wise) and 14 municipalities. This year, the district will operate 16 elementary schools, five middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and an accelerated high school.

At a June school board meeting, demographer Bob Templeton explained that North Fort Worth continues to be the fastest growing area in the North Texas region. Currently, two-thirds of Northwest ISD students live in the Fort Worth city limits. This is an important factor when preparing for classroom space, seats for new students, and staff.

Consider this:

- In the fall of 2001, Northwest ISD served approximately 5,600 students. In June 2012, that number had nearly tripled to 16,600.
- In 1998, there were no NISD students living within the Fort Worth city limits. Today, about 8,700 NISD students – or 52 percent – reside in North Fort Worth.
- In addition to the population boom in North Fort Worth, several towns and communities within the NISD boundaries have experienced significant growth.
- New home developments are thriving throughout the district, and new retail and commercial properties are steadily opening. Blend this with the availability of affordable housing, employment opportunities, and shopping with the premier schools in NISD, and you have a recipe for tremendous growth.

Did You Know?

NISD has the potential to eventually reach more than 100,000 students.

As the second fastest growing school district in the state, it is projected that NISD enrollment will experience continued growth over the next 20 years. The increase in population is fueled by the development of new homes and employment in the immediate area. The district will need to support this increase in enrollment with additional classroom space, expanded campuses, and new schools. Current projections indicate NISD will need around 4,850 additional seats to accommodate new students who will

This story continued inside newsletter.



Approximately 615 students will attend the district's fifth middle school, Truett Willson Middle School, located in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood. Construction crews put the finishing touches on the building during the summer in order to welcome students the first day of school, August 28.

Transportation Services

Northwest ISD offers bus service, at no cost to families, for:

- Students who live beyond a two-mile walking distance to school,
- Students who live in an area identified as having a hazardous walking condition to school, and
- Students with special needs for whom Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) committees have already determined transportation needs.



NISD implemented the two-mile walking rule for bus service, combined with a triple-staggered school schedule, in 2011-2012 and was able to effectively reduce transportation costs by about \$1.5 million.

To determine if your address qualifies for transportation, please visit the e-link on the Northwest ISD website at <http://ws01.nisdtx.org/elinkrp>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding transportation at Northwest, please call Durham School Services at 817-698-1287.

Child Care on Campus

All on-site, after-school childcare in Northwest ISD will be provided by Champions Extended Learning. For more information, go to www.discoverchampions.com or call 1-800-350-5034.

Campuses Require All Visitors to Scan ID



The safety and security of all students is a top priority at Northwest ISD. In an effort to help the safety and wellbeing of all students, school visitors must sign in at the office and provide their driver's license or other government-issued photo ID.

Northwest ISD uses a visitor management system to produce guest badges and electronically check all visitors against registered sexual offender databases. For more information, view "Raptor FAQs" on the safety and security pages of the NISD website.

Online Report Cards Make Viewing and Printing Grades Easy

Northwest ISD will continue to issue electronic report cards in 2012-2013. For families who prefer a printed copy of report cards to be sent from the school, please contact your child's campus. In an effort to offer parents a convenient way to view and print student report cards – and to save money on printing and paper costs – Northwest ISD is proud to provide this anytime, anywhere access to grades for its parents and students.



Voter Registration Cards Available

As a convenience to parents and community members, voter registration cards are available in all NISD schools. NISD officials want residents to be well informed and to exercise their right to vote in upcoming elections. As NISD prepares to welcome more than 1,200 new students each year, school renovations and construction will be necessary to accommodate the steady growth. With a bond election likely in the next year, voters will have the opportunity to provide seats for an additional 4,850 students as well as enhancements to safety, security, and technology.

Connect with NISD

Join in the Conversation

Northwest ISD is recognized nationally and across the state for its communication tools that keep NISD families connected to school district information. *Northwest News*, an electronic newsletter, is published twice a month with news, announcements, and important dates. School Messenger is an automated phone messaging system used to notify parents of absences, events, closings, and emergencies. This year, parents will be given the option to receive text message notifications.

To stay connected with Northwest ISD, you're encouraged to...

- Follow us on Twitter.
- Become a fan on Facebook.
- View videos on The NET (Northwest Educational Television)
- Subscribe to the district's YouTube Channel.
- Navigate to the district's mobile site using a smart phone.



Free Online Training Atomic Learning Available 24/7

Atomic Learning, or AL, is a web-based online software training resource made available 24-7 at your finger tips. From tutorials on the latest Microsoft Office products to Web 2.0 Workshops, Atomic Learning offers a variety of solutions to meet the needs of students, teachers, and parents. Users can search from nearly 50,000 tutorials on more than 205 software applications for Macintosh and Windows platforms. Let AL explain answers to your questions through a library of thousands of short clips made to implement and integrate technology in the classroom and at home.

