

Special Olympics State Track & Field Achievements

Keller ISD was proudly represented by 23 student-athletes at the Special Olympics State Track and Field Meet, held May 2-4 in Melissa, Texas. The athletes delivered strong performances across a variety of events, earning 27 medals in total. Competing against talented Special Olympians from across the state, Keller ISD athletes participated in events including the 100-meter dash, 4x100-meter relay, mini javelin, softball throw, and shot put. Congratulations to these student athletes on their impressive accomplishments:

Central High School

Ben Yawn

Softball Throw | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

25 Meter Assisted Race | 1st place, Gold Medal

Jonah Gonda

Mini Jav | 6th place

100 M Run | 2nd place, Silver Medal

4 x 100 Meter Relay | 4th place

Jacob Johnson

Softball Throw | 6th place

100 M Run | 6th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 4th place

Adrian Brka

Running Long Jump | 7th place

100 M Run | 2nd place, Silver Medal

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

Jairon Turner

Softball Throw | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 4th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 4th place

Fossil Ridge High School

Jaylin Fisher

Softball Throw | 4th place

100 M Run | 5th place

4 X 100 M Relay | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

Isaac Rodriguez

Softball Throw | 5th place

100 M Run | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

4 X 100 M Relay | 7th place

Calvin Bennett

Running Long Jump | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 2nd place, Silver Medal

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

Pablo Mosquera-Garcia

Softball Throw | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 8th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 6th place

Pablo Garcia-Badillo

Softball Throw | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

100 M Run | 7th place

Keller High School

Presley Harris

Softball Throw | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 2nd place, Silver Medal

4 x 100 Meter Relay | 6th place

Timber Creek High School

Michael Salinas

Softball Throw | 2nd place, Silver Medal

100 M Run | 4th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 5th place

MarcAnthony Salinas

Mini Jav | 2nd place, Silver Medal

100 M Run | 4th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 5th place

Nicholas Buttram

Softball Throw | 2nd place, Silver Medal

100 M Run | 1st place, Gold Medal

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 5th place

Ian Marco Martinez

Softball Throw | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 5th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 5th place

Alexis Ortiz-Rodriguez

100 M Run | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

Softball Throw | 2nd place, Silver Medal

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

Christian Lisk

100 M Run | 8th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 7th place

Landon Tipps

50 M Run | 2nd place, Silver Medal

Softball Throw | 2nd place, Silver Medal

Keller Center for Advanced Learning

Thais Villafane

Mini Jav | 1st place, Gold Medal

100 M Run | 1st place, Gold Medal

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 6th place

Miles Lundberg

Mini Jav | 7th place

100 M Run | 6th place

4 x 100 Meter Relay | 7th place

Jaxson Speed

Shot put | 8th place

100 M Run | 7th place

4 X 100 Meter Relay | 7th place

Cameron Enright

Softball Throw | 3rd place, Bronze Medal

100 M Run | 6th place

4 x 100 Meter Relay | 4th place

Sophie Hinkley

Softball Throw | 2nd place, Silver Medal

100 M Run | 6th place

4 x 100 Meter Relay | 6th place

Staff Recognitions presented by KISD Human Resources

The Substitute Spotlight program acknowledges substitute teachers who are dedicated, dependable, and provide a positive educational experience for KISD students. The KISD Human Resources Department honors substitutes each week for the Substitute Spotlight, and once a month, a winner is drawn from those honorees. The latest Substitute Spotlight Award is presented to Kirsten Bigelow.

FACE Awards recognize members of KISD's hard-working Operations teams in Maintenance, Grounds, Child Nutrition, Custodial, Warehouse, and Natatorium staff. FACE stands for Friendly, Above & Beyond, Customer Service, Excellence – and celebrates individuals who not only exemplify these outstanding qualities daily, but who have an unwavering commitment to making every customer interaction in Keller ISD a positive, efficient, and enjoyable one. This quarter's FACE Awards are presented to: Facility Services HVAC Certified Technician Joel Barcinas, Trinity Meadows Intermediate Child Nutrition Assistant Manager Bukuriye Jusufi, and KCAL Building Operator Idalia Flores.

