

Denton Independent School District
Board of Trustees
Certificates of Recognition
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011

DENTON ISD

**2 students named National Merit Semifinalists,
20 others capture national scholar honors**

National Merit Semifinalists

Two seniors from the Denton Independent School District have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

Guyer High

Aaron Jackson: Aaron is the son of Lori Henderson and a member of the Guyer tennis team, enjoys researching various topics and is active in various community sports. He is undecided on his choice of college but plans to double major in business and engineering and obtain a minor in Spanish.

Ryan High

Kathryn Hokamp: Kathryn is the daughter of Mark and Barbara Hokamp and a member of the Ryan cross country team and marching band and has taken part in various UIL competition teams including: literary criticism, math and social studies. She is undecided on her choice of colleges but plans to double major in English and chemical engineering.

These two students are among the highest scoring entrants in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship program in the state and part of an elite group of 16,000 semifinalists chosen nationwide.

Denton ISD has produced 30 National Merit Semifinalists in the past nine years.

Commended Scholars

Fifteen Denton ISD seniors also were recognized as commended scholars by the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Guyer High

Nine of the 2012 scholars attend Guyer High including:

Mei Earling: Mei is the daughter of Gerald and Mutsuko Earling and a member of the Guyer orchestra, Key Club and Habitat for Humanity. She plans to attend Southwestern University in Georgetown and be a pre-med major.

Joel Elliott: Joel is the son of Joel and Anne Elliott and a member of the Guyer track and cross country teams, National Honor Society and has been awarded the National Mathematics Award. He is undecided on his choice of college but plans on studying either math or science.

Margaret Garvert: Margaret is the daughter of Randy and Janet Garvert and is an active student at Guyer. She plans attending Baylor University and studying psychology.

Will Matthews: Will is the son of Billy and Angie Matthews and a member of the Guyer baseball team, Key Club, National Honor Society. He also attended the national Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership Conference this year. He plans on attending the University of Texas at Austin and is undecided on his major.

Stephen Moorer: Stephen is the son of Lauren Moorero-Cox and Scott Cox and a member of the Guyer tennis team and part of the chem.-research team at the University of North Texas. He plans on attending the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and studying aerospace engineering.

Keith Richards: Keith is the son of Steve and Regina Richards and a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Key Club and serves as the president of the Pre-Law Club. He is undecided on his choice of college but plans on studying humanities and eventually attending law school.

Theodore Torres: Theodore is the son of Jason and Jennifer Torres and a member of the Guyer orchestra, National Honor Society, Music Theory Club and Culinary Arts program at the Advanced Technology Complex. He is undecided on his college choice but is considering studying zoology, anthropology or English.

Kendra Wenger: Kendra is the daughter of Bill and Julie Wenger and a member of the Academic Decathlon team, Art Club and French Club. She is undecided on her college choice but plans on studying mathematics and statistics.

Emily Windle: Emily is the daughter of Jeff and Molly Windle and president of the National Honor Society and senior representative for Key Club. She is undecided on her college choice but plans on studying mathematics or engineering.

Ryan High

Five of the 2012 scholars attend Ryan High including:

Mark Ashby: Mark is the son of David and Amy Ashby and a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and trains with the under-18 FC Dallas academy soccer team. He plans on attending Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. and majoring in engineering.

Sean Rohde: Sean is the son of Sean and Anita Rohde and an active student at Ryan. He is undecided on his choice of college and major.

James Strange: James is the son of Dan and Carol Strange and an active student at Ryan and also enjoys running, reading and drawing in his spare time. He plans on attending Texas A&M University and majoring in mechanical engineering.

Preston Tunnell-Wilson: Preston is the son of Ed Wilson and Jannae Tunnell and a member of the Ryan tennis team, National Honor Society and a Boy Scout. He plans on attending Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, Calif. and majoring in mathematics.

Emily Williams: Emily is the daughter of Bobby and Sandy Williams and captain of the Ryan tennis team, treasurer of the National Honor Society, secretary of Rotary Interact and a PALS member. She plans on attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island and study culinary arts.