To start using AL, go to www.atomiclearning.com/login/nisdtx. Login credentials are campus specific and can be found at www.nisdtx.org/atomiclearning. Atomic Learning is easy access at your fingertips.

New to Northwest

Welcome to Northwest ISD. Whether you are new to the area or your child has just reached school age, we are glad you chose Northwest schools for your child's education.

For helpful information on new student registration and important back-to-school events, please visit www.nisdtx.org/backtoschool.

Attendance Boundaries

The school(s) your children will attend depends on where you live within Northwest ISD. The district operates 16 elementary schools, five middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and an accelerated high school. If you do not know where your child will attend school, please visit the Attendance Boundary link on the district's homepage or on the Back-to-School site at www.nisdtx.org/backtoschool. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call 817-215-0175 with your physical address.

If your family has not yet moved into the school district, but is building or purchasing a home within the district boundaries, an Anticipated Residency Form must be completed and submitted to the appropriate campus prior to enrolling.

Registration Requirements

All new students are asked to register at the school they will attend. **The following information is required of all students enrolling in Northwest schools:**

- Birth certificate.
- A copy of the child's records from the school the child most recently attended (typically transferred by the school).
- Last report card (if available).
- Immunization records.
- Proof of residency (deed of sale, tax statement, rental agreement, utility bill, etc.).
- Parent/guardian's driver license to be examined by the school upon registering.

To speed the registration process, required registration forms are online for your convenience at: <http://www.nisdtx.org/registration>. You may complete these forms and bring them with you to registration; otherwise, you will be asked to complete the forms upon enrolling. These forms ask for demographic information, contact information, and more.

School Supplies

School supply lists are developed by each campus. Please check your school's website for a list of required school supplies.

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Enrollment Continues to Climb

NISD to Renovate 3 Campuses, Open New Middle School

move into the district in the next few years.

In terms of new homes being built, the top three developments in NISD are:

- The Highlands at Trophy Club
- Sendera Ranch
- Chisholm Springs

Additionally, seven of the top 10 subdivisions are located in the Fort Worth area.

Currently, there are 47 active developments within NISD, and approximately 30,000 future lots have been platted.

Long-Range Plans for Adding Student Seats, New Schools

As Templeton reported to the NISD school board, Northwest ISD has been well prepared for the growing population and has responded to the growth with efficiency and expertise.

The school district has both short-term and long-range plans in place to manage the increasing student enrollment. The Northwest ISD Long-Range Planning Committee – made up of parents, community members, teachers, and other district staff – is discussing future facility needs. The future needs include:

- Plans for an additional 4,850 seats.
- Enhancements to safety and security.
- Technology.
- A new comprehensive high school (to open in the 2015-2016 academic school year in the fast-growing Fort Worth/Haslet area).
- A new middle school (adjacent to the new high school, projected to open in 2016-2017).

The projects and schedule above is contingent upon voter approval of a bond election. The Long-Range Planning Committee's objective is to analyze and prepare a plan for facilities, property, special program requirements, and technology for NISD. Their plan outlines and forecasts demographic projections, as well new schools and modifications to existing buildings and school sites.

Current Plans for Adding Student Seats, New Schools

To accommodate new students throughout the district, construction projects are planned in the next five years for



Samuel Beck Elementary School is one of three elementary schools to receive renovations this year. This new classroom wing, along with minor updates to the interior of the building, will be finished in time for the start of school, August 28.

nine of the district's 16 elementary schools. This will provide additional classrooms for existing buildings as well as additions to common areas like the cafeteria, gymnasium, and fine arts spaces. By increasing the optimal capacity of elementary schools, the district will operate more efficiently and save millions in operating expenses.

In addition to renovations at existing schools, Northwest ISD will open Truett Wilson Middle School in August, the tenth new campus in seven years. The other new schools opened since 2005 include six elementary schools, two middle schools, Byron Nelson High School and James M. Steele Accelerated High School. In total, these projects provided approximately 8,800 seats for new students. With steady growth in the Roanoke area, NISD recently acquired property near Litsey Road for a new elementary school. Funds for this purchase were included in the 2008 bond.

Community Members Provide Valuable Input for NISD Future

One of NISD's strategic goals is to provide premier facilities in order to enhance a positive learning environment and foster school and community pride. The NISD community has responded favorably about district facilities on parent surveys and has shown support for the district with strong voter approval in past bond elections.

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been meeting to identify future facility needs. On August 13, the group plans to present a recommendation to the NISD Board of Trustees for a future bond election. The committee's planning and input has helped the district be well prepared for the fast-paced student enrollment growth.