Keller ISD Genius Team Recognition

The Keller ISD Student Genius Team is a remarkable group of highly skilled and tech-savvy students who serve as a critical support system for the District. Hand-selected through a rigorous interview process, these students are more than just knowledgeable – they are leaders, communicators, and problem-solvers. Their primary mission is to support newly hired employees as they navigate their first days in Keller ISD. From setting up district-issued laptops to walking staff through essential online systems and tools, the Genius Team ensures every new hire feels confident and connected from day one. They simplify complex technology, troubleshoot issues on the spot, and offer practical, personalized guidance to make the onboarding experience smooth and stress-free. The Genius Team also plays an essential role in key district events and initiatives throughout the year, including staff and student training sessions, the annual New Hire Kickoff, and back-to-school events. They are on the front lines – welcoming, assisting, and ensuring every event runs with technical excellence. In short, the Genius Team is a shining example of student leadership in action. With professionalism, patience, and a passion for service, they exemplify the very best of what Keller ISD stands for. These students are led by Educational Technology Facilitators Sandy Fant, Kristi Herrold, and Misty Shea. Congratulations to this year's outgoing and returning members:

Rahmah Al Karkhi
Zain Alkhatib
Isabella Beste

Caleb Cotten
Mason Donaho
Gabrielle Fox

Blake Haines
Seunghui (Sara) Han
Precious Kavula

Shizee Saucedo
Naomi Zoch

Achievements in Texas Spanish and Scripps National Spelling Bees

Texas Spanish Spelling Bee

With the last few rounds of 28 rounds remaining, Caprock Elementary bilingual student Adrianno Pineda Reina was the last fourth grader standing against three sixth graders when he spelled his way to the top, winning the Region 11 Spanish Spelling Bee and earning a spot at the Texas Spanish Spelling Bee. Reina competed at the Regional Bee in April after winning Keller ISD's Fourth Annual Spanish Spelling Bee. The Regional Bee showcases the spelling skills of bilingual students in fourth through eighth grades, celebrating language, literacy, and academic excellence. The Texas Spanish Spelling Bee will take place June 18-19 in El Paso.

Scripps National Spelling Bee

After 15 rounds consisting of 12 traditional spelling rounds and three vocabulary rounds, Keller Middle School seventh grader Brihasa Veduru clinched the Scripps Fort Worth Regional Spelling Bee champion title with the word "percipient," earning a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May. The Regional Bee was hosted in March at the Fort Worth Public Library where she competed against 25 students who had won their respective Area Spelling Bees. This is Veduru's second time competing in the National Spelling Bee, where she proudly represented Keller ISD and the Fort Worth Region and advanced to become one of just 57 semifinalists.

State Achievements in Fine Arts

State VASE

This year's Region 11 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) took place on February 22, with 51 pieces of artwork from Keller ISD advancing to the State VASE Contest on April 25-26. The mission of the High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) is to "recognize exemplary student achievement in the Visual Arts by providing high school art students and programs a standard of excellence in which to achieve." Approximately 35,000 students enter the VASE contest throughout 29 Regional Events around the State. Students create artworks, write about their creative processes, and articulate information about their artwork during an interview with a VASE juror, who evaluates their work using a standards-based rubric. The top artworks with Superior Ratings advance to the State Event. Congratulations to this year's state qualifiers and ***Gold Seal Winners – Caden Fletcher and Natalia Padden (TCHS), and Maya Hafiz (KHS):**

Central High School

Instructors: Kelsey Burton, Teddie Davis, Clint Riddle
Benjamin Coon - Home Sweet Home
Han Hoang - Heart to Heart
Isabelle Kowalczyk - Jared
Gwendolyn Lickus-Hagar – Transience; Lost in Time
Allison Tovar - The Clown Within
Hannah White - Leader of the Pack