Denton High

Denton High had the one commended scholar.

Ariel Bailey: Ariel is the daughter of Daniel and Helen Bailey and is a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Creative Writing Club and active in theatre. She plans attending the University of North Texas and enrolling in the Honors College to study English and creative writing.

There are less than 34,000 commended scholars recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program nationwide annually and each placed in the top five percent on the PSAT/NMSQT test.

Denton ISD has produced 89 National Merit Commended Scholars in the past nine years.

National Hispanic Scholars

Denton ISD also had four students receive recognition as National Hispanic Scholars

Denton High

Christopher Murillo: Christopher is the son of Jose and Sara Murillo and member of the Math Club, Computer Science Club and Health Occupations Students of America. He plans on attending Princeton University in New Jersey and studying neuroscience or cellular and molecular biology.

Skylar Padilla: Skylar is the daughter of Frank and Rebecca Padilla and a member of the Denton High orchestra and Key Club. She plans on attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and majoring in archeology.

Nathan Place: Nathan is the son of Don and Charlotte Place and member of the Denton High chamber orchestra and jazz band as well as National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America. He is undecided on his choice of colleges but plans on studying business or music.

Guyer High

Theodore Torres: He was also a National Commended Scholar for Guyer High.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes students who are at least one-quarter Hispanic or Latino and are among the top 5,000 highest-scoring Hispanic individuals on the PSAT/NMSQT test.

National Achievement Scholar

The district had one National Achievement Scholar.

Guyer High

Sanelisiwe Moyo: Sanelisiwe is the daughter of Vukani and Sarah Moyo and an active student at Guyer taking courses like fashion design and aquatic science. She plans on attending the University of Texas at Arlington and is undecided on her major.

National Achievement Scholars annually score in the top three percent of more than 160,000 Black Americans who request consideration in the National Achievement Program.

HAWK ELEMENTARY

Hawk named to state comptroller's Texas Honors Circle

Hawk Elementary was recently named to the state comptroller's 2011 Texas Honors Circle.

Hawk was one of only 313 campuses in the state to meet the strict requirements established by the comptroller's office for the annual Financial Allocation Study for Texas, known as FAST. The FAST study evaluates spending practices as they relate to academic performance.

Hawk received a five-star rating - the highest possible score - by increasing its academic progress while spending less than most of its comparable campus peers.

Ten Denton Independent School District campuses finished with ratings of four stars or better, just missing the Texas Honors Circle. The other schools receiving four stars or higher include: E.P. Rayzor, Houston, Lee, McNair, Nelson, Pecan Creek, Providence, Wilson Elementary schools and Crownover Middle School.

DENTON ISD

Hawk, Hodge and Navo campuses earn national honor by NCEA

The Denton Independent School District recently placed three campuses on the National Center of Educational Achievement's prestigious national honor roll.

Formerly known as the Just for the Kids Higher Performing Schools program, the NCEA's national honor roll recognizes schools for exceptional educational growth and college and career readiness in its students.

Hawk and Hodge Elementary and Navo Middle schools scored better in growth or college and career preparedness than similar schools - as measured by the NCEA. Each school is measured in math, reading, science and writing and compared against other schools with similar demographics.

Hawk Elementary School was recognized for exceptional marks in growth and student college and career readiness in writing. The principal is Susannah O'Bara and assistant principal is Monica Graves.

Hodge Elementary School was recognized for exceptional marks in growth and student college and career readiness in science. Principal is Sam Kelley and assistant principal is Kelly Francis.

Navo Middle School was recognized for exceptional marks in growth in science. Principal is Shaun Perry and the assistant principals are Paul Martinez and Mary Stewart.

NCEA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a mission to help kindergarten through 12th grade students reach college readiness. NCEA carries out data analysis, research, advocacy, and program development that promote high academic standards and student achievement throughout all grade levels and help more students reach college.