

WELCOME TO OUR 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

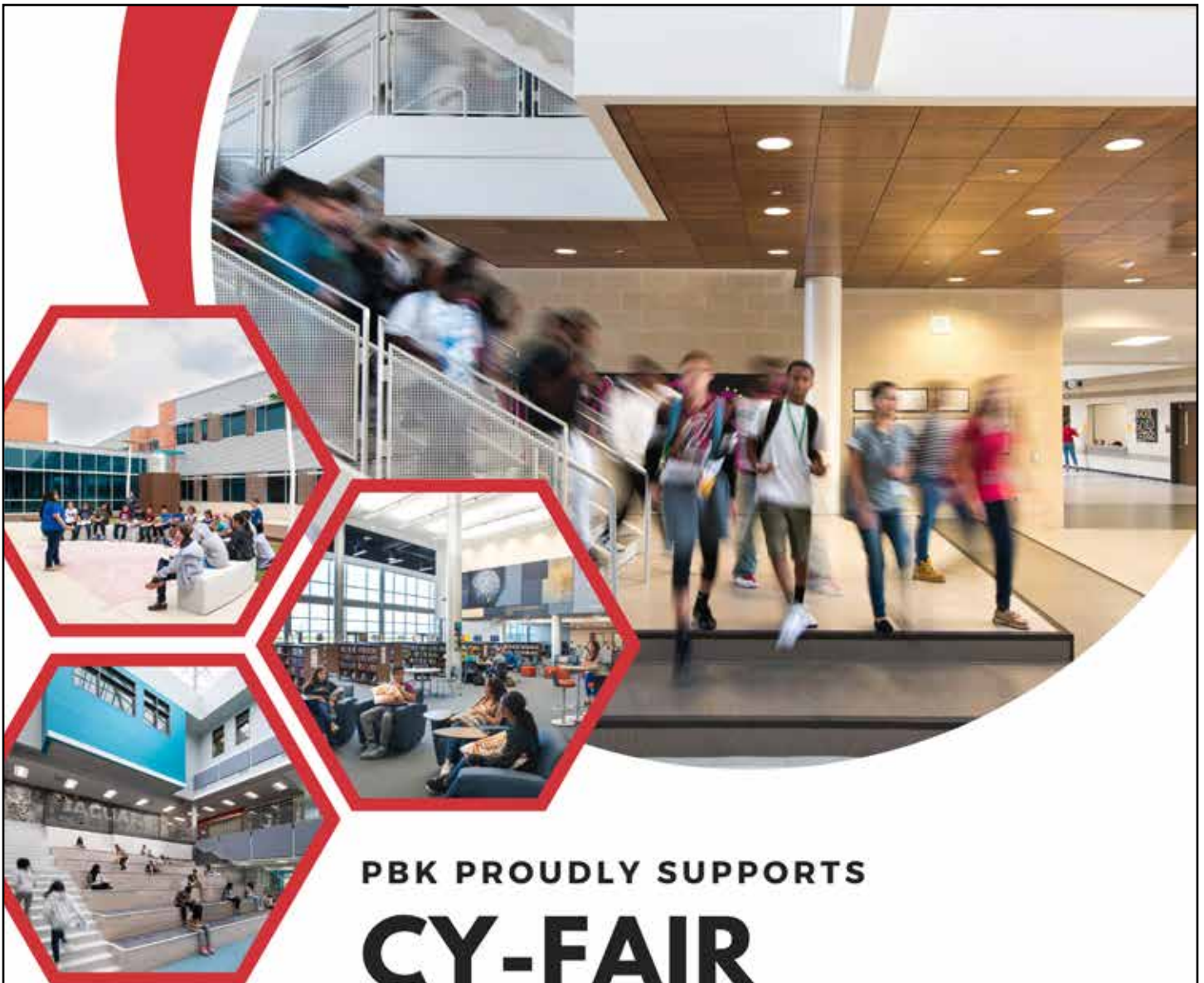
*Salute to the Stars*

MARCH 6, 2025

RECOGNIZING  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR,  
AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR HONOREES  
FROM CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD.



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FOR ALL YOU DO!**

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# PROGRAM

## Salute to the Stars

Welcome .....	Butch Milks Master of Ceremonies Balfour All American  Chiney Ogwumike Guest Emcee 2x WNBA All-Star & ESPN Host
Invocation .....	Pastor Stephen Bailiff Second Baptist Church
Dinner Entertainment .....	Jersey Village High School Drumline Christopher Rapacki, Band Director
Cy-Fair Educational Foundation .....	Bryan Ginsburg CFEF Chairman EnerVest, Ltd.
Superintendent's "Salute to the Stars" .....	Dr. Douglas Killian Superintendent of Schools Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Raffle Drawings / Closing Remarks .....	Chiney Ogwumike Guest Emcee 2x WNBA All-Star & ESPN Host

*Raffle will close at 8:30 p.m.*

*Raffle Winners will be posted in the Arena*

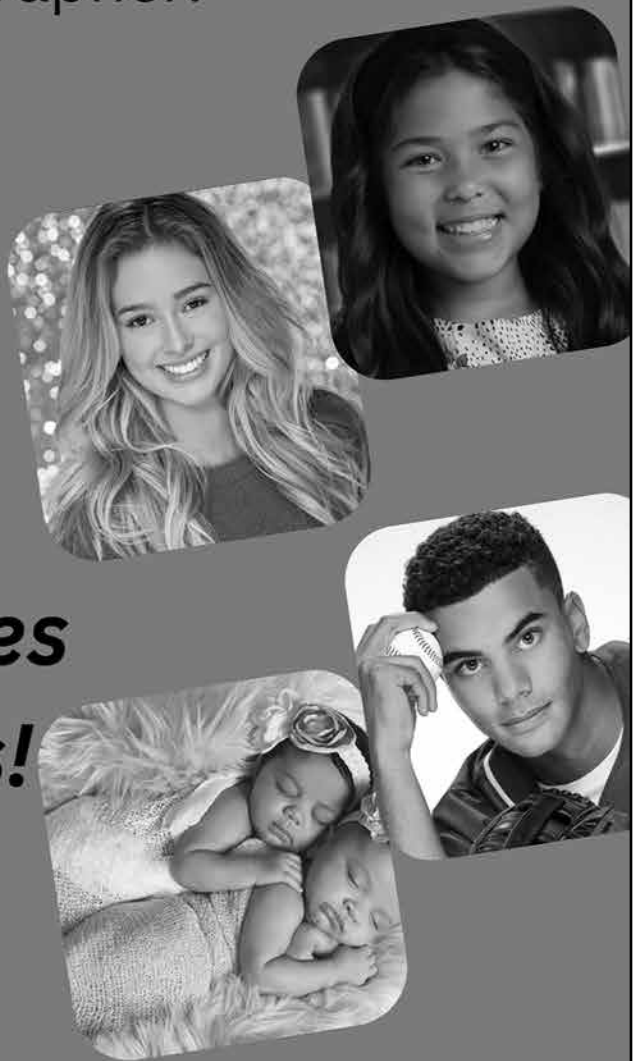
*Bid Board will close at 8:45 p.m.*

*Winners of the Bid Board will receive notification via text from Qtego*

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## A Message from the CFEF Chairman.....

Welcome to the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation's ("CFEF") 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salute to the Stars!! It is an honor and privilege to Chair such a great organization, furthermore, it's exciting to host an event that recognizes the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District's ("CFISD") 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year honorees from 96 district campuses, along with the Paraprofessionals and Support Staff honorees. Tonight's event highlights these district ambassadors and exhibits what shining examples they are while underscoring the passion and commitment they display each day as they shape the lives of our youth.

CFEF's Salute to the Stars Gala was initiated through the vision of various district friends who wanted to recognize the best and brightest and the event was built through the generosity of our sponsors, donors, endowment partners, friends, and volunteers of the CFEF. Over the last 55 years, the CFEF has provided educational scholarships to graduating seniors from each CFISD high school totaling almost \$13.4 million while providing \$4 million for CFISD staff development. In June 2025, we anticipate awarding \$977,000 in scholarships to CFISD students allowing them to keep their educational dreams and pursuits alive.

On behalf of the CFEF, I want to thank our trustees, donors, endowment partners, sponsors, district leadership and staff, community members, and the wonderful volunteers who made this gala event possible. This event would not be such a premier showcase event without the long-standing community support we have received in our 55-year history, which has assisted in our mission of educating tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you again for your support and dedication and for making such a difference in so many lives. With all that exists today, it is reassuring to know that educational teaching passion continues to thrive in our community. Thank you to all for joining us tonight and enjoy the wonderful evening honoring the best of the best!

Sincerely,



**Bryan Ginsburg**  
**Chairman, Cy-Fair Educational Foundation**



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---

**Douglas Killian, Ph.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to the Stars**

For 55 years, the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation has partnered with Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District to bring *Opportunity for All* to graduates preparing for their next chapter in life.

This May, the Foundation will award \$977,000 in scholarships to numerous Class of 2025 graduates. Through their work, many students have the opportunity for a free or reduced-cost education, allowing them to make an immediate difference in this world. The CFEF also acknowledges the educators who make it all possible by providing for staff development programs. The 2024-2025 school year marks the 28<sup>th</sup> year that the CFEF has partnered with CFISD to honor our Teachers of the Year honorees.

Although all educators deserve recognition for the work they do in the classroom, the Teacher of the Year program recognizes one teacher per campus at the annual Salute to the Stars Gala, a night when we thank the ultimate difference-makers from the 2024-2025 school year.

I am eternally grateful to be part of a community that values universal public education and supports the CFEF at major fundraising events each year. I am also indebted to **you**, the educators who give CFISD its outstanding reputation. Thank you for empowering our students to take that crucial next step. You are truly *Bringing Out the Best* in CFISD!

Sincerely,



Douglas Killian, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

## A Message from the Event Co-Chairs.....

Welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salute to the Stars! We are delighted to have you with us to honor the 2024–2025 star teachers, paraeducators, and support staff of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. This evening's celebration is hosted by the Cy-Fair Education Foundation, with proceeds benefiting the district through staff development programs and scholarships for CFISD graduating seniors.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our underwriter, generous sponsors, and donors for their invaluable contributions in supporting the CFEF Vision:

*Empowering today's students to become tomorrow's leaders through higher education.*

A special thank you to the Salute to the Stars committee members and volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to make this gala a success.

Please join us in celebrating the 2024-2025 stars!

Warm regards,

*Lauri Baker April K. Thomson*

**Lauri Baker and April Thomson**  
**Event Co-Chairs**

### CY-FAIR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EVENTS

## SAVE THE DATES

B.F. ADAM GOLF CLASSIC - MAY 8, 2025

SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT - AUGUST 28, 2025

SALUTE TO OUR HEROES - OCTOBER 18, 2025

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SALUTE TO THE STARS - MARCH 2026





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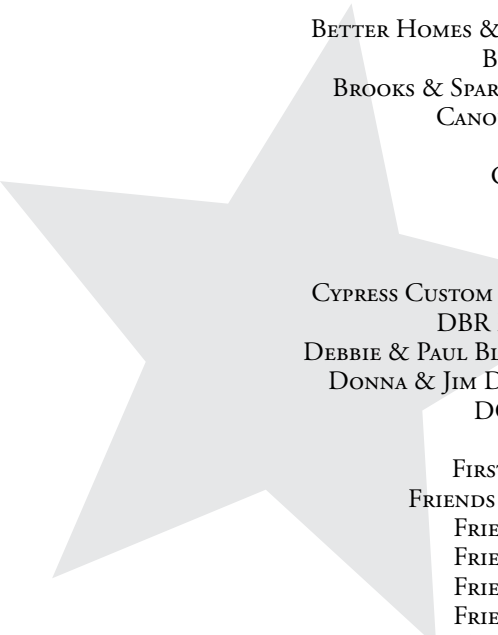
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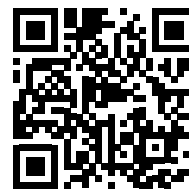
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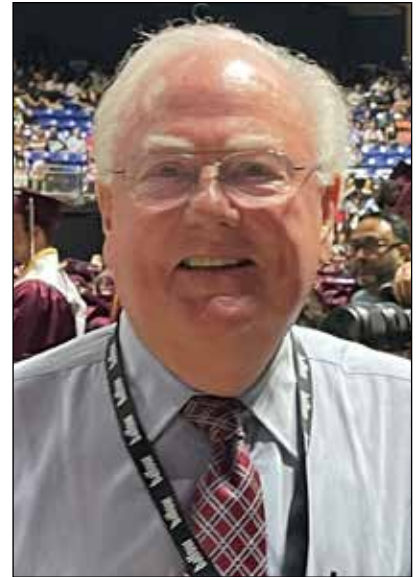
## BUTCH MILKS

Butch has served as emcee for the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation's Salute to the Stars Gala for 27 years. Being a trustee for almost 15 years, Butch participates in Salute to the Stars and the Houston Methodist Cy-Hoops Invitational. Butch and his wife, Mary Kay, have underwritten several endowments with the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation in their parents, children and grand children's names.

The "voice of Cy-Fair football" for almost 42 years, Butch still enjoys recognizing as many students as possible at games to highlight the great job CFISD does in helping students achieve their best. Believing that public education is so important, Butch is involved in many school district activities and initiatives helping to provide a quality education to all students.

For over 50 years, Butch and his wife represented Balfour and All American Letter Jackets in many local school districts. They have now "passed the torch" to their son, Matt. And now they help him, wherever and whenever possible.

Butch and Mary Kay have been married for 57 years and have lived in Jersey Village since 1973. Their children, Matt and Molly, both K-12 CFISD graduates have blessed their parents with four grandchildren, two of which attended CFISD schools.



# INVOCATION:

## PASTOR STEPHEN BAILIFF

Stephen is married to Tiffani Bailiff (30 years) and they have three boys and one daughter-in-law. The Bailiffs have lived in Cypress since 2006. Stephen is the lead pastor of the Cypress Campus of Second Baptist Church where he has served for the past 19 years. Before answering the call to ministry 26 years ago, Stephen served in public education as an English teacher and coach. He received his bachelor's from Texas A&M and his Master of Divinity from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently working on his Doctorate of Ministry from Liberty University.

Stephen has served on the CFISD Long Range Planning Committee and is currently serving on the CFSID Leadership Team. The church where he serves has adopted three CFISD schools and continues to partner with public education as much as possible. He and Tiffani enjoy all Houston sports, the Aggies and attending many CFISD games and performances. Stephen also enjoys working out and pickle ball.



# GUEST EMCEE:

## CHINEY OGWUMIKE

Chiney Ogwumike is a two-time WNBA All-Star, ESPN host and Founder of the Queens of the Continent Foundation.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> overall pick in the 2014 WNBA Draft from Stanford University, Ogwumike was the 2014 WNBA Rookie of the Year, became a two-Time WNBA All-Star (2014, 2018) and served as the vice president of the WNBA Players Association (WNBPA) from 2018-2022.

After initially joining ESPN in 2017 to co-anchor SportsCenter across Africa and work as a WNBA and NBA analyst in-studio, Ogwumike became a full-time multi-platform ESPN NBA Analyst by 2018. Not only did she become one of the youngest national sports studio analysts, she was also one of the only full-time professional athletes to simultaneously hold a regular national sports media position. In her role, she makes regular appearances as an NBA studio analyst on SportsCenter, First Take, Get Up!, NBA Today, and NBA Countdown. In August 2020, Ogwumike also became the first Black woman to host a national, daily sports talk radio show. A 2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, she also holds the title of Executive Producer, having produced the ESPN Films documentary "144" about the 2020 WNBA season.

Ogwumike, a proud first-generation Nigerian-American, is deeply passionate about giving back and empowering the next generation. A 6'4" forward from Cypress, Texas, she graduated from Stanford University with an International Relations degree under the mentorship of Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

Ogwumike uses her platform to elevate the women's game through her color commentary and advocacy, serving as the youngest woman on the White House's inaugural advisory council on African Diaspora Engagement, which aims to strengthen cultural, social, political, and economic connections between the United States and Africa by fostering dialogue between political leaders and members of the African Diaspora, and was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris. Ogwumike has also made numerous trips to Africa with NBA Africa and other nonprofits to help launch youth engagement initiatives, using basketball as a tool for development. Last year, she and the White House council partnered with NBA Africa in Nigeria to host the country's first-ever Jr. NBA and Jr. WNBA elite camps, which aimed to enhance sports infrastructure, engage the continent's unparalleled talent, and destigmatize sports for girls, enabling them to pursue their dreams. Most recently in her role on the White House's Inaugural Council, she traveled to Angola to aid the President in continuing to build infrastructure investment in the region.

This past year also saw Ogwumike and her ESPN studio crew named one of Sports Illustrated's 50 Most Influential People in Sports for amplifying the boom in women's basketball, and Ogwumike was named one of Marie Claire's Changemakers of 2024 for her advocacy work and many trips to Nigeria and throughout Africa. Most recently, she announced her foundation, Queens of the Continent, live on-stage at the Global Business Africa Initiative United Nations Summit. The foundation aims to create opportunities for women and girls across Africa, using sport as a transformative vehicle to promote gender equity and access to opportunities.



# CY-FAIR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARD: LINDA ADAM

Linda Adam was born on September 4, 1939. After marrying the love of her life, Bob Adam, she moved to Houston, Texas, where she continued her teaching career for 13 years. Linda had a deep passion for the English language—she loved mapping sentences, great literature, and, above all, the students in her classroom. She believed wholeheartedly in education and the value of a well-crafted sentence.

Linda lived a life that radiated joy, faith, and love, serving as a beautiful example of how to embrace life and honor the Lord. She and Bob raised three daughters, two of whom now serve on the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation Board, and were blessed with eight grandchildren. Together, Linda and Bob built a family legacy that remains deeply intertwined with the foundation's mission.

Linda dedicated her time to volunteering at the B.F. Adam Golf Tournament, an event named in honor of her father-in-law, Bernard Fred (B.F.) Adam, a lifelong Cy-Fair resident and devoted school board member who served for 24 years. She was instrumental in organizing and coordinating retired educators to manage the event's registration, ensuring a smooth and welcoming experience for participants. Her unwavering commitment to education and service continues to inspire and uplift the Cy-Fair community.

Linda & Bob Adam's philanthropic efforts have left an enduring impact on education. Their generosity, exceeding \$2 million in endowments, funds scholarships that support twelve CFISD students each year in pursuing higher education. Their established endowments include *The Linda Adam Endowment*, *The Robert Adam Family Endowments II – X*, *In Honor of CFISD Teachers Endowment*, and *In Honor of Fred and Susan Caldwell Endowment*.

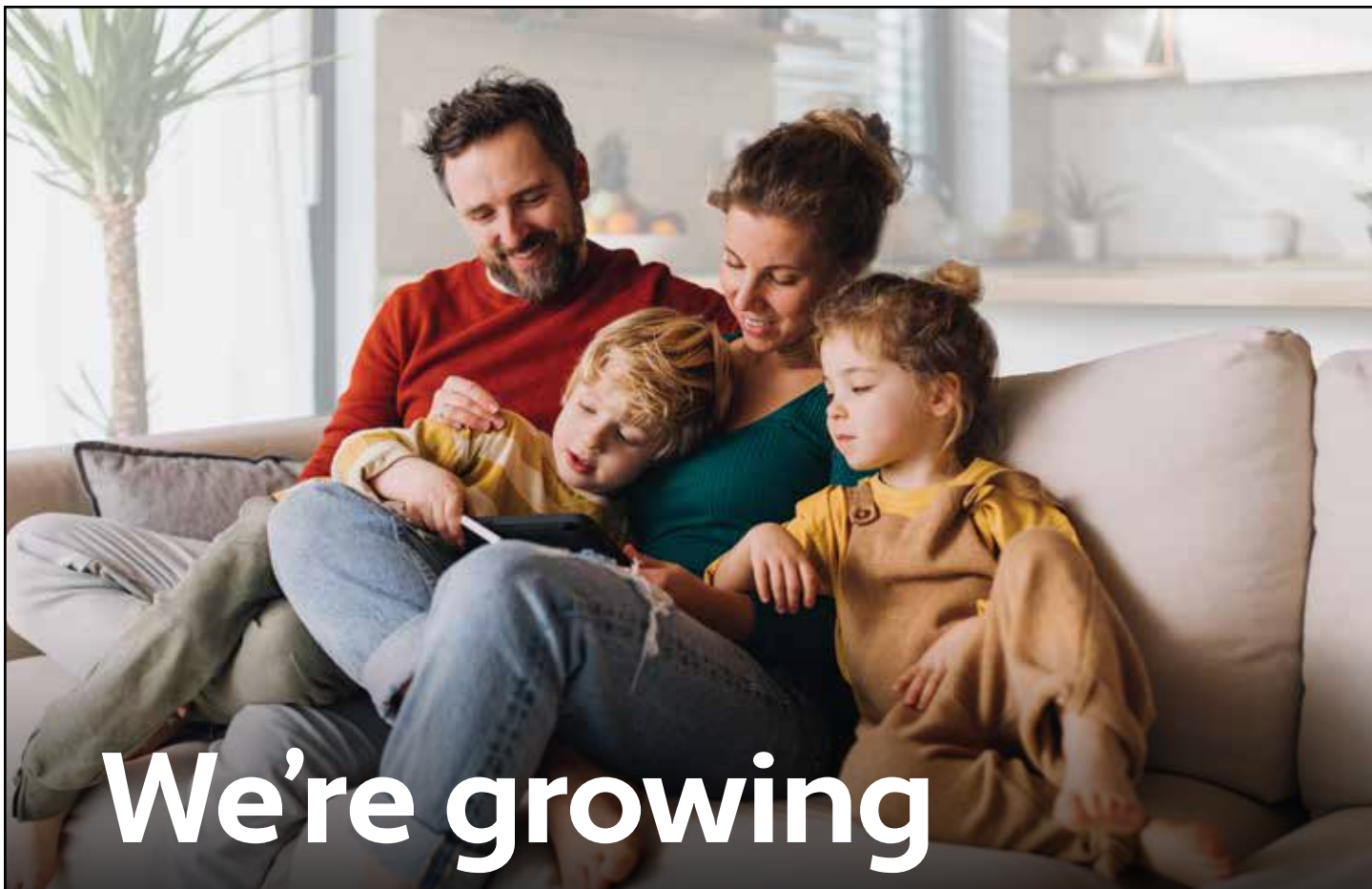


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## *A Look Back*

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In 1998, Richard E. Berry, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (CFISD) Superintendent envisioned honoring CFISD Spotlight Teachers at a gala. Berry had tremendous appreciation for the teachers of the district and wanted to recognize their inspiration, innovation, and dedication to the students of CFISD, while raising money for the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation.

A Salute to the Stars Gala Committee led by Co-Chairs, Kim Watson and John Fox, worked with Pam Scott, Director of Partners in Education, to take Berry's vision and plan the inaugural gala which would recognize 50 Spotlight Teachers. The gala took place in the newly opened Cypress Springs High School with dinner catered by Boston Market and dessert from The Cheesecake Factory. Committee members transformed the cafeteria creating an Oscar worthy evening. Butch Milks was Master of Ceremonies and Cypress Creek Scholarship recipient Lisa Stewart was the guest speaker.

Five years later, the district began a season of tremendous growth. In 2006, the gala moved from a high school cafeteria to the Richard E. Berry Educational Support Center. By 2010, Salute to the Stars was celebrating 71 Spotlight Teachers and in 2023 the number had grown to 93 teacher honorees, plus 2 paraeducators and 2 support staff honorees.

Over the past 28 years, support from the Cy-Fair community has been incredible. As CFISD grew, community businesses continually showed their support for the gala. Many of the business here tonight have supported Salute to the Stars from the beginning and many new Cy-Fair businesses have joined the Foundation as the gala has grown.

Partnering with the District to celebrate 28 years of outstanding educators has been a privilege. The Foundation looks forward to recognizing the next 28 years of honorees. Salute to the Stars has raised almost \$5 million for staff development programs and scholarships for graduating seniors from Cypress- Fairbanks ISD.

In addition to recognizing the amazing Cypress-Fairbanks ISD staff, the gala showcases the talents of district students including choir, drumline, culinary arts, art students and career and technology students, along with district drill teams and cheerleaders.

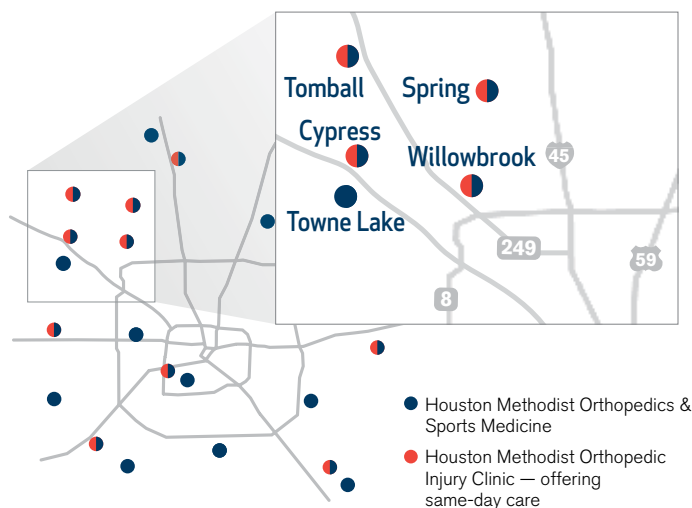
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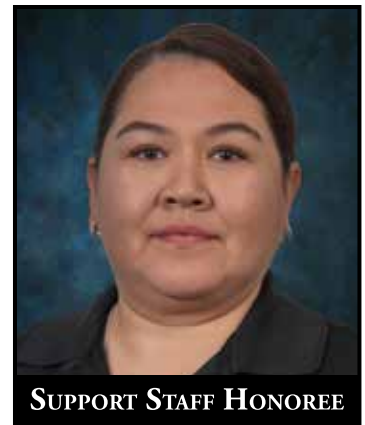
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## **JULIA GOMEZ — NUTRITION SERVICES**

Julia Gomez has dedicated 12 years to Cy Fair Nutrition Services, serving in various roles throughout her tenure. As an exceptional leader, she manages a team of 18 employees with fairness, trust, and deep care for both her staff and the students she serves at Langham Creek High School. Julia ensures that fresh, nutritious food is always available to fuel the students' learning days. She consistently goes above and beyond in her efforts, serving as a training site for the department and as a role model for what a compassionate, dedicated lunchroom leader should be. Her positive attitude, strong work ethic, and unwavering commitment to excellence inspire those around her, making a lasting impact on both her team and the students. Julia fosters an environment of growth, respect, and passion for providing quality service every day. Her leadership builds a sense of community, where both staff and students feel supported, valued, and motivated to do their best.