Fossil Ridge High School

Instructors: Clarissa Valdez, Amy Westfall
Madelyn Cedillo - Underwater Sunset
Olivia Dao - Duality
Tirah Day - Mother Nature
Julia Ferguson - Out of Water
Sydney Frazier - Oodles of Doodles
Lexy Silva - Sunlit Currents

Keller High School

Instructors: Kerri Mullin, Christopher Stickel
Grace Curry - Ultramarine/Aquamarine
Kate Curtis - The Faces of Identity
Chau Duong - Some Guy
Sophia Gomez - Family Portrait
Anelisse Guerra Martinez - Plumage and Tea
Maya Hafiz – Ritual*
Lyla Haley - Whispers of the Meadow
Kelly Heidenreich - Just 5 More Minutes
Scarlett Madison - Pick Your Poison

Isabella Melgaco - Festa De Junina
Abby Merrill – Daze; Gentle Curiosity
Aditi Modi - Autonomy
Valeigh Morse - Motivation and Ambition
Chloe Phu - Time Travel
Everilda Setiawan - Family Reunion
Jack Tennyson - Justice
Draeg Williams - War Over the Horizon

Timber Creek High School

Instructors: Wani Coker, Kim Garza, Adam Lancaster, Chrissy Lynn, Desmond Torrez
Alina Berry - Nostalgia
Caden Fletcher - A City Degraded*
Julieta Garzon Castrillon - The Light Inside; Tranquil Stream
Emerson Heath Fryar - Prometheus, Brother of Atlas; A Rocky Encounter
Kelli Kranda - Under the Pressure
Violet Manning - Clowning Around
Bao-Nhi Nguyen - Girlhood
Natalia Padden - Perfectionist's Dilemma*
Josalynn Patnode - Gerascophobia
Angela Pham - Tweaking At
Aaliyah Poile - Treehugger
Alena Robalino - The Star
Julina Sagheer - Boundless Abyss of Eternal Scroll
Danny Street - Tongue Tied; Rainbros
Frankie Weathered - Encumbered
Shyanne West - My Muse; Unspoken Words

UIL Theatrical Design

Four Keller ISD technical theatre students qualified for the UIL State 5A and 6A Theatrical Design Contest, held on May 16-17, in Austin, TX. Students were challenged to create set, costume, and hair/makeup designs and develop marketing materials for a specific, pre-determined production – *Axoloris: The Musical*. These students are under the direction of Brian Ketcham (KHS) and Paul Raska (FRHS).

Keller High School

Liberty Dobson (Hair & Makeup) – Placed 2nd at State
Valeigh Morse (Costume Design) – Placed 5th at State

Fossil Ridge High School

Zoey Gall (Set Design)
Isabelle Hurst (Marketing Design)

UIL One-Act Play

Fossil Ridge High School and Keller High School advanced to the UIL One-Act Play State Contest, ranking among the top eight 5A and 6A productions in Texas. On May 21 in Austin, Keller High's theatre program claimed the State Championship with a stunning performance of *Silent Sky*. Just a day earlier, Fossil Ridge made a powerful return to the State stage for the first time since 2011, earning sixth place in 5A with a bold rendition of *Antigone*. Students from both schools also received individual awards for their exceptional talent and stage presence. These achievements were guided by directors Mandi Tapia Pace, Brian Ketcham, Chantz Cochran, and Shelby Pool (Keller High), and Kati Grimmer, Griffin Hammel, and Paul Raska (Fossil Ridge).

Keller High School Cast & Crew

Marina Aragao, Izzy Charpentier, Jordan Clement, Jonathan Fischer, Leila Gore, Lauren Laughlin, Restina Mapuranga, Megan Myers, Amerenne Pierce, Brittany Rasanen, Nicholas Robinson, Abby Rowntree, Vian Sambandam, Sophia Schmuki, Lynleigh Smith, Elliott Sones, Elijah Taylor, Sