

**Recognition
Board of Trustee Meeting
November 16, 2021**

Mark of Excellence

Denton ISD is proud to announce that four bands from three of its high schools have received awards from The Foundation for Music Education for their performances in 2020-2021.

The Mark of Excellence project, sponsored by The Foundation for Music Education, seeks to recognize and award outstanding achievement in performance by high school and middle school bands, choirs and orchestras. The project gathers entries from throughout the United States and provides valuable feedback for all entrants.

A unique competitive environment is created which allows ensembles to compare their performance quality to other outstanding groups from across the country. The top 25 percent of entrants are recognized as *National Winners*, with the second 25 percent named as *Commended Winners*. All entrants receive a compilation recording of the winning performances. Winners are recognized in regional and/or national publications and at national and regional conventions.

The Citation of Excellence project recognizes outstanding achievement by *non-varsity* high school and middle school bands and orchestras. A unique competitive environment is created which allows ensembles to compare their performance quality to other outstanding non-varsity ensembles. The top 25 percent of entrants are recognized as Citation Winners, with the second 25 percent named as Commended Winners. All entrants receive a compilation recording of the winning performances. The goal is that the adjudicator critiques and the compilation recordings will prove helpful in improving performances and will spread knowledge of quality literature.

2021 Mark of Excellence - National Wind Band Honors

National Winner Class 5A

Ryan HS Wind Symphony - Mary Brown, Director

Student representatives include Ian Beck, Jacklyn Bounds, Rafael Gonzalez, and Jacob Ryter

Commended Winner Class 6A

Braswell HS Wind Symphony - Aaron Snipes III, Director

Student representatives include Harrison Biggers, Amelia Phillips and Kenia Zetino

New Music Division

Guyer HS Wind Ensemble - Amy Woody, Director

Student representatives include Noah Wille, Allen Pascullo, Myles Helm, Reagan Mendeke, Kayden Owens, Hope Verret, Cutter Gohlke and Allison Bruce

2021 Citation of Excellence Winners

Commended Winner Class 6A

Guyer HS Symphonic Band 1 - Nathan Taylor, Director

Student representatives include Noah Wille, Allen Pascullo, Myles Helm, Reagan Mendeke, Kayden Owens, Hope Verret, Cutter Gohlke and Allison Bruce

The principal of Ryan High School is Vernon Reeves. DeCorian Hailey serves as the principal of Braswell High School. The principal of Guyer High School is Dr. Shaun Perry.

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 who partner with districts, making a difference in the lives of local public-school students.

As an Adopt-A-School partner, the team from Texas Health Presbyterian - Denton has been involved due to their belief in public education and commitment to providing access and opportunities for all.

They donated personal protective equipment for our staff and students in addition to their contribution for classroom supplies. Even during a global pandemic, their employees volunteered during “Read Across America” and worked with our team to honor students through the Adopt-a-School Art & Essay Contest.

For their belief in public education and commitment to providing access and opportunities for all we are honored to feature them as a state winner.

Jeff Reecer, FACHE, president of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Denton will attend.

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During the past 18 months, representatives from Denton County Public Health have worked alongside district educators providing support and key information that has impacted all areas of our district’s operation. By providing timely updates and case tracking, the team at DCPH added additional transparency for our families and community during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Through their continued support, opportunities for testing and vaccination have been made available to our educators allowing our campus operations to continue.

For their belief in public education and commitment to providing access and opportunities for all we are honored to feature them as a state winner.

Representatives from Denton County Public Health will include Dr. Matt Richardson, Director of Public Health; Juan Rodriguez, Assistant Director and Chief Epidemiologist; Bob Martinez, Division Manager for Health Preparedness and Response; Dr. Catherine Sembajwe-Reeves, Division Manager for Administration and Compliance; Alex Reed, Division Manager for Community Health

Board Spotlight

After spending a few moments with Hannah Williams, Ryan High School Class of 2022, it becomes apparent that she is quite simply - a powerhouse. In addition to the many achievements she's acquired during her public-school career in Denton ISD, she recently added an international distinction.

After her selection as one of only 16 young women in the nation to participate in a World Affairs Council Program called MERGE, she started a local chapter at Ryan High School. World Affairs is an independent, non-partisan forum for exploring issues and opportunities that transcend borders, which afforded Hannah the opportunity to connect with students all over the world.

As we continue to prepare our students to make a local and global impact on our world, Hannah will stand as an example not only for her classmates, but for us all. Because of her passion and love for learning in Denton ISD, we are highlighting her with our spotlight.

Vernon Reeves serves as the principal of Ryan High School.