Samantha Mims, Nutrition Services



**SUPPORT STAFF HONOREE**

## **PETER NGUYEN — SALYARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Hardworking and humble—these are the two words that immediately come to mind when describing Peter Nguyen. Peter is not your average computer technician. His quiet spirit and gentle demeanor make it clear that he isn't seeking recognition for his work; he simply wants to serve others. Peter takes immense pride in his role and approaches every task with unwavering dedication. He exceeds expectations for students and staff, never hesitating to lend a helping hand. The time and effort he devotes to ensuring that the needs of our Bengals are met are immeasurable. He is always one step ahead, anticipating and addressing challenges before they arise. Salyards Middle School was proud to name Peter our first annual Salyards Support Staff of the Year—a recognition that was met with thunderous applause. Peter Nguyen is truly exceptional, and we are all better because of him.

Stacie Everson, principal

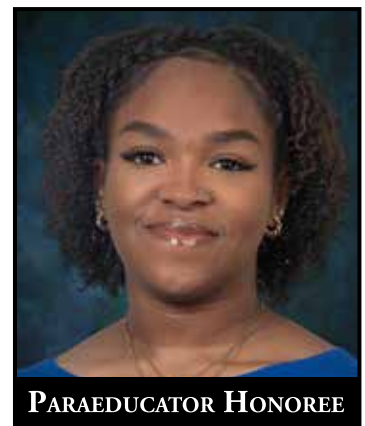


**SUPPORT STAFF HONOREE**

## **CENAYA REED — SWENKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Cenaya is an exceptional paraprofessional who consistently goes above and beyond to support students and staff. The primary function of Cenaya in the classroom is to provide individualized and small-group support to students with special needs, ensuring they have access to a high-quality education tailored to their unique learning styles. However, what sets Cenaya apart is her unwavering commitment to student success, her ability to create meaningful connections, and her dedication to fostering independence among the students she serves. Cenaya takes the time to learn each student's strengths, challenges, and personal interests, allowing her to tailor her approach to maximize student engagement and success. Whether it's modifying assignments, implementing behavior support strategies, or finding creative ways to make learning fun, she continually goes the extra mile to meet students where they are and help them thrive.

Courtney Nespeca, principal



**PARAEDUCATOR HONOREE**

## **PATRICIA SITLER — LABAY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

We are proud to recognize Mrs. Patricia Sitler as our Paraprofessional of the Year, an exceptional professional who embodies dedication and support. Mrs. Sitler is the backbone of our school's administrative operations, approaching her work with an infectious smile and remarkable willingness to help. Her professional demeanor and genuine kindness make her an invaluable team member. Working closely with assistant principals, she consistently goes beyond her job description, proactively supporting administrative processes and offering guidance to students and parents. What truly distinguishes Mrs. Sitler is her extraordinary adaptability. She is always the first to step up when unexpected tasks arise, tackling every assignment with enthusiasm and a "can-do" attitude. Her reliability is unmatched – a person everyone knows they can depend on, regardless of the challenge. We are honored to celebrate Ms. Sitler's outstanding contributions to our school community.

Krystal Love-Hoyer, principal



**PARAEDUCATOR HONOREE**



## **BRAD HAYS — ADAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

“A ray of sunshine in human form” is how one staff member describes Adam’s Teacher of the Year, Brad Hays. Mr. Hays meets students with compassion and respect daily. He sets goals for each student and celebrates their successes. Unsurprisingly, all students show growth in his class. Not only does Mr. Hays work tirelessly to ensure that his students excel in math and science, but he also teaches students to have pride in themselves, their class, and their school. His class walks down the hallway holding their class flag proudly. Students aren’t the only ones blessed with his positivity and caring nature. Staff members, parents, and community members benefit from his graciousness and kindness. His positive demeanor, work ethic, strong sense of community, and heart for service are only a few qualities that make him a wonderful example of a teacher who exemplifies the meaning of an Adam Eagle.

Carrie McCollister, principal



## **YAERI LOPEZ — ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER EAST**

There are no words to describe Ms. Lopez's commitment and dedication to her students. She is always willing to go the extra mile for them as well as her fellow colleagues. Upon meeting her, you would never be able to tell that she is new to education. She teaches like a veteran and has a keen understanding of how to engage kids. Mrs. Lopez makes math doable for our ALC students and they are so appreciative. She does everything with a smile and is always trying to figure out ways to improve her craft and the campus. What stands out the most about Ms. Lopez is her willingness and kind heart. I truly found a gem in Mrs. Lopez. ALC-East is blessed to have her on our campus!

Tonya Hall, principal



## **DONIHUE SANDS — ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER WEST**

Donihue Sands has served the ALC-West campus as a paraprofessional, a teacher who taught science, and now serves as our DCR/Edgenuity teacher. He invests himself in all he does, taking on the role of the new teacher liaison this year, Mr. Sands is seen throughout the building coaching and supporting new teachers and all staff. Mr. Sands serves anywhere needed, from gradebook setup to lesson plans, our KAPE program, and even staying after contract hours to host professional development. Mr. Sand's servant's heart and dedication to staff and students are evident in all he does. His drive and dedication to the ALC-West campus and our students, his attention to detail, his follow-through, and his contagious spirit to serve are incredible. Mr. Sands comes with a positive attitude and a solution-driven mindset, is a true contributor to the success of ALC-West and is the reason he deserves to be the Spotlight Teacher Honoree.

Derrick Crowder, principal



## **YASMIN MOHAMAD — ANDRE' ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Mohammad stands out as this year's Teacher of the Year due to her unwavering dedication and passion for education. Her positive spirit and kindness create a nurturing environment where students feel valued and empowered. She consistently demonstrates a commitment to student-centered learning, setting high expectations that inspire her students to strive for excellence. Ms. Mohammad's eagerness to learn new techniques and approaches further enhances her teaching, making her a positive role model for both her students and colleagues. Her ability to foster teamwork and collaboration in the classroom has not only contributed to her students' academic success but also to their personal growth. Her remarkable achievements and impact on her students make her truly deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Carmen Lozano, principal



## **JOANNA SCHESS — ANTHONY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

It is with great pleasure that Anthony Middle School selected Joanna Schess as our Teacher of the Year! Joanna is a passionate educator who is deeply committed to serving all students with her engaging approach to music. Her students are inspired by her enthusiasm and often cite her as the reason they enjoy music. Ms. Schess employs creative thinking and innovative strategies to introduce early music learners to the full orchestra, providing them with a rich and well-rounded musical experience. Beyond the classroom, she actively collaborates across Anthony's music programs, helping to showcase the breadth and excellence of the school's music department. We are incredibly thankful for the relationships, kindness, and work ethic that Ms. Schess brings to Anthony Middle School.

Dr. Vivian Bennett, principal



## **PATRICK COONEY — ARAGON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Coach Patrick Cooney is an outstanding example of a Game Changer. He has dedicated 22 years to serving and impacting on our Aragon students and families. He has inspired our students across all grade levels in the Social Studies classroom and as a coach of every sport during his career at Aragon. Coach Cooney's passion for education and athletics inspires our Wildcats, thus shaping their growth in and out of the classroom. His unwavering commitment as a teacher, coach, and mentor has made a lasting impact on the Aragon community. We are proud to honor him for his outstanding dedication and service.

Dirk Heath, principal



## **ROBERT DIXON — ARNOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mr. Dixon is the definition of a team player and is an incredible influence for both students and teachers. He sets high standards for his students and athletes, and because of his masterful way of building relationships, students meet those standards every time. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Dixon mentors four students and coaches football and baseball. He is a leader and a positive influence both inside and outside of the classroom. If there is an extracurricular event showcasing our students, he is there to support them regardless if it is athletics or fine arts. Mr. Dixon is the reason why "There's no place like Arnold!"

Amby Clinkscale, principal



## **JANIE LEWIS — AULT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Lewis displays an outstanding dedication to early childhood education. As a kindergarten teacher, she fosters a nurturing, inclusive environment where every child feels valued and excited to learn. Her innovative teaching methods engage students through hands-on activities, creativity, and play-based learning, building a strong foundation in literacy, math, and social skills. Mrs. Lewis is known across the school for her patience, compassion, and ability to connect with each child individually, helping them develop confidence and a love for learning. She also goes above and beyond by involving families in the educational process and collaborating with colleagues to improve school programs. Her commitment to fostering a positive and supportive classroom has made a lasting impact on both her students and the school community, making her truly deserving of Ault's Teacher of the Year.

Jeffrey LaCoke, principal





## **CHRISTIAN MOULTON — BANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

At Bane Elementary, one educator who stands out for his exceptional contributions to the physical and emotional growth of students is Christian Moulton. As a physical education teacher, Moulton has earned recognition not only for his innovative approach to physical activity but also for the strong relationships he builds with students, parents, and fellow educators. His commitment to fostering an environment where children can thrive physically, socially, and emotionally makes him a standout in the field of education. Coach Moulton's dedication to his students, his engaging activities, and his commitment to extending physical activity opportunities beyond the classroom make him a truly outstanding physical education teacher. He continues to inspire and empower the next generation, making a lasting impact that will benefit students for years to come.

Yvette Garcia, principal



## **TERESA HIME — BANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Hime has a great influence on every student she encounters because she is incredibly passionate and dedicated to education. She goes above and above to establish a welcoming and encouraging learning environment where students, or as Mrs. Hime likes to call them, "young scholars" are inspired to realize their greatest potential and feel appreciated. She is a prime example of how an enthusiastic educator crafts classes tailored to each student's individual needs. She puts everything into her work and never loses sight of it. She genuinely cares about our Bang Bears and is constantly upbeat! In addition to being an excellent teacher, Mrs. Hime is a leader and mentor to other staff members. She is a very worthy candidate for Teacher of the Year because of her commitment to each student's achievement and her tireless efforts to improve the educational process as a whole.

Susan Bolado, principal



## **KRISTINE BERGER — BIRKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Berger is being honored for the many outstanding qualities that set her apart as an educator. She has a remarkable ability to make learning both meaningful and enjoyable, creating an environment where students are excited to engage. Her passion for teaching is truly inspiring, motivating not only her students but also her colleagues. Beyond the classroom, Ms. Berger's dedication goes above and beyond, whether it's nurturing our butterfly garden or demonstrating her deep commitment to the environment and school community. What truly makes her exceptional is her genuine care for each student's success, providing individualized support and fostering a positive, inclusive learning space. These qualities make her an unforgettable educator and a truly deserving Teacher of the Year!

Megan Fernandez, principal



## **TIFFANY CONNER — BLACK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Conner has a way of turning every day into an adventure. Step into her classroom, and you'll find a dynamic and engaging environment where learning math and science comes alive. She believes that fostering a space where students are comfortable and confident is essential to their growth. Whether it's through small groups, whole groups, blended learning, or anchor charts that line the walls, her dedication to her craft is evident in every corner. Ms. Conner emphasizes the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, aiming to help students build a deep understanding of content while promoting their independence as lifelong learners. And let's not forget her science labs—full of hands-on experiments that bring excitement and curiosity to her students' eyes. Black Elementary is so excited to celebrate Ms. Conner as our Teacher of the Year!

Kyla Mote, principal

## **HOLLY ROBINSON — BLEYL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

We are proud to announce Mrs. Holly Robinson as Bleyl Middle School's 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year! An outstanding 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Reading teacher, Mrs. Robinson goes above and beyond to support her students and colleagues. She builds strong relationships, helps students gain confidence in their reading skills, and has been recognized at the district level for her impact. Beyond the classroom, she fosters a positive school environment, encourages students in the hallways, and ensures their success. As Lead Mentor, she supports new teachers and plays a key role in shaping education at Bleyl. Her involvement in the CFISD Teacher Leader Program further highlights her dedication to professional growth. Mrs. Robinson's unwavering dedication, compassion, and leadership make her an invaluable member of the Bleyl Middle School family. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the positive impact she has on our campus each day. Congratulations, Mrs. Robinson, on this well-deserved honor!

