

Board Recognition **March 26, 2024**

Thirteen Denton ISD Students Selected for All-State Band, Choir, Orchestra, Dance

Thirteen Denton ISD musicians and dancers earned All-State honors for the 2023-2024 school year from the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) and the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA).

TMEA is an organization of more than 12,000 school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. Musicians are chosen for the prestigious honor of all-state through a competitive process held across Texas at the district, region and area levels. This process begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by 33 TMEA regions.

All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can achieve. Only 1,875 students are selected through a process beginning with over 70,000 students – meaning only the top 2.6 percent of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians.

The TDEA All-State Dance Team is comprised of dancers representing schools from across the state of Texas. All-State dancers participated in the TDEA All-State Convention Jan. 10-13 in Houston. The experience included dance workshops, leadership training, master classes and networking with other students. The All-State Dance Team experience culminates in a performance choreographed by a master choreographer.

The Denton ISD students named to the highest musical and dance honor in Texas include the following:

Braswell High Band

Nathan Contreras, All-State Jazz Ensemble, Trumpet

Mr. Aaron Snipes III, Director

Mr. Taylor Sitzman, Assistant Director

Mr. DeCorian Hailey, Principal

Braswell High Choir

Matthew Barrios, All-State Choir, Tenor 2

Mr. Derrick Brookins, Director

Ms. Kaela Vance, Assistant Director

Mr. DeCorian Hailey, Principal

Braswell High Dance

Keira Oshunkentan, All-State Dance

Ms. Kristina Rankin, Ms. Briana Eason and Ms. Tiana Martinez, Directors
Mr. DeCorian Hailey, Principal

Denton High Dance

Grey Collier, All-State Dance

Ms. Kerri Burgess and Ms. Jamitrice Keating-Lynton, Directors
Mr. Joel Hays, Principal

Guyer High Orchestra

Celine Cho, All-State Philharmonic Orchestra, Violin

Ms. Michelle Hanlon, Director
Ms. Sarah Wright, Assistant Director
Dr. Shaun Perry, Principal

Guyer High Choir

Anastasia Reed, All-State Choir, Soprano 2
Marshall Miller, All-State Choir, Bass 1

Ms. Katherine Engle, Director
Mr. Tyler Fox, Assistant Director
Dr. Shaun Perry, Principal

Guyer High Dance

Sophia Moore, All-State Dance

Ms. Rachel Simpson and Ms. Lauren Uddin, Directors
Dr. Shaun Perry, Principal

Ryan High Choir

Favour Ayeni, All-State Treble Choir, Alto 2

Mr. David Rives, Director
Mx. Sam Kats, Assistant Director
Mr. Vernon Reeves, Principal

Ryan High Band

Pablo Acosta, All-State Bass Clarinet
Cooper Randolph, All-State Contrabass Clarinet

Mr. Jarrod Beard, Director
Ms. Nachel Konemann, Associate Director
Mr. Vernon Reeves, Principal

Ryan High Orchestra

Osiel Cardenas, All-State Viola

Mr. Jeremy Atkins, Director

Mr. Vernon Reeves, Principal

Ryan High Dance

Jayden Luster, All-State Dance

Ms. Keli Jones and Ms. Emily Schaefer, Directors

Mr. Vernon Reeves, Principal

Denton ISD Communications Department Receives TSPRA Gold Star Award, Best of Category for Website Design

Members of Denton ISD's Communications and Community Relations Department received a Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Gold Star Award, as well as a "Best of Category" commendation, for website design, signifying the website is the best in the state of Texas for the 2023-2024 year.

Courtney Dunning, Web Content Coordinator and Colby Cervantes, Web Content Specialist, were the recipients of the award in the division of districts serving 15,000-40,000 students. TSPRA's annual Star Awards provide recognition for the outstanding education communications and projects of its members, and the entries are evaluated by impartial judges.

Both Ms. Dunning and Mr. Cervantes were instrumental in overhauling Denton ISD's website and implementing a vibrant, visually driven, responsive design in the Spring of 2023. The new design displays each of Denton ISD's branding, which makes it welcoming, while also incorporating more user-friendly features and functionality.

Courtney Dunning and Colby Cervantes will be on hand to receive the recognition.

Community Spotlight

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

Lauren Coffey with the Education Retirement Program (ERP) of Texas has made it her mission to support Denton ISD teachers and staff any way she can. Over the last several years, she has

partnered with the National Life Group to honor Denton ISD teachers through the LifeChanger of the Year.

Ms. Coffey has been instrumental in bringing this program to Denton ISD, which annually honors teachers, staff members and educators nationwide who make a significant difference in students' lives. This year alone, Denton ISD has 13 nominees for the LifeChanger of the Year. Winners of the LifeChanger of the Year have the opportunity to win up to \$10,000 for the grand prize, with a total of \$70,000 awarded yearly across 17 winners nationwide.

For the unique way Ms. Coffey has assisted our district, and for going above and beyond to assist our students and staff, we wish to thank Ms. Coffey for her continued support.

Lauren Coffey will be on hand to receive this recognition.