

**Board Recognition**  
**March 28, 2023**

**Fifteen students named state VASE qualifiers**

Fifteen Denton ISD students qualified for state in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) – an annual competition with nearly 35,000 entries. Academically eligible high school students in grades 9-12 can participate in VASE.

Students create artwork, write about their creative processes and understanding of visual art and articulate information about their artwork during an interview with a VASE juror, who evaluates their work using a standards-based rubric. To qualify for state, students must attend a regional event and have their original artwork with them at the event.

Jurors then interview students and evaluate the artwork using the aforementioned rubric. Artwork receiving an Exemplary Rating (IV) will receive a medallion at the state VASE competition. The state jury panel will then select Gold Seal winners from artwork receiving an Exemplary Writing, and Gold Seal artworks receive a State Gold Seal medallion.

Denton ISD's 15 state VASE qualifiers include the following:

**Braswell High School**

Sanaa Hampton

*Ms. Julia Freund, Teacher*

Savannah Miller

*Ms. Julia Freund, Teacher*

Jayden Ojeda

*Ms. Julia Freund, Teacher*

Jennifer McLeod (2 works qualified)

*Ms. Angelia Ford and Ms. Kiba Jacobson, Teachers*

Samantha Melendez

*Ms. Kiba Jacobson, Teacher*

Ashlynn Smith

*Ms. Angelia Ford, Teacher*

Alazjah Tates

*Ms. Angelia Ford, Teacher*

*The principal of Braswell High School is Mr. DeCorian Hailey.*

**Guyer High School**

Enrique Gutierrez

*Ms. Tiffany Fitzsimmons, Teacher*

Christin Park

*Mr. John Mooney, Teacher*

Koki Shinha

*Ms. Tiffany Fitzsimmons, Teacher*

Yuri Sung

*Mr. John Mooney, Teacher*

Eden Fitzpatrick

*Ms. Tiffany Fitzsimmons, Teacher*

*The principal of Guyer High School is Dr. Shaun Perry.*

**Ryan High School**

Hailey Belcher

*Ms. Aimee Foutch, Teacher*

Olivia Kinard

*Ms. Aimee Foutch, Teacher*

Emily Stanley

*Ms. Aimee Foutch, Teacher*

*The principal of Ryan High School is Mr. Vernon Reeves.*

**2023 International WAC Educator of the Year**

Ryan High School social studies teacher Amanda Ledwon has been named the 2023 International Educator of the Year by the World Affairs Council (WAC) of Dallas-Fort Worth.

A veteran educator with more than 20 years of experience, Ms. Ledwon has taught social studies at Ryan High School since 2019. She has been associated with the WAC for over seven years.

The WAC works directly with high school and university educators who are devoted to enriching their students' knowledge of world affairs while expanding their international learning opportunities. These teachers and administrators demonstrate leadership by exceeding their typical responsibilities.

The International Educator of the Year award honors these educators.

Ms. Ledwon is known for her passion and dedication to involving students in international studies. She reads the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights to her students each year to educate them about this important global topic. Through her teaching, she has inspired former students to pursue both undergraduate and graduate degrees in human rights.

Ms. Ledwon's two-decade teaching career has covered all education levels, from grade school to college. In addition to teaching social studies at Ryan High School, she is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Dallas and an adjunct professor at Texas Woman's University and Collin College.

In 2021, Ms. Ledwon received the district's Honor Graduate Educator of Influence Award. She has been a member of the Ukrainian American Society of Texas and Zorya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble since 2000. For the 2010-2011 school year, she was an alternate for the Garcia Robles Fulbright Study Abroad Grant to Mexico. In 2016, she was part of the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Scholarship "Through the Lens of Jordan: Integrating Middle Eastern Narratives into North Texas Social Studies Curriculum."

*The Principal of Ryan High School is Mr. Vernon Reeves.*

### **Community Spotlight**

Each year the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses and organizations for their support and exceptional advocacy of local schools. This state-wide honor, as part of "Stand Up for Texas Public Schools," recognizes local businesses and community organizations that partner with districts, making a difference in the lives of local public school students.

The Denton Noon Kiwanis Club has served the children of our community for more than 100 years. Through a valuable partnership with our campus nurses, the Kiwanis Club provides healthcare services to children in our community through a non-profit clinic solely supported by the fundraising efforts of the noon Kiwanis.

Denton ISD nursing professionals, through a referral process, connect families to the clinic who need assistance for their student(s). Whether it involved much-needed medication, eye exams or dental procedures this organization fill the gap to address services for our students.

Year after year, decade after decade, the Denton Noon Kiwanis Club has, both financially and philosophically, supported our district-wide initiatives due to its belief in public education and commitment to providing access and opportunities for all children.

*Kiwanians Jeff King, president, Robin Meyer and Dr. Norman Pomerance will be in attendance.*