Michelle Provo, principal



## **CHRISTOPHER FIORINI — BRIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL**

We are proud to honor Mr. Christopher Fiorini as Bridgeland High School's Teacher of the Year! As Head Choir Director, Mr. Fiorini has led the Bridgeland Choir program to remarkable success, earning consistent UIL Sweepstakes awards and national recognition. His passion for music and dedication to student achievement are evident in every performance, inspiring his students to excel both musically and personally. In addition to his leadership at Bridgeland, Mr. Fiorini is a sought-after conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. He is recognized for his ability to foster growth and excellence in those he works with. His "Win the Day" mindset reflects his unwavering commitment to excellence and has made a lasting impact on the school's choir program and community. Mr. Fiorini exemplifies what it means to lead with passion and purpose, and Bridgeland High School proudly celebrates his incredible contributions to our students and campus.

Rich Dixon, Principal



## **TYRON MATTOX — BRORNAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Mattox exemplifies what it means to truly care about a child. She exudes love and compassion daily for her LIFE Skills students. She has the patience of a saint when working with her students and loves them as her own. Her positivity and encouragement of others is contagious. Even during a challenging day, you can always find Mrs. Mattox smiling and asking others where she can help. Her ability to form positive and productive relationships with her students is beyond compare. They not only can complete their tasks, but Mrs. Mattox has the magic touch to ensure her students grow in their IEP goals. Mrs. Mattox is nothing short of amazing, and Brosnahan Elementary is blessed to have her as a member of the Bronco family!

Renee Silliman, principal



## **CRYSTAL HERNANDEZ — BYRD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Crystal Hernandez loves her students. She has high expectations for all of the students in her class regardless of their abilities. Her communication skills are excellent with her students, staff, and parents. She always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She continually seeks ways to make learning fun and engaging for her kindergarten students. She is inspiring to her team and willing to do whatever is needed to complete all tasks with excellence.

Amy Frank, principal







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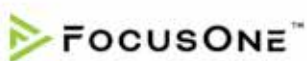


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Nikki Cowart, Cy-Fair AFT President

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## **ALAYNA DAY — CAMPBELL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Alayna Day exemplifies Cypress Fairbanks' Portrait of a Teacher, demonstrating dedication, innovation, and a commitment to growth and collaboration. Ms. Day creates engaging, student-centered experiences that foster curiosity and a love of learning. She differentiates instruction to ensure every student feels valued and challenged. Through hands-on projects, dynamic discussions, and technology integration, she cultivates a thriving learning environment. Beyond the classroom, she is a pillar of professional excellence, mentoring new teachers, leading development sessions, and fostering collaboration. Her empathy, integrity, and ability to build strong relationships create a sense of belonging for students and colleagues alike. In alignment with Cypress Fairbanks' vision, she embraces challenges, advocates for student success, and inspires with purpose. It is an honor to recognize Ms. Day as Campbell Middle School's Teacher of the Year.

Rashad Godbolt, principal



## **CYNTHIA ORTEGA — DOROTHY CARLTON CENTER**

Ms. Ortega was chosen as the Carlton Centers' Teacher of the Year for her exceptional dedication, innovative teaching, and positive impact on her students. She creates an inclusive classroom where every student feels valued and empowered, using creative methods and personalized approaches to make learning engaging and accessible. She actively mentors new staff, collaborates with colleagues, and organizes enriching professional development activities for her peers. Ms. Ortega's commitment to her students' success and her ability to inspire both peers and students alike have made her an integral part of the school community. Her unwavering support and enthusiasm for special education make her truly deserving of this honor.

Dennis Watkins, director



## **CRYSTAL HEMBREE — CARPENTER CENTER**

Crystal Hembree, honored as the Carpenter Center's Teacher of the Year, is a passionate and dedicated educator whose journey began as a substitute teacher. Captivated by her experience working with students, she worked tirelessly to obtain her teaching certification and pursue her calling in education. Crystal now teaches all levels of high school English, skillfully making the content relevant while upholding high expectations for academic excellence. Her training in Action Based Learning allows her to incorporate movement into her lessons, fostering engagement and supporting diverse learning styles. Crystal is a true team player, always seeking opportunities to connect with her colleagues and enhance her students' learning experiences. For the past three years, she has left a lasting impact on students, particularly those who struggle to recognize their worth, by offering encouragement and creating an environment where they can thrive both academically and personally.

Soul-Lana Singh, principal



## **KAYLEE SMITH — COOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mrs. Smith is a true force of nature—an inspiring educator, a dedicated leader, and the heart of our campus. Loved by many, she proves daily that showing up for students is more than just a responsibility; it's a passion. Taking on the student council is no small feat, yet she does so with grace, enthusiasm, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. She embodies our campus values while bringing creativity, leadership, and positivity to everything she touches. Whether she's stepping in to help at a moment's notice, organizing events with precision and care, or leading with wisdom and strength, Mrs. Smith makes everything engaging, meaningful, and unforgettable. She lifts students up, inspires them, and reminds us that the work we do is always worth it. Simply put, she is an irreplaceable gem in our school community, someone who enhances every experience and leaves a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike.

Daniele Sebastian, principal



## REBECCA McCONNELL — COPELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Anyone who has ever been in Ms. McConnell's classroom knows that she has a true passion for her craft and an unwavering dedication to the success of her students. She has served and left a huge impact on countless students in different grade levels and content areas throughout her teaching career. Not only has she positively impacted her students and their families, but she has been a tremendous asset to every team she has ever been a part of. Ms. McConnell is always striving too not only better herself but those around her. She has also served the campus as our GT Liaison ensuring that our students were able to participate in DaVinci Day and the Horizons Showcase. We couldn't be prouder to celebrate Rebecca McConnell as Copeland's 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year.

Stefanie Berger, principal



## LINDA RINK — CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Rink is a devoted and passionate English teacher and English I Team Leader who creates magic in her classroom. As a champion for every child, every day, Mrs. Rink cultivates a rich learning experience, engaging and challenging our Bobcats with rigor and curiosity. Her innovative teaching methods and unwavering commitment inspire her students to reach their full potential. Mrs. Rink's ability to connect with students on a personal level and inspire them to achieve greatness is what truly sets her apart. Witnessing the magic in her classroom is a testament to her relentless pursuit of student success and her heartfelt dedication to each of her students. Her infectious energy and enthusiasm are contagious, sparking a love for learning in her students and colleagues alike. She goes above and beyond to ensure that every student and every team member feels valued and supported, fostering a sense of belonging and community within her classroom and her team. Linda Rink's impact on Cy-Fair High School is immeasurable, and we are incredibly proud to honor her as our Teacher of the Year!

Ana Martin, principal



## LAUREN HORNBEAK — CYPRESS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Lauren Hornbeak has been nominated for Cypress Creek High School's 2025 Teacher of the Year because she exemplifies what it means to be a Cy Creek Cougar! As a head coach of two sports and a Biology NAC teacher, Ms. Hornbeak's influence is felt all over our campus. She personifies our Cougar priorities in all that she does as she goes above and beyond for our students. Ms. Hornbeak also goes out of her way to be as involved with our campus as possible. She is an active participant in the Cy Creek Catalysts, our campus leadership cohort, and actively seeks ways to make our campus better. We are a better campus because of Ms. Hornbeak in every way and are so proud to recognize all of her dedication and hard work. Ahh CC!

Martin Drayton, principal



## ADAM FARRIS — CYPRESS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Adam Farris exemplifies the Cypress Falls battle cry of "We Are One". Each and every student who walks into his classroom leaves feeling valued, heard, and supported. His students love him not just for his daily dad jokes but for the way he invests in each of their lives. He makes learning relevant and treats every person with respect. The lessons he teaches go beyond his social studies content and equip his students with the tools required to navigate life successfully. Mr. Farris is one of those life-changing teachers that students will remember after graduation has long passed. Cypress Falls is a better place because of teachers like Mr. Farris.

Kyle Parsons, principal





## **TILA HENDERSON — CYPRESS LAKES HIGH SCHOOL**

Ms. Tila Henderson exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond for students. She has a genuine enthusiasm for her subject matter and is dedicated to her students' growth and learning. Ms. Henderson builds positive relationships with students, parents, and colleagues alike, and her passion for mentoring peers is a difference-maker with new teachers. She also serves as a teacher leader, prioritizing the needs of her department every single day. Ms. Henderson supports our school community and shows up for our students consistently, whether it's at students' games, at their concerts, at their plays, or simply in their classrooms. Ms. Henderson's smile is contagious and her love for her students genuinely shines through. We are proud to have Tila Henderson represent Cypress Lakes High School as our Teacher of the Year.

Lanette Bellamy, principal



## **ASHLEY DUE — CYPRESS PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

Ashley's impact on Cypress Park High School has been remarkable. She doesn't just teach; she leads, supports, and fosters a sense of community within our school. She has this innate ability to make everyone around her feel seen, heard, and valued. Ashley is a problem solver—a true collaborator. She finds creative solutions to challenges. Ashley is a true school spirit leader who brings enthusiasm and energy to our campus. Her dedication to our school, her unwavering support for her colleagues, and her infectious spirit make her more than deserving of this recognition. Ashley is truly the heart of our school community, and we are better because of her.

Mike Contreras, principal



## **CHRISTA ALCALA — CYPRESS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL**

Congratulations to Christa Alcala on being named Cypress Ranch High School's Teacher of the Year! This well-earned recognition reflects her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to her students and their success. Ms. Alcala goes beyond teaching—she inspires, motivates, and fosters a love for learning in every student she encounters. Her innovative teaching methods and ability to create a supportive and engaging classroom environment set her apart. She not only imparts knowledge but also instills confidence, resilience, and a sense of curiosity that lasts a lifetime. Colleagues and students alike admire her dedication, and her impact extends far beyond the classroom walls. Ms. Alcala's passion for education and her ability to positively shape young minds make her truly deserving of this honor.

Michael Maness, principal



## **CARA BARKSDALE — CYPRESS RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

We are proud to recognize Ms. Cara Barksdale as our Teacher of the Year for her outstanding dedication to the classroom and the sidelines. As an English teacher and head cheer coach, Ms. Barksdale embodies passion, leadership, and a deep commitment to her students and our campus. Ms. Barksdale brings rigor to her classroom, challenging her students, building their confidence, and filling them with Ram Pride! Beyond the classroom, Ms. Barksdale leads the Cypress Ridge Cheer program with energy and heart. She instills teamwork, discipline, and school spirit in her athletes, ensuring they excel in competition and grow as individuals. Her impact extends beyond lesson plans and cheer routines. Ms. Barksdale is a mentor, motivator, and role model for our staff. Our campus and the entire Ram Nation are lucky to have Ms. Cara Barksdale as part of our lives, and we are beyond excited to have her serve as our Teacher of the Year!

Abe Lozano, principal



## AMANDA MAHON — CYPRESS SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Amanda Mahon is an AMAZING teacher! She teaches everything – from walking into the room to how to earn a perfect score on any assignment. You name it, she can provide a process or procedure to complete it! Not only that, but she will also teach you how to train your brain to learn and retain ANYTHING!! Ms. Mahon is our PACE teacher and team leader. Under her guidance, our scholars are all becoming college and career-ready. As our campus facilitator for Quantum Learning, Ms. Mahon helps our staff use brain-based strategies to improve student learning and achievement. Ms. Mahon also works with our “Leading Ladies” to enhance social and personal success through mentoring, role-playing, community service, and decision-making. Ms. Mahon has truly earned the title Teacher of the Year for her exemplary service to the staff and students at Cypress Springs High School!

Dr. Cheryl T. Henry, principal



## LAURA ANDERSON — CYPRESS WOODS HIGH SCHOOL

Laura Anderson, a National Board Certified health science teacher at Cypress Woods High School, inspires 9th-12th grade students to explore careers in healthcare. Anderson is a Texas A&M University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, as well as a licensed athletic trainer. She teaches Principles of Health Science, Health Science Theory/Clinical, and Practicum of Health Science, wherein she fosters an inclusive, student-centered environment, implementing research-based practices to prepare students for life beyond high school. As career and technology department chair, Anderson tracks industry certification data to align with school goals and ensure student readiness for future careers. Beyond the classroom, she leads professional development sessions, sharing expertise in health science education and instructional strategies. Her 212 dedication to continuous learning and bridging education with real-world applications empowers both students and colleagues to reach their full potential and go the extra degree.

Lloyd Turner, principal



## TAHARA RAHMAN — DANISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It is with great pride that we introduce our Teacher of the Year, Ms. Tahara Rahman from Danish Elementary School! Ms. Rahman is the heart of our school—a patient, dedicated, and consistent educator who always goes the extra mile for her students. She sets high standards for herself and her classroom, ensuring that every child reaches their full potential. More than just a teacher, she is a mentor and advocate, always doing what is best for kids and looking out for the whole child. Whether lending a helping hand to a colleague or offering extra support to a student, Ms. Rahman's commitment to excellence and compassion shines through in everything she does. We are incredibly grateful for her unwavering dedication and the positive impact she makes every day. Congratulations, Ms. Rahman—you inspire us all!

Kelly Dalton, principal



## CIERRA HYPOLITE — DEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cierra Hypolite embodies the spirit of Dean Middle School by showcasing her passion for student learning and empowerment. One of her colleagues praised, "Ms. Hypolite is an amazing leader in our school community and an incredibly devoted teacher every single day. She makes it her business to identify the strengths and struggles of each of her students and has a clear plan of service and support for all of our Mustangs." Mrs. Hypolite has also created a student-led Sunshine Committee this year for student artists and content creators to highlight their creativity in creating posters, cards, and care packages for staff members. This is just one of the many examples that Mrs. Hypolite has excelled in her commitment to creating a sense of purpose and belonging that has impacted all students and staff across the campus. Simply put, Mrs. Hypolite represents the very best of our Dean Dynasty!

Michael George, principal





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Congratulations

Ms. Taylor Alcorn

on being named Keith Elementary's  
Teacher of the Year!

This achievement is a true reflection of your dedication, passion, and the positive impact you have on your students. Your ability to inspire and uplift your students is something truly special, and we have no doubt that you will continue to make a difference in many more lives for years to come. Once again, congratulations on this incredible achievement! You truly deserve this honor.

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# PARIS VACATION GIVEAWAY

The winner of this year's Salute to the Stars Grand Prize from Cy-Fair FCU will receive \$10,000 to put toward a dream vacation to Paris! Jennifer Ehlers from Plans2Travel, a fellow educator and former Salute to the Stars honoree, will assist in planning and booking the trip.



*\*All CFISD honorees attending CFEF's 2025 Salute to the Stars are automatically entered into Cy-Fair FCU's Grand Prize drawing. The winner accepts all responsibility for payment of federal, state, and local taxes related to the winnings. Full details can be found at [www.cyfairfcu.org/paris-prize](http://www.cyfairfcu.org/paris-prize).*





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Every single day, you're right there, fully committed, and ready to spark motivation, offer guidance, and help shape the future. With each lesson you share, every bit of encouragement you give, and every hurdle you help a student overcome, you're making a real difference that reaches much further than the walls of the classroom. You're not just teachers, but also mentors, role models, and leaders who shape the dreams and aspirations of the next generation. Because of you, students uncover their voices, realize what they're capable of, and dare to chase their dreams with courage.

Thank you for your commitment, your compassion, and your endless efforts to make a difference. The world is brighter because of educators like you.



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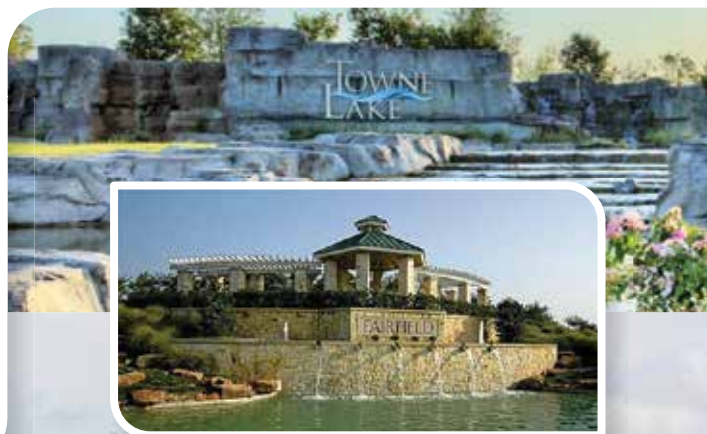


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## **NICOLE WEST — DURYEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

It is an absolute honor to name Nicole West as Duryea's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. West is an exceptional teacher who has an incredible impact on her math and science students. Even in the most challenging times, you will find Mrs. West championing her students, determined to make sure they understand the first instruction and to remind them that they can do anything if they put their minds to it. Mrs. West also contributes to the campus by serving as a mentor to new teachers. It is not uncommon to find her modeling a lesson or having a quick conversation with a new teacher, supporting and helping them with content and instruction. Congratulations Mrs. West! Duryea is proud of you!

Tomicka Williams, principal



## **EPIPHANY RAGSTON — EMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Ragston is an amazing teacher. She lights up the room when she walks in the classroom and all the students beam with delight when they see her. She greets them daily, encourages them all day, and supports them when things are challenging for them. They know they can count on her to help them. Her passion is building strong relationships with her students and leading them to success every day. All the students feel like they can talk to her, and she will help them. All the parents love Ms. Ragston and enjoy communicating with her. If they have a question, they call her and know she will answer their question. Also, Ms. Ragston is a true team player. She can always be counted on and her team loves her too. She is a ray of sunshine at Emery and a true jewel at Emery. She is Emery's Sunshine!

Dr. Michelle Merricks, principal



## **MERIDITH MCMAHON — EMMOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

It is an honor to recognize Meredith McMahon as this year's Teacher of the Year! Meredith is an amazing educator who establishes the foundation for our youngest learners on campus. She is genuinely invested in all her students and shares with them the love of learning. Meredith is a positive, team-oriented member of our staff who adds a little extra nurturing through all her interactions. Her classroom is set up for exploration, creativity, and fluid learning for students. She is always finding ways to build community and promotes a strong relationship between school and home. We are so appreciative of Meredith's dedication, commitment, and love for reaching all students!

Jessica Hernandez, principal



## **KRISTEN MOORE — FARNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Kristen Moore has a widespread impact on our campus. She is someone who strives to have a student-centered classroom where students feel safe and loved. Kristen is always working to engage her students in new and exciting ways. She exudes positivity and is always willing to offer advice, guidance, and friendship to other staff members. She is an exceptional teacher who truly understands her students and goes above and beyond to make them feel valued and supported through kind words, thoughtful actions, or personal notes. Kristen has a special place in her heart for students facing challenging home lives or personal struggles and becomes their biggest cheerleader by encouraging and lifting them up. Kristen's impact on our school community is immeasurable. Her unwavering dedication, positivity, and tireless efforts make a difference, and we are so lucky to have her as part of our team.

Tracy Jacobsen, principal

## **LINDSEY BALLINAS — FIEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Lindsey Ballinas embodies the essence of an exceptional educator. She actively contributes to her team by sharing creative ideas that enhance student learning and engagement. Her dedication to collaboration fosters a supportive and innovative environment, inspiring her colleagues to excel. Lindsey cultivates a structured yet dynamic classroom where all students thrive. She thoughtfully adapts lessons to meet diverse needs, ensuring each child feels valued and empowered. Her kindness and respect create a nurturing space where students feel safe to grow academically and personally. The joy and enthusiasm in her classroom reflect the strong connections she builds with her students. Lindsey maintains open communication with families, keeping them informed of both achievements and challenges to strengthen the home-school partnership. Always willing to lend a hand, she offers insightful suggestions that support her peers. Her positivity and generosity contribute to a strong, collaborative school community where everyone feels encouraged.

Jeanette Gerault, principal



## **SADE' MAXIE — FRANCONI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Everywhere Ms. Maxie looks, she sees possibilities. When considering the ECSE Collaborative program, Ms. Maxie saw its potential impact and successfully fostered its development on our campus. When it comes to her students, Ms. Maxie works each day to bring out their best. Her students who receive special education services are provided support and challenged to meet their individual goals, just as her general education students are. She works hard daily to ensure all children have high-quality first instruction and truly brings out the best among the educators who work alongside her. With teachers like Ms. Maxie, who believe in their students, their campus, and the impact of an educator, the possibilities are endless!

Melissa Martin, principal



## **VICTORIA NORWOOD — FRAZIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Victoria Norwood goes above and beyond to meet the needs of her students, building lifelong connections that foster their success. She always puts forth such great effort and pays attention to the smallest of details for her students. Ms. Norwood maximizes every minute of class time to engage her students, ensuring they actively participate in their learning journey. Her dedication and teamwork make her a valuable asset to our ELAR education staff and our school community. It is with great pride that we recognize Ms. Norwood as our Teacher of the Year at Frazier Elementary. She is truly deserving of this honor, and we are incredibly proud to have her representing our school.

Michael Pagano, principal



## **JASON BECKER — GLEASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

It is an honor to have Jason Becker represent Gleason Elementary School as our Teacher of the Year. Jason embodies all of the qualities of an exceptional teacher. Jason believes in the potential of all of his students. He creates a student-centered environment that is warm and welcoming. He makes EVERY student feel important and loved. He is knowledgeable about the content in which he teaches, and makes his lessons engaging and fun. He sees what is possible, and does what is needed to make the possible become reality for each child. Students in Mr. Becker's class love coming to school, knowing they will be successful.

Christine Melancon, principal





## **CAROL MARCHI — GOODSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Carol C. Marchi is an English, language arts, and reading teacher at Goodson Middle School in Cypress, Texas. With a Master of Education in Reading from Sam Houston State University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Houston, she is deeply committed to fostering a love of learning in her students. Carol Marchi believes that education is a gift that stays with students throughout their lives. She is dedicated to providing a safe, engaging learning environment where students feel confident taking risks, learning from mistakes, and growing both academically and personally. Her career reflects her unwavering commitment to empowering students and colleagues alike.

Lynn Blakeslee, principal



## **JACQUELINE SCHNEIDER — HAIRGROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jacqueline Schneider is our 2024-2025 Spotlight Teacher of the Year. She has excellent classroom management techniques and makes sure to build positive relationships with all of her students. She is compassionate and patient with each and every student's unique needs. She always has a positive attitude, a smile on her face, and makes learning fun in her classroom! She's a team player and a positive role model. Jacqueline goes above and beyond and is deserving of the Spotlight Teacher of the Year award.

Michelle Lee, principal



## **EMILY BRZEZNIAK — HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Brzezniak is an exceptional educator who has been recognized as Teacher of the Year for her unwavering dedication to her student's success. Known for her creativity and passion for teaching, she has a unique ability to bring learning to life, making every lesson engaging and memorable. Whether through interactive lessons or imaginative storytelling, Mrs. Brzezniak inspires curiosity and fosters a love for learning in her classroom. Mrs. Brzezniak goes above and beyond to ensure that all her students are fully prepared for the transition to middle school. She creates a nurturing environment where students not only develop essential academic skills but also gain the confidence and resilience needed to succeed in their next chapter. Her tireless effort and passion for education have left a lasting impact on her students and the entire school community. Hamilton Elementary is so lucky to have her and we are so proud of this well-deserved accomplishment.

Sage Papaioannou, principal



## **MARCO ESCALANTE — HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Marco Escalante is a model for the type of educator we should all strive to be. He goes above and beyond, in and out of the classroom. When you walk into his class, it is alive with passion for teaching the Spanish language. Students feel a sense of safety and excitement for learning. Mr. Escalante leads with a big heart. He treats everyone with respect and is always willing to dedicate time and effort to help others. Students often see him at both home and away events as he shows support for them. They have commented that "he notices when students have been a little down and not like themselves, and he always makes sure to ask if they are okay and see if there's anything he can help with." His commitment to the students and staff at Hamilton Middle School inspires us to want to do and be more.

Jason Tullos, principal



## **CIERA McCrory — HANCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. McCrory is a one-of-a-kind teacher. She encapsulates what a good teacher is through planning, her relationships with her students, her colleagues and her teaching methods. Ciera brightens any room with her warm smile and vibrant energy. She makes learning fun and attainable for all students. Both math and science lessons are always relevant, rigorous, and inclusive. It is fascinating to watch her facilitate productive and effective discourse amongst her 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The children really benefit from her style of teaching. Not only is she a great teacher, but she is also a great teacher-leader. She serves as the team leader, new teacher mentor and a support to her math content area as a planning leader. Ciera is very deserving of this honor. I am proud to have her as a positive influence to our students at Hancock Elementary.

Tamera Felder, principal



## **VONSHEILA SMITH — HEMMENWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Smith creates a student-centered classroom with high expectations for students. She builds relationships and knows their learning modalities. Ms. Smith thoughtfully scaffolds learning so that tasks are approachable to build students' confidence and independence while gradually increasing rigor to lead students to growth and mastery of content. Ms. Smith helps build a culture of collaboration at Hemmenway by mentoring other teachers and engaging in team planning where she seeks relevance, asks questions, and freely shares her expertise and resources for curriculum. She is a participant in the district's Reading Language Arts curriculum committee. She models exceptional instructional practices and is her students' biggest advocate. Ms. Smith focuses on ways to enhance learning for all Tigers with suggestions for PBIS. She greets everyone with a smile and remains flexible when changes arise. She makes herself available to listen and uplift the spirits of those around her. Her growth mindset, service, leadership, and dedication help us soar to new heights at Hemmenway.

Christal Hammond, principal



## **JILLIAN GERMAN — HOLBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jillian actively builds positive relationships with her students and their families. Because she knows her students so well, she creates a positive learning environment. Jillian diligently looks for ways to engage students academically, socially, and communicatively. Students light up as soon as they walk into her room! Each day she demonstrates lots of patience as she helps students grow, learn, and develop. In addition to supporting students, Jillian serves as a mentor for members of her extended team. Holbrook is a better place because Ms. German is part of our team!

Rebecca Mendez, principal



## **LETICIA EDITH RAMOS — HOLMSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Magical is the word to describe Ms. Ramos's classroom. Ms. Ramos creates a student-centered environment every day for all students. Ms. Ramos's classroom is a true community of learners who are engaged at all times. She creatively fosters an environment where students are curious problem solvers who work together while having fun. All of this is accomplished while students make sure every classmate is included in activities. This classroom is full of magical surprises on a daily basis. Holmsley is so proud to have Leticia Edith Ramos as Teacher of the Year.

Ana Diaz, principal



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## **ELISA REA — HOOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ann Lieberman said, "Great teachers empathize with kids, respect them, and believe that each one has something special that can be built upon." Elisa Rea displays this mindset each day as she works with the Pre-K students at Hoover Elementary. She is a caring educator who creates a student-centered learning environment where every child can thrive. She recognizes the gifts her students bring to the classroom and works to build a strong learning foundation. Mrs. Rea is committed to fostering a love of learning in her students and bringing out their best. Hoover is proud to recognize her as Teacher of the Year!

Michelle Rice, principal



## **AMANDA COURTNEY KEELS — HOPPER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Ms. Courtney Keels, an exceptional U.S. History teacher, is dedicated to her students' success and growth. She thoughtfully designs lessons that engage and inspire, constantly reflecting on how to enhance learning experiences. Known for her willingness to try new approaches, Ms. Keels creates a classroom environment where students feel valued, motivated, and eager to participate. Her deep commitment to her students extends beyond academics, as she takes the time to truly understand their needs and challenges, supporting them to reach their full potential. A positive role model for both students and colleagues, Ms. Keels is always ready to collaborate, create resources, and explore innovative teaching strategies. With her infectious enthusiasm, reflective mindset, and "can-do" attitude, Ms. Keels exemplifies excellence in education, inspiring everyone around her to strive for greatness. Congratulations, Ms. Keels, on this well-deserved recognition!

Felicia Hayes, principal



## **MICHAELA STOTS — HORNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Horne Elementary is proud to present Mrs. Michaela Stots as our 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Stots exemplifies the best attributes that parents want in a teacher for their child. She is a thoughtful, caring and compassionate teacher who strives to bring out the best in her reading/language arts students. Michaela has a welcoming classroom and builds relationships with every one of her students. Mrs. Stots is also a role model for other teachers. Her dedication to student success makes her a valuable team player. She treats all staff with kindness and respect. As a team player, she is always the first one to lend a helping hand and offer solutions to problems. As a lifelong learner, Michaela Stots goes above and beyond the call of duty. The Horne Elementary Hound Dogs are proud to have Michaela Stots as our teacher of the year!

Tracey Bennett, principal



## **AMANDA RICH — JERSEY VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL**

This year's teacher of the year for Jersey Village demonstrates the "art" of teaching. Amanda Rich is the very definition of a lifelong learner by always asking herself and her students, "How can we make this better?" She is recognized for her innovative approach to education, always ensuring she is effectively meeting the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of students. She creates a rigorous learning environment that challenges students while fostering growth and development. She prioritizes student well-being, offering support beyond academics, and ensuring students feel safe, valued, and equipped for success. Her holistic approach addresses the whole Falcon, promoting both academic excellence and emotional resilience. Amanda Rich embodies the "it takes a Village" proverb as she embraces her role in the community and invests in not just making their classroom the best place for our Falcons but is always looking out for the greater good of our Village supporting all staff and students in all programs.

Margaret Wiley, principal

## **ERIKA BILTON-BLUNT — JOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The Jowell Jaguars are thrilled to honor Ms. Blunt as our Teacher of the Year! From the moment you walk into Ms. Blunt's room you can automatically feel the positive culture in her classroom. Every student feels welcome, celebrated, and full of potential. Her warmth is also felt by the staff when she presents or shares about all the good things going on in her classroom. Ms. Blunt always has the magic recipe to help students, staff, and parents. Jowell is also proud to honor Ms. Blunt because she attended Jowell as a student! We love Ms. Blunt!

Virginia Stout, principal



## **ARLENE TYNDALL — KAHLA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Our Teacher of the Year is a true champion for students and education! Known for their unwavering dedication and passion, this teacher goes above and beyond for their students, both past and present. Whether she is in the classroom, mentoring a student, or cheering on kids at a soccer game, her impact is felt far and wide. Walking through the halls, it's clear how much she is adored, with students greeting her warmly and former students stopping by to share updates on their lives and achievements. Her ability to create engaging, inspiring lessons leaves a lasting impression, with countless students naming her as one of their all-time favorite teachers. In addition to being a student mentor, soccer coach, and great content teacher, she has also volunteered for numerous campus events. Today, we proudly celebrate her exceptional contributions and are thrilled to announce Arlene Tyndall as our 2024-25 Teacher of the Year! Congratulations!

Joshua Carroll, principal



## **TAYLOR ALCORN — KEITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Alcorn is our Teacher of the Year because she is an exceptional educator with a deep commitment to her students' growth and well-being. She creates a nurturing classroom where each student feels valued, and she has a unique gift for making learning fun! Ms. Alcorn tailors her approach to meet the diverse needs of her class. Her genuine care for her students goes beyond just academics—she celebrates each child's individual strengths and accomplishments, builds their confidence, and fosters a love for learning. Beyond the classroom, Ms. Alcorn's willingness to go the extra mile has made a lasting impact. Her dedication has led her to create a dance team for our students and push forward Keith's mission to grow the whole child. Ms. Alcorn's passion for teaching and her unwavering commitment to our Keith Cougars make her a truly deserving Teacher of the Year.

Julie Clements, principal



## **ELVIA RIVERA — KIRK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Elvia Rivera embodies a positive and genuine spirit, bringing infectious energy to Kirk every day. She employs diverse instructional strategies, continuously gives feedback to help students learn and celebrate successes and lights up when sharing classroom achievements. Her gratitude shines as she acknowledges staff members and demonstrates the KIRK CAN value of interdependence through preparation, collaboration, and mentorship. Her thoughtful instructional plans engage and support students, creating a comfortable environment where they thrive. Always seeking to grow, Elvia exemplifies care for her students' success and is a proud Kirk Mighty Tiger, bringing her journey full circle as she now teaches at the school she once attended as a student.

Katie Ford, principal





## DAVID NGUYEN — LABAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are proud to recognize Mr. David Nguyen as our Labay Middle School Teacher of the Year, an outstanding educator who exemplifies teaching excellence. He skillfully teaches multiple subjects, including math, Principles of Engineering, and Principles of Manufacturing, while incorporating innovative classroom management strategies. Mr. Nguyen's teaching approach emphasizes hands-on learning and high expectations, with students regularly showcasing their projects throughout the building. His exceptional ability to work with students facing challenges, combined with his patience and genuine passion for teaching, creates an inclusive and nurturing learning environment. Beyond his classroom achievements, Mr. Nguyen is an invaluable team member who consistently demonstrates professionalism and kindness. Always ready to support his colleagues with a smile, he has become a pillar of our school community. His dedication to transforming lives and inspiring young minds makes him truly deserve this recognition.

Krystal Love-Hoyer, principal



## CHASE BERRY — LAMKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Berry stands out as a beacon of inspiration and dedication. Her commitment to her students, her passion for art, and her unwavering belief in the power of creativity make her an exceptional art teacher. Through her work, Ms. Berry not only shapes young artists but also helps students become confident and creative thinkers. Lamkin Elementary is truly fortunate to have such a wonderful teacher guiding our students on their artistic journeys. Ms. Berry's dedication to her craft is evident in the joy and pride her students exhibit. She is truly a wonderful teacher who instills a lifelong appreciation for art in her students. Ms. Berry always has a smile and encouraging words to students and staff alike and her JOY and love for students and art shows in all she does!

Jill Brister, principal



## ROSA OJEDA-ESCARCEGA — LANGHAM CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

We are honored to have Rosa Ojeda-Escarcega represent the Langham Creek faculty as Spotlight Teacher of the Year. Rosa exemplifies the portrait of a CFISD teacher. She consistently designs purposeful, engaging, and student-centered lessons that cater to the needs of her students. Rosa is committed to ongoing growth, continuously refining her lessons to ensure they provide the highest quality educational experience. Her classroom fosters a caring and supportive environment where students feel valued and encouraged to succeed. Since joining the Lobo team, Rosa has grown her courses, a testament to her students' desire to learn from her. She has masterfully created a dynamic classroom atmosphere that balances fun with a high level of academic rigor. The telling sign of a master teacher's classroom is the smiles and joy radiating from it. This is Rosa's class every day! Congratulations, Rosa! Lobo Nation salutes you!

Dr. Jose Martinez, principal



## VICTORIA DIAZ — LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Diaz's classroom is a shining example of what education should be—full of respect, curiosity, and a true love for learning. She inspires her students, whether through engaging online field trips or by bringing lessons to life with creative activities. Her passion for teaching extends beyond the classroom as well. Former students continue to visit her. This speaks volumes about the lasting impact she has on their lives. Her positive attitude, dedication, and willingness to support both students and colleagues make her a true leader at Lee Elementary.

Lauree Johnson, principal



## DONALD TOLEDO — LEONARD BRAUTIGAM CENTER

Mr. Toledo has been selected because of his impact on students and co-workers alike. He has served as a mentor to a new teacher and is a trusted ear for all of his students. They are comfortable in his classroom and learn science at the same time. One of his students even wrote me a note asking me to give him a raise!

Craig Pliskin, principal



## DEANN GRIMES — LIEDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lieder Elementary is proud to nominate DeAnn Grimes as our 2025 Teacher of the Year, a recognition made even more meaningful as she was nominated by her peers and supported by campus administration. DeAnn actively listens to and values the perspectives of others, fostering an inclusive environment where collaboration thrives. Her dedication to seeking consensus and working together toward shared goals reflects our school's vision that we are "Better Together." DeAnn is also deeply passionate about every child's success, particularly those with specialized needs. She goes above and beyond to ensure that all students, regardless of their challenges, receive the tailored support and opportunities they need to thrive. Her ability to unite and motivate those around her ensures that every student gets the highest level of support and instruction, and she plays a crucial role in the success of our entire school community.

Dinah McMichael, principal



## AMY TURNER — LOWERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Amy Turner truly touches the entire Lowery staff and community! She is 100% all-in for kids. Her kindness, love for all children, and support for the families are above all others. She finds innovative and creative ways to differentiate, build skills, and help her students find their voices while gaining their independence in and out of the classroom. Above this, she brings FUN to Lowery. Amy is a true asset and model of excellence.

April Wright, principal



## RUBY CHAPMAN — MATZKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ruby Chapman is a phenomenal teacher and goes above and beyond for her Deaf Ed students every day! Ms. Chapman puts extra time and energy into supporting her students and helping them to be as successful as possible. She advocates for her students to ensure they are receiving the support they need, in both Deaf Ed and Gen Ed. Each and every time I walk into her classroom, learning is happening! She became National Board certified this year and has been implementing effective strategies with our Deaf Ed 5<sup>th</sup> graders, even accepting a new NAC Deaf Ed student mid-year. She is an invaluable member of our Deaf Ed team!

Cathryn Jacobs, principal





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## **CHEMISE DEDE — MCFEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

According to Celina Lapidus, Primary Instructional Specialist, Ms. Dede exemplifies the true qualities of a teacher and leader, making her exceptionally deserving of the Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dede demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the well-being and success of each student. Her leadership is evident in her ability to guide and inspire students academically. She demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the well-being and success of her students. Her leadership is evident not only in her ability to guide and inspire students academically but also in her ability to foster an environment of mutual respect with her peers. She consistently leads by example, modeling integrity, perseverance, and passion for learning, making her a truly inspiring figure in the educational community.

Sharon O. Whitfield, principal



## **CHERISH HUGHES — MCGOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Cherish Hughes is one in a million. She is ALL in for all things McGown and has been an integral part of building the culture of McGown since day one, jumping in to assist other teachers with initiatives that support our entire school, such as our Veterans Day program, music programs, student council, or just adding bling to add sparkle to McGown. Cherish puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She was asked to dissolve her fourth-grade classroom and take over a second-grade class after the year had already begun. She didn't miss a beat at building relationships and creating a rock-star classroom with a grade level she had never taught before. Regardless of grade level, Cherish regularly creates immersive experiences that make learning come alive. She once transformed her classroom into Chick-fil-A, where students used menus to solve problems to determine if it was a better deal to purchase items individually or to purchase meal deals. Kids were amazed when the real Chick-fil-A cow showed up to celebrate learning! Everyone loves Cherish Hughes!

LauraAnn Novacinski, principal



## **FARREN MICULOB — METCALF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Farren radiates a beautiful light, harnessing music to unite students, staff, and the community. Her dedication to Metcalf transcends that of a mere teacher; it's a profound commitment to enriching her students' lives through the art of music, evident in the admiration of both current and former students.

Linda Montemayor, principal



## **KATHY MACIAS — MILLSAP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Kathy Macias, Millsap's Teacher of the Year, is a dedicated and compassionate educator who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as an ECSE Co-Teacher. She is known for her kindness, inclusiveness, and unwavering commitment to her students, ensuring that every child feels valued and supported. She is an amazing mentor and parents truly trust her. She constantly and consistently takes care of people, both students and staff. Kathy fosters a classroom environment where all students can thrive, embracing their unique abilities and needs. Her efforts to create opportunities for connection at our campus help cultivate an atmosphere of encouragement and support. Kathy's passion for education, dedication to inclusivity, and leadership in fostering a positive school culture make her an invaluable member of the Millsap family and a truly deserving recipient of the Teacher of the Year award.

Joy Dauphin, principal



## **MICHELLE CHRISTIAN — MOORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Christian works with a diverse group of students, many of whom face significant challenges in their academic and social-emotional growth. These students often have severe misbehaviors and need extra support to succeed. No matter how difficult the day may be, she greets each student with a smile and an open heart. Her positivity is infectious, and she consistently brings a sense of calm to all that she does. She is open to learning new strategies and implementing fresh approaches to help her students. She actively seeks out professional development opportunities, learning from others and integrating new ideas into her teaching. She knows that the best teachers never stop growing! This year, she's been supportive of a new teacher and paras, offering guidance, encouragement, and expertise to help them navigate their first year! She serves as a team leader and her collaborative spirit creates a supportive environment for all. She is that special person who makes a significant impact on children's lives.

Rebecca Hignight, principal



## **NANCY MEDRANO — OWENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

I am honored to write about our Owens Elementary Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Medrano. Since I first met Mrs. Medrano, I have witnessed her commitment to our school and our district by doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of her students. Mrs. Medrano started this school year as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and due to low enrollment, she had to pivot to Pre-Kindergarten. She has not only demonstrated flexibility by quickly adjusting to her new grade level but she has gone above and beyond to ensure all of her students had a positive transition to a new teacher. Mrs. Medrano also has exhibited the characteristics of a team player. She integrated very well with her new team and she always works very hard to support teachers and paraprofessionals. We are proud to have Mrs. Medrano represent our school as our Teacher of the Year.

Cesar Diaz, principal



## **MARCI GLASSON — POPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Marci Glasson is an incredibly dedicated and supportive educator. Her commitment to her students, and fellow teachers, and continuous professional growth truly stand out. Whether it's offering help to colleagues, advocating for students, or leading her team with an unwavering positive attitude, Marci is a strong presence in her school community. Her ability to not only provide guidance but also actively listen and share resources with others speaks to her collaborative nature. The fact that she goes above and beyond to support both her students and teammates is a rare and valuable quality. It's clear that Marci's passion for teaching and her genuine care for everyone she works with create a lasting impact.

Katie Herrera, principal



## **KATHRYN DIAZ — POST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Kathryn Diaz is a remarkable teacher. Her in-depth knowledge of the Reading Curriculum establishes a learning environment in which all her students thrive. She creates hands-on lessons to engage all learning styles and scaffolds her learners using detailed anchor charts, small group instruction, and visuals. Kathryn uses every minute of class to engage her students, making sure they actively participate in their learning. She is a mentor, serves as our Gradebook Liaison, and has aspiring educators observe her class regularly. Kathryn is organized, prepared, and willing to share her expertise through collaborative planning. She is a positive role model for our staff and makes personal contact with her students and parents. Kathryn is an asset to our Post Community, and we are proud of the wealth of knowledge she brings to our school.

Dr. Karen Stockton, principal





## **THUY CHIEN — POSTMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Teaching is more than just a job—it's a calling. Mrs. Thuy Chien's calling shines in everything she does! Modeling "Failure Leads to Success" creates an environment where Pumas thrive and feel comfortable making mistakes. She offers the right amount of push and pull, speaking the kids' language (which is impressive to students), while holding everyone to high standards. With her as a model, students embrace integrity, optimism, and persistence, which extends into our entire community. While celebrating "Green and Growing", students often return to her class to share successes. She looks for ways to build up other staff, making them feel important, wanted, loved, and included. Her focus is to remember the big picture of teaching, and being a great example for other humans. She knows that teaching is not a solo endeavor—it's a community effort. Mrs. Chien's effort to collaborate, uplift, and support others ensures we all meet shared goals. She represents the very best of Postma!

Tracy Barstow, principal



## **KATIE CASEY — REED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Katie Casey is a shining star! She demonstrates a dynamic, caring rapport with students. She is innovative, engaging, consistent, self-disciplined, kind, and inspiring. Ms. Casey has served as lead mentor for several years and is an approachable resource for new staff members. She is such a knowledgeable and collaborative professional. She is a master-level teacher who shares her knowledge with students and staff to help everyone grow. She works alongside the leadership team by identifying problems and offering solutions. Katie gives 100% every single day for the betterment of Reed. We are so thankful she shares her talents with the Reed community!

Karen Richardson, principal



## **ALYSSA ODNEAL — RENNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Alyssa Odneal is an outstanding teacher who is dedicated to the success of her students, colleagues, and our community. If she hears about a new strategy that could benefit her students, she is the first to jump on board and give it a try. She empowers not only her students to do their best but also her coworkers. She consistently supports her team to make sure they have planned ahead and stay organized. She goes above and beyond to mentor and inspire others - leading numerous campus professional development sessions and serving as a mentor to new staff and student teachers. She serves our school beyond her classroom as a team leader, dance coach, and Rennell's ESL LPAC Representative. Although she didn't ask for it, she willingly took on a new role serving in a co-teach classroom with a positive attitude and can-do spirit. Alyssa's passion for our students' success shines in all she does.

Meredith Akers, principal



## **LIDIA VILLAMIZAR-CAMACHO — M. ROBINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Lidia Villamizar-Camacho is the definition of a hard-working teacher. She has endless amounts of love for all her students and for what she does. Ms. Villamizar can reach out to every student while keeping high standards. Her classroom is a positive environment in which students flourish. Ms. Villamizar accepts all students, sets high expectations for each one of them, provides the needed support to move students forward, and meets individual student needs. She is an excellent Bilingual teacher and coworker, a great role model, and a great team player. Our team and school are very lucky to have her! If you look at her Twitter page, you can see that she is a student-centered teacher. Her students are successful because she always finds ways to reach them. Ms. Villamizar-Camacho truly is a creator of a student-centered environment. M. Robinson Elementary is blessed to have her as the Teacher of the Year!

Rocio Braley, principal

## **CHRISTINE BERRY — A. ROBISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Robison Elementary recognizes Christine Berry as our Teacher of the Year with great pride and admiration. With a remarkable ability to inspire, uplift, and challenge students, Mrs. Berry has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of teaching excellence. Her unwavering dedication is displayed by her willingness to work with students outside of school hours to support students experiencing difficulty and those who require the challenge of enrichment. Mrs. Berry's passion and enthusiasm for teaching are observed through the innovative lessons she plans. She takes time to collaborate and plan engaging and challenging lessons to ensure her students will be successful. We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Berry at Robison, as she is an example of believing that ALL students can grow and learn.

Kelly Gerletti, principal



## **JENNIFER HOLT — ROWE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Ms. Jennifer Holt sets the bar when it comes to teaching our Rowe Jags. The compassion she shows to each student is refreshing. She exemplifies the perfect example of a CFISD teacher. Ms. Holt is genuine in her delivery and planning for students every day. Ms. Holt builds strong relationships with her students and remains focused on their needs while conveying purpose and high expectations in her classroom. She is also a master in creating student-centered instruction in her class through blended learning studios. Her influence on our campus is truly felt by all staff and students. Rowe is honored to celebrate Ms. Holt as our spotlight teacher and even more honored to have her as part of the Rowe Jag family.

Stacia Carew, principal



## **JAY GOMEZ — SALYARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Jonathan "Jay" Gomez is an amazing educator who exceeds expectations for students and colleagues. He forms great relationships with students and staff and is an instructional leader who collaboratively contributes to his science team. Jay exemplifies dedication and leadership and tirelessly supports students by making well-thought-out data-driven decisions. Not only does Jay inspire students in the classroom, but on the football field as well. He pours into students by advising them on life skills to ensure a well-rounded and successful future. Jay can often be found in the classroom, in the hallway during passing periods, or on the football field guiding students through a lesson, a football play, or a real-world challenge. The students and staff at Salyards Middle School are fortunate to have Jay as part of our Bengal family.

Stacie Everson, principal



## **KATIE PERRY — SAMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Katie Perry is a highly dedicated and passionate teacher committed to helping every student succeed. She creates a supportive and inclusive environment that quickly becomes a classroom community. There is no challenge that is too difficult and no student that she cannot reach. She ensures that all students are successful in her classroom. She never gets discouraged, and she never complains. She just tries something new or asks a staff member to help her brainstorm. Katie embodies the definition of student-centered learning. Students are the center of everything that she does all day, every day. When you walk into her classroom you see her kindergarten students happily engaged in their activity, and all working independently. She makes the most of every moment, and she instills confidence into even the timidness of her young learners. Sampson Elementary is proud to shine our 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year spotlight on Katie Perry.

Heather Motzny, principal







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Take part in our **Alumni Contributing for Education (ACE)** program. The **ACE** program is designed for graduates and their friends or family to donate to the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) alumni fund. For 55 years and counting, CFEF has provided scholarships to graduating seniors across Cy-Fair ISD. With the rising cost of college, the Foundation must continually grow our scholarship funds to provide scholarships to students in need.

*Help the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) fund scholarships for graduating seniors!*

*Make a recurring monthly donation or a one-time donation.*



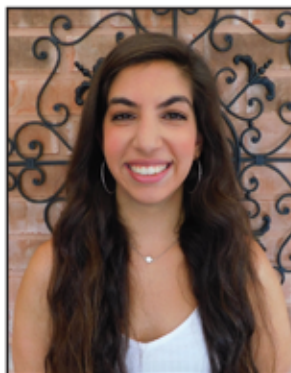
**Jocelyn Reyes**  
(Cypress Springs - 2020)

CFEF has given me a huge and life-changing gift...a gift to go to college. CFEF award, helped me, coming from a low-income, first-generation student, to attend college. They changed my life, I don't have to worry about expenses and my focus is completely on making the best grades possible. Thank you so so much!



**Alitzah Escobedo**  
(Jersey Village - 2018)

Receiving a scholarship from the CFEF has opened many pathways for me and has enabled me to get into college worry free. Working with the CFEF has been very enlightening because the foundation sincerely cares for the students and are truly determined to help students from different backgrounds succeed. The dedication that the members of the foundation put into helping students thrive is outstanding and for that I am sincerely thankful.



**Flora Yiakras**  
(Cypress Falls - 2018)

I am so grateful for the generosity of this organization. By awarding me the CFEF Scholarship In Memory of Rona Martin Abshire, my financial burden was lightened which allowed me to focus more on the most important aspect of school- learning. Their generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as they helped me.



**Dylan Kodama**  
(Cypress Ranch - 2020)

The foundation supported me on my journey to attending college by alleviating some of the financial stress in these difficult times. They allowed me to make my admission decision more on my personal goals and what was right for me, rather than what was easier or less of a risk in an already uncertain future.

**Donate today - Help us brighten the future of CFISD students as they pursue their higher education goals.**







## **LA TOYA FIELDS — SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

We are proud to spotlight Latoya Fields as Sheridan's Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Fields exemplifies dedication to her students through her unwavering commitment to their success and well-being. She effectively utilizes targeted small-group instruction to meet the unique needs of each learner, ensuring that all students receive personalized support and attention. Her classroom is a vibrant and positive space, fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect where students feel valued and empowered to take risks. As a true team player, Mrs. Fields collaborates with her colleagues to share best practices and enhance the overall learning environment at Sheridan. Her passion for teaching and her genuine care for her students make her a deserving recipient of this prestigious honor. Congratulations, Mrs. Fields!

René McIntyre, principal



## **JULISA VALDEZ — SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Smith Middle School proudly recommends Julisa Valdez for Teacher of the Year. As a dedicated Special Education math teacher, Ms. Valdez has demonstrated such commitment to the success and well-being of every student she works with, going above and beyond to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment. One of Ms. Valdez's most outstanding qualities is her ability to differentiate instruction. Understanding that each student has unique learning needs, Ms. Valdez tailors her teaching strategies to ensure all students can access and succeed in the math curriculum. Whether it is through individualized accommodations, small group instruction, or hands-on activities, she is always finding innovative ways to meet the diverse learning styles of her students. What sets Ms. Valdez apart is not only their professional expertise but also her compassion and dedication to the students she works with each day.

Rebecca Koop, principal



## **GENIE MIDDLETON — SPILLANE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Genie Middleton exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator, role model, and team player. Her commitment to student success is evident in her tireless efforts to craft engaging lessons that cater to diverse learning styles and abilities. Known for holding her students to high standards while offering unwavering support, she creates a classroom environment where every child feels valued and encouraged. Genie's dedication extends beyond teaching. This year, she played a pivotal role in helping the science team implement a new curriculum, ensuring a smooth transition for both students and colleagues. A former elementary teacher, she has brought her expertise to 7th and 8th-grade science, leaving a lasting impact on the Spillane community. Her generosity, quiet leadership, and passion for education inspire everyone around her. As a die-hard Astros fan, it's fitting to celebrate Genie as Spillane Middle School's Most Valuable Player for 2025. Congratulations, Mrs. Middleton!

Jamie Brotemarkle, principal



## **JON-MICHAEL LABOSKI — SPRAGUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Jon-Michael Laboski is a dynamic educator! He is well respected and leads by example. As a natural mentor, he is always willing to share, collaborate, and work with others. He is a teacher both in the classroom and on the field. In addition to growing our CTE program, he coaches our young athletes in both football and track at Sprague. His patience for his students and athletic teams is unwavering and commendable. His focus is never on himself but on student success. He is a team player and a hard worker! Jon-Michael Laboski is a true asset to our Sprague community!

Elizabeth Bradley, principal



## KRISTINE MUNSTEREIFEL — SWENKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It is with great pride that Swenke Elementary honors Kristine Munstereifel as our Teacher of the Year. Kristine's dedication and passion for education have profoundly impacted students, colleagues, and the entire school community. Mrs. Munstereifel understands that students thrive when they feel valued, respected, and empowered. She fosters an environment where curiosity is nurtured, questions are encouraged, and mistakes are viewed as opportunities for growth. She helps students develop critical reading skills and a lifelong passion for reading. Beyond her role as an educator, Mrs. Munstereifel exemplifies the qualities of a compassionate and inspiring role model. Her genuine care for her students' well-being and success extends beyond academics, fostering a culture of kindness, respect, and empathy. Kristine Munstereifel's recognition is a celebration of her unwavering dedication and passion for teaching. Her influence will continue to shape the lives of students and colleagues for years to come.

Courtney Nespeca, principal



## AMARI SHIELDS — THORNTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are incredibly blessed to have Mrs. Amari Shields as our 2025 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Shields brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to both her students and colleagues. Her unwavering dedication to student success ensures that every child in her care grows, excels, and reaches their highest academic potential. Mrs. Shields embodies excellence in her classroom, fostering an environment where students respond with determination, resilience, and a spirit of accomplishment. Beyond her students, she challenges her colleagues to think innovatively, always reminding us to keep our focus on what matters most—the kids. As Mrs. Shields receives this well-deserved recognition tonight, our entire campus beams with pride in her achievements. From our principal, administration team, staff, students, and parents, we stand with her, celebrating this milestone and wishing her continued success and blessings in the future. Congratulations, Mrs. Shields! Despise not small things, for they lead to greatness.

Reginal Mitchell, principal



## JOZELLE PATTERSON — TIPPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Patterson is a dedicated and passionate educator whose unwavering support for students and teachers makes her an invaluable asset to our school. She is wholeheartedly invested in the academic and personal success of every student, going above and beyond to ensure they reach their full potential. Her commitment to excellence is evident in her engaging teaching methods, mentorship, and encouragement, fostering a love for learning in her classroom. A true team player, Mrs. Patterson is always willing to step in and support her colleagues, whether by sharing resources, offering guidance, or lending a helping hand when needed. Her positive attitude and dedication create a collaborative and uplifting environment for both students and staff. Her passion for teaching and genuine care for others make her a shining example of what it means to be an outstanding educator. We are proud to honor Mrs. Patterson as our 2024 Teacher of the Year!

Felicia Thomas, principal



## DEBORAH DEL VALLE — TRUITT MIDDLE SCHOOL

I am thrilled to select Deborah Del Valle as our Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Del Valle's dedication to English language learners has transformed countless young lives. Her ability to meet the diverse needs of her students, especially those newly arrived in the U.S., sets her apart. She consistently goes above and beyond, adapting her methods to ensure every student succeeds. Her dynamic classroom uses hands-on activities to make learning English accessible and engaging. Students who start with no English skills show remarkable progress in speaking, reading, and writing by year's end—a testament to her innovative teaching and deep understanding of language acquisition. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Del Valle takes on additional responsibilities, contributing to our school's mission and creating a welcoming, inclusive environment. She exemplifies the dedication, innovation, and commitment we honor with this award, and her impact on students will resonate throughout their academic careers and beyond.

Plas Williams, principal





## **STACEY ENZOR — WALKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Walker Elementary is excited to celebrate excellence in teaching, and it is my honor to recognize someone who truly embodies what it means to be an outstanding educator. Stacey Enzor is more than just a teacher—she is a pillar of our school community, someone who consistently goes above and beyond, often working tirelessly behind the scenes. Whether planning lessons late into the night, advocating for students in need, or lending a helping hand to a colleague, this teacher does it all with humility and a passion for education. What sets Mrs. Enzor apart is her unwavering commitment to structure and detail. Mrs. Enzor thinks about the whole picture—how every decision, every moment, impacts the lives of their students and the school community. She is always prepared, no matter what the challenge, ensuring that every student feels seen, supported, and ready to succeed. Congratulations Stacey Enzor!

Kimberly Dameron, principal



## **GRACIN ABLES — WARNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Gracin is an incredibly dedicated and positive educator who goes above and beyond for her students and the entire school community! She brings a wonderful energy to both her classroom and her collaborations with others, she has provided leadership through initiatives like PBIS and on the Spikeazon committee. Gracin encompasses the qualities of a team player and an educator who provides a learner-centered environment for her students. Her willingness to create a fun, engaging learning environment and the support she shows for her colleagues demonstrate her deep commitment to both the emotional and academic well-being of her students. She's truly making a positive impact at Warner Elementary!

Schonda Kidd, principal



## **JEROME CARGILE — WATKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Coach Cargile, your dedication and leadership make a difference every day. It is with great pride that we honor you as our Watkins Teacher of the Year! As an engineering teacher, he provides hands-on experiences that bring learning to life, inspiring students to explore the world of engineering. He extends his passion to students, giving them an early glimpse into the field, and sparking their curiosity for the future. In addition, Coach Cargile is a respected coach and role model. He instills discipline, teamwork, and perseverance in his athletes, shaping them into not just better players, but better individuals. His influence goes far beyond his assigned duties, mentoring students, offering guidance, and always stepping up wherever he's needed. Education is more than a profession for Coach Cargile; it's a calling. Inspired by his mother, he continues that legacy shaping young minds and preparing them for success in school, sports, and life.

Andrea Lagard, principal



## **MOLLY MADDUX — WELLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Molly started at Wells several years ago as a brand-new teacher and was a natural standout from her first day on! Anytime you enter her classroom you will witness the positive class culture that she creates through the relationships she builds each year with her students. Molly exemplifies excellence as a teacher, consistently going above and beyond in everything that she does. Our staff sees her dedication to continuous improvement as she eagerly embraces new ideas and strategies to create the best learning opportunities for all students. She is an invaluable team player, working collaboratively with her team and support staff to ensure success for all. Molly is always positive and has something nice to say about any situation. She listens to her team and collaborates with everyone equally. She is responsible, trustworthy, optimistic, and someone you can rely on. She is a Positive Role Model in every way.

Cheryl Fisher, principal

## **LAURA HOYLAND-POWELL — WILLBERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Laura Hoyland-Powell, our Teacher of the Year, is the heart of our school community. With unmatched patience and a warm, constant smile, she nurtures our youngest and most fragile learners, providing them with the foundation they need to thrive. Her dedication extends beyond the classroom—she mentors new teachers, offering guidance and support that strengthens the entire staff. Parents trust and adore her, knowing their children are in the most caring and capable hands. Whether she's comforting a nervous preschooler, collaborating with colleagues, or lending a listening ear to a concerned parent, Ms. Powell's passion for education shines through. She embodies kindness, professionalism, and a deep love for teaching, making a lasting impact on every student and adult she encounters. Her unwavering dedication to the success of her students and school makes her not just an outstanding teacher, but an invaluable part of our educational family.

Connie Roberson, principal



## **JACQUELINE MARTINEZ — WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Martinez is a true master teacher. She shows gratitude, respect, accountability, compassion, and empathy in all areas towards all students, staff, and parents. The students of the past, present, and future are so fortunate to have her as part of their educational experience! She creates a positive, safe, loving learning environment for all students. Ms. Martinez always shows Wilson P.R.I.D.E. with grace and a smile. She meets each student at their level and with love, support, and assistance to help each child succeed. She sees the potential in every child and helps them feel and do their best every day! Ms. Martinez is passionate, loves what she does, and is always seeking to be a better teacher and person. We are very proud and honored to have Ms. Martinez represent Wilson Elementary as our Teacher of the Year!

Kia Willis, principal



## **SHELLY KESSLER — WOODARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Shelly is "original wolfpack" helping develop Woodard's collegial and collaborative culture. She is a CFISD model teacher where her level of mastery is effortless. Her reputation is revered in our community as parents request for their children to be in her class. She has taught siblings along the way, deepening her investment in the whole family. Her humility makes her approachable to others who lean on her for coaching and direction. She is an expert in her field, helping revise district curriculum and presenting professional development to her Kindergarten peers. Shelly never takes her wisdom for granted, preparing for students as the sun rises each day. Shelly has an inner strength and great listening skills that helps her advocate for her students and team. She is the person everyone relies on to make things right because she is fair and just, seeing all sides to a situation to build consensus.

Susan Brenz, principal



## **MANDY PAYNE — YEAGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Yeager Elementary is excited to recognize Mandy Payne as our Teacher of the Year! Mandy's peers describe her as: "Creative!" "Motivational!" "Inspirational!" and "Innovative!" Mandy's passion for teaching and her love for students make her worthy of this recognition. Her classroom is a community of learners working together and supporting each other in their academic and social growth. Students work cooperatively with hands-on materials, small group investigations, and technology. With her high standards of excellence, Ms. Payne makes a positive impact on the lives of our students, staff, and community.

Kerri Dale, principal





*Congratulations to Piera McPhory  
2025 Teacher of the Year!*



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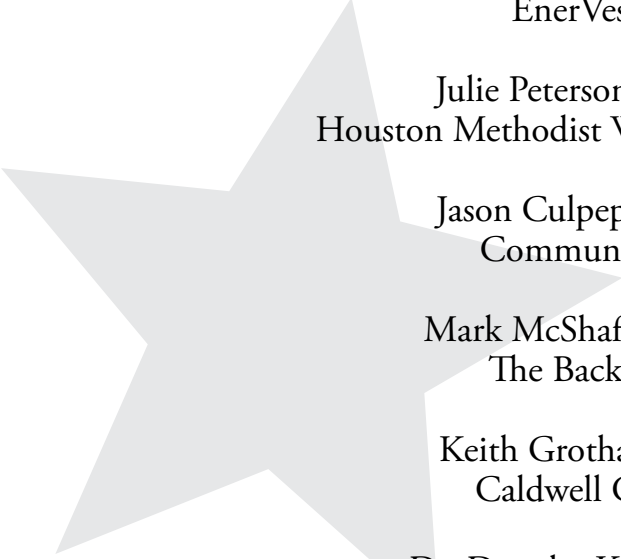
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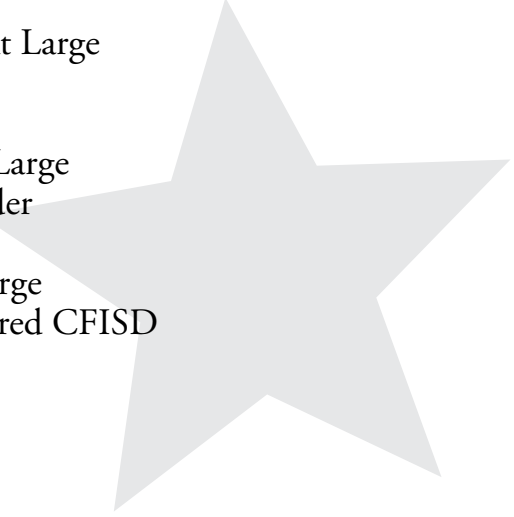
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