NISD's 'Outstanding' Board Named Best in Region



The 2011-2012 Northwest ISD Board of Trustees has been named the Region XI Outstanding School Board of the Year. The NISD group is among 20 other regional winners in Texas who will compete for the coveted honor of being one of five "Honor Boards" or the state winner of the "Outstanding School Board" award. Pictured (front row, left to right) is Secretary Josh Wright, Devonna Holland, Jeannette Leong, Kerry Jones, and (back row, left to right) Vice President Mel Fuller, President Mark Schluter and Daryl Laney, D.C.

PreKindergarten Information NISD Offers PreK to Eligible Students

Northwest ISD offers prekindergarten classes for qualifying 4-year-olds at seven of its elementary schools: Hatfield, Hughes, Lakeview, Peterson, Prairie View, Nance and Seven Hills. PreKindergarten registration was held on August 1 and 2, and now it is by appointment only at the campus. For additional information, please call Deanne Colley at 817-215-0198.

Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment, your child must be at least 4 years old on or before September 1, 2012, and must meet one of the following requirements:

- Unable to speak and comprehend the English language.
- Homeless.
- From a family whose income is at or below subsistence level (eligible for free and/or reduced-lunch program).
- Child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including reserves who are ordered to active duty or members who were killed or injured while on active duty.
- Child who is, or has ever been, in foster care.

Required Documentation

The following documentation is required upon registration: birth certificate, immunization records, social security card, and proof of residency (utility bill, lease agreement, etc.). In addition, proof of income (current check stub, 2011 tax return, notarized letter from employer stating income) will be needed for the free and reduced-lunch program application. Military families will need to bring their Department of Defense ID, and reservists will need to bring paperwork indicating that they have been placed on active duty. A letter from the Department of Family Services is required to register children in foster care. Language proficiency testing will be conducted during registration to determine if a child qualifies for the English as a Second Language Program.

Questions regarding Northwest's prekindergarten program may be directed to 817-215-0198. For more information about prekindergarten qualifications, go to www.nisdtx.org/familyinvolvement.

"Tools for School" Provides for NISD Students

The Northwest ISD Partners in Education (PIE) program is helping to ensure that all NISD students have the tools they need to be successful by holding the annual "Tools for School" school supply drive.

Here's how you can help:

- Organize a school supply drive at your organization.
- Make a designated, tax-deductible donation to the Northwest ISD Education Foundation (NEF) to purchase backpacks and supplies.
- Volunteer to distribute backpacks and supplies to NISD schools in August.

If you would like to provide a filled backpack for a student, please deliver to Phil Beckman, Partners in Education Specialist, at the Northwest ISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin). For more information, please contact the Partners in Education program at 817-215-0172 or pie@nisdtx.org. For monetary donations, please contact NEF at 817-215-0173.

Elementary and middle school supply lists are developed by the individual campus and can be found on each school's website. High school students, and some middle school students, will receive specific supply requirements from teachers during the first week of school.



Gene Pike Middle School student Hayleigh Hutrya reviews a school supply list as she packs a bag of supplies for students in need. Hutrya donated and delivered 105 backpacks for the annual "Tools for School" supply drive. She has assisted since 2009 when she established Baking for Backpacks.

Student Laptop Initiative Proves Successful:

NISD to Issue 8,700+ Netbooks in 2012

For the fourth consecutive year, Northwest ISD will issue netbooks, or mini laptops, to students as part of its vision where every student is future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace, and ready for personal success.



Northwest High School students explore their netbook during registration. During the past three years, the secondary student laptop initiative has proved successful in Northwest ISD.

All students in grades 6 through 12 will receive a netbook equipped with wireless networking and software, including the district's filtering system which restricts questionable websites regardless of the student's location.

District officials believe the netbooks, a Dell Latitude 21X0 series, provide equal opportunities in preparing students for a digital age and increase student engagement.

NISD Expects STAAR Results in January 2013



Northwest ISD, along with school districts across the state of Texas, is transitioning to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), a new test which includes end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated in 2007 and the new grade three through eight assessments mandated in 2009. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), some of the key changes represented in the STAAR assessment are:

- Increase in difficulty and rigor of test.
- Emphasis on college-ready initiatives.
- A four-hour time limit.
- High school students will take 12 end-of-course exams (three each in English, math, science, and social studies). The STAAR end-of-course exams will be phased in with ninth-graders this school year.

During the 2011-2012 school year, only ninth-grade students tested in the EOC exams, and results indicate the students performed at a higher level than their peers statewide. Standards will be set in the fall of 2012 for grades three through eight, and student results and district reports are expected in January 2013. Accountability ratings will not be issued this year because of the new testing system.

Northwest ISD is recognized nationally for its rigorous curriculum and for providing innovative opportunities through digital classrooms.

Nutritious Meals and Online Payments Mean Healthy, Easy Options

Northwest ISD takes pride in providing students with well-balanced, nutritious meals with the flexibility to manage your child's account online. The district partners with ARAMARK Food Services to provide students with healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch options.

MyNutrikids and Payment

Students can pay for their meals by using cash or by deducting it from their food service account. To deposit funds into a child's account, send cash or a check made out to Northwest ISD. (If a check is returned for insufficient funds, an insufficient check fee of \$25 will be charged and no further checks will be accepted until full payment has been made.) For an instant deposit, you may also pay online using MyNutrikids.com to directly deposit funds into your child's account from your credit card.

To access MyNutrikids.com, visit the district's website at www.nisdtx.org and select "Food Service" under the "Departments" heading. Children's meal activities may also be tracked via the MyNutrikids.com site. You will need your child's student ID number, the zip code of your child's school, and the child's first and last name to create an account.

All funds remaining in your child's food service account will carry over to the next school year unless a refund is requested. Requests for refunds or requests to place restrictions on your child's account can be sent via e-mail to foodservice@nisdtx.org.

Free and Reduced-Priced Meals Available

In compliance with the National School Lunch Program, applications for free and reduced-priced meals will go home with each child at the beginning of the year and applications will be available at each school. If you received free and reduced-priced meals last year, your child(ren) will continue to receive meal benefits the first 30 days of school. During that time, a new application must be completed for free and reduced meals to continue. If you have more than one child attending NISD schools, combine their names on one application form.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the food program at Northwest, please contact ARAMARK Food Services at 817-215-0005 or 817-215-0180; or the NISD food services coordinator at 817-215-0004; or send an e-mail to foodservice@nisdtx.org. For questions regarding the Texas Department of Agriculture nutrition policy, please call 817-215-0022 or visit www.squaremeals.org.

2012-2013 Student Meal Prices*

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Breakfast	\$1.15	\$1.15	\$1.15
(Reduced Price)	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30
Lunch	\$1.85	\$2.20	\$2.20
(Reduced Price)	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40

* Prices subject to legislative changes.

No Shots, No School NISD Hosts Vaccination Clinics

In accordance with state law, Northwest ISD students will not be allowed to attend school without proper immunizations.

Parents are encouraged to review their child's shot records now to avoid the back-to-school rush and a delay in their child's ability to attend school.

To help students and families prepare for the 2012-2013 school year and required vaccinations, NISD is hosting the following Movax Immunization Clinics:

Monday, August 13

9 a.m. - noon
Northwest High School

Tuesday, August 14

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Medlin Middle School
1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Wilson Middle School

Wednesday, August 15

9 a.m. - noon, Northwest High School
1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Pike Middle School

Thursday, August 16

8 a.m. - noon, Wilson Middle School
1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Medlin Middle School
3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Northwest High School

Tuesday, August 21

8 a.m. - noon, Medlin Middle School
8 a.m. - noon, Wilson Middle School

Wednesday, August 22

8 a.m. - noon, Medlin Middle School
1 - 4 p.m., Pike Middle School
1 - 4 p.m., Sendera Ranch Elementary School

Thursday, August 23

8 a.m. - noon, Beck Elementary School
8 a.m. - noon, Chisholm Trail Middle School
1 - 4 p.m., Hughes Elementary School
5:30 - 7 p.m., Haslet Elementary School

Monday, August 27

8 a.m. - noon, Medlin Middle School
1 - 4 p.m., Pike Middle School

Monday, August 27

7:30 - 10 a.m., Northwest High School

Clinic participants should bring their shot record, and a parent or legal guardian must be present. For each child, shots will cost \$14 for one vaccine or \$22 for two or more. For more information, contact the campus health coordinator at your child's school.



The *Northwest Vision* is published by the NISD Communications Department.

Mark Your Calendars

Registration Dates and Back-to-School Events

Visit www.nisdtx.org/backtoschool



Northwest ISD teachers and staff are excited to welcome you and your child to a new school year. All students are encouraged to attend their school's back-to-school events.

New to NISD?

Students new to the district are encouraged to register during the designated new student registration times.

Returning Student?

If your child attended school in NISD last year, he/she does not need to attend new student registration. The school records of those students who are changing schools within NISD, due to grade level progression (elementary school to middle school) or the opening of a new school, will be automatically sent to the new campus. Returning NISD students who will attend middle school or high school should attend returning student registration or designated schedule pick-up times.

Looking for Back-to-School Events?

Information regarding specific campus registration dates and back-to-school events, like meet-the-teacher nights, are available on the district's website:

www.nisdtx.org/backtoschool

First Day of School Tuesday, August 28

School Times

Elementary Schools

7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Middle Schools

9:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Byron Nelson and Northwest High Schools

8:35 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Steele Accelerated High School

8:25 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

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PO Box 77070 | Fort Worth, TX 76177
www.nisdtx.org | 817-215-0000