

Board Recognition **January 11, 2022**

National Merit Semifinalists, Commended named for Class of 2022

Twenty Denton ISD students have been chosen out of 1.6 million total entrants to be semi-finalists or commended scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program for this year's graduating class.

The College Board named Joyce Hu, Christian Luevano, Erica Peterson, and Eta-Maruru Tako of Guyer High to the distinguished list of National Merit Semi-Finalists.

The four join a pool of just 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists in the entire country. High school students are selected into the program based on their top scores on the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The Class of 2022 commended scholars includes Jonathan Oliver of Denton High: Akintomiwa Akinniyi, Madison Baer, Dylan Davies, Olivia Hodgson, Carter Howard, Joseph Hwang, Sarah Jenkins, Ethan Jones, Ah-Young Kim, Isabella Rohlik, Siddhartha Shah, Gabriella Smith, Aaron Taylor, Jackson Williams, and Ethan Woodman of Guyer High.

Although those students recognized as "commended" will not continue in the competition for further National Merit awards, they place among the top five percent of the students who entered the competition by taking the exam. Merit Scholar designees are selected based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

The National Merit Scholarship program was founded in 1955 to identify and honor scholastically talented American youth and to encourage them to develop their abilities to the fullest.

College Board recognizes 192 students as AP Scholars

The College Board honored 192 Denton ISD high school students with distinctions for 2021, according to their annual list of recipients who are named Advanced Placement Scholars.

The national program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated college-level achievement through exceptional scores in AP courses and on AP exams. Students are awarded based on four levels including: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction and National AP Scholar.

Students receive an award certificate from The College Board and although there is no monetary award, this achievement is acknowledged on any score report that is sent to colleges.

AP Scholars

Students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Braswell High: Sophie Alexander, Zorah Archie-Winston, Taylor Bell, Eowyn Dautrich, Kimberley Davis, Devin Decker, Nathan Dellinger, Tyler Hartwell, Ethan Isaacs, Sadie

Johnson, Lillian Kalmbach, Logan McGregor, Paola Mendoza, David Muniz, Megan Nelson, Caden Page, Taya Svec, Caitlin Vessel, Vicky Vo

Denton High: Hannah Lee, Sergio Martinez-Gauna, Corina Pavelek, Ashryn Pinkston, Sabella Smith, Alexa Hall, Dalya Kinsizer, Aiden Lambrecht, Dylan Maynard, Jamie Ordonez, Soren Sharp, Gia Suo-Anttila

Guyer High: Berkay Caliskan, Grace Campbell, McKenzie Dixon, Luke Foreman, Wesley Geldersma, Matthew Spivey, Lauren True, Sydney Wall, Purvi Weerasinghe, Allie Wilson, Sara Alvarez, Maylani Birckbichler, Allison Bruce, Catherine Burke, James Cash, Allison Cevallos, Parker Dunagan, Zoie Eserman, Dirk Falkenhagen, Gabriel Gandaria-Sanchez, Alexandra Gilmore, Alexandria Gilmore, Manav Hedge, Olivia Hodgson, Sarah Jenkins, Taylor Lafe, Claire Laffoon, Jacob Laramore, Luiz Felipe Magalhaes Solia, Sean McDonald, Vanessa Moyo, Aristophanes Papanikolaou, Ryley Patten, Oskar Raplinger, Andrew Rhoads, Nicholas Salazar, Gabriella Smith, Claire Sopiartz, Agata Surma, Jake Troy, Hannah von Suskil, Olivia Watson, Andrew Webb, Ryan Weklar, Jackson Williams, Kayla Williams, Ethan Woodman, Diego Yanas

Ryan High: Jonah Armintor, Shepard Fosdyke-Jacks, Ian Beck, Leiam Allan Detorio, Samantha Enriquez-Duarte, Kathryn Krueger, Olivia Ortery, Saffat Reza, Willem Bannick, Valeria Barbosa, Riley Briggs, Hannah Bush, Joshua Ennis, Jacob Gallagher, Gabriel Lira, Brea Ruyle, Genevieve Terrell, Garrett Watson, Katlyn Woods

AP Scholars with Honors

Students who earn an average score 3.25 on all AP exams taken and score of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Braswell High: Chase Buerger, Sydney Hammond, Paola Mendoza, Kylie Skipper

Denton High: Declan Ayre, Mary Buchanan, Alizeh Mubarak, Marco Illari, Austin Meeker

Guyer High: Nathaniel Blomber, Caroline Christiansen, Acadia Fitzpatrick, Carter Howard, Lauren McGrew, Brendan Rieder, Eden Shamy, Hannah von Suskil

Ryan High: Luis Robles-Barbosa, Elaine Brank

AP Scholars with Distinction

Students who earn an average score 3.5 on all AP exams taken and score of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Braswell High: Braiden Bollack, McKenna Martino

Denton High: Joseph Gonzalez

Guyer High: Akintomiwa Akinniyi, Madison Baer, Christopher Balarezo, Sebastian Bourbon, Caroline Bowen, Adeline Cason, Piper Cummings, Dylan Davies, Joseph Hwang, Ethan Jones, Ah-young Kim, Abby Luna, Alexander Marshall, Julia Quigley, Isabella Rohlik, Siddhartha Shah, Aaron Taylor, Jackson Williams, Joyce Hu, Christian Luevano, Erica Peterson, Eta-Maruru Tako

Ryan High: Georgia Fuchs, Izabella Grimaldo, Hannah Williams, Gabriel Morgan

**AP Scholars from Guyer and Ryan High schools were recognized during the Dec. 14 school board meeting. Braswell and Denton High school AP Scholars will be honored in January.*

Community Spotlight

Since 2011, the Coats for Kids Ride has collected 19,000 coats for students in Denton ISD and other Denton County school districts. Bringing together motorcycle enthusiasts and community volunteers, this annual event focuses on providing warm coats for students in need, enabling families to focus their priorities on other necessities. The 2021 Coats for Kids Ride recently collected 1,400 coats during its November ride.

For their decade long commitment to the health and safety of our students and the student of Denton County, we wish to express our gratitude and honor the volunteers who conceived and sponsor this annual event.

Representing the Coats for Kids Ride is the event's founder, Greg Sawko, Sawko & Burroughs Attorney-at-Law.

United Way of Denton County

District staff, including teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, administrators, custodial, maintenance and support staff, have pledged more than \$74,583.53 to the United Way of Denton County following the 2021-2022 campaign kick-off. The total represents a very generous contribution by our staff.

Gary Henderson and representatives of UWDC will be on hand to accept the donation from district staff. Dr. Buddy Dunworth and Dr. Beth Kelly, principals, coordinated the district's campaign.

School Board Appreciation 2020

The task of educating more than 5.4 million Texas students can seem overwhelming. The idea of 5.4 million young minds relying on local citizens to provide what they will need to succeed in their ever-unfolding future can feel insurmountable.

While educating children may not be rocket science, it is a complex, demanding responsibility: ensuring that schools are available, qualified teachers are in place, buildings are safe, and resources are provided. It's a responsibility that locally elected board members generously accept. They commit to read reports, learn the laws, understand the community's needs, set thoughtful goals, and wisely handle the district's financial resources.

Serving as a locally elected board member means going through an election and making difficult decisions for the district, more specifically its employees, and its children. It means being available to hear from concerned parents in the grocery store, at the game, or over the backyard fence. It means committing the time it takes to do the job right. And in Texas there is no pay for school board members, and there are required training requirements, creating further demands on their time.

Fortunately, in Denton ISD, a group of caring adults have signed on for the responsibility and accept the hard work of making our schools the best they can be. They immerse themselves in learning what they need to know to make good decisions that will provide for students, from the very youngest Pre-K student to the graduating senior. Trustees are public servants who generously work to benefit the most vulnerable members of each community.

Please join us as we celebrate our Board of School Trustees, the 2019 Region 11 ESC School Board of the Year, that includes Barbara Burns, president; Mia Price, vice president; Doug Chadwick, secretary; Dr. Jim Alexander, trustee; Charles Stafford, trustee; Dorothy Martinez, trustee; and Dr. Jeanetta Smith, trustee.

Dena Wilson, Graphic Design & Illustrations Educator at the LaGrone ATC, will be on hand with her students to present their original works.

Student representatives will present a token of appreciation on behalf of the district to each member in honor of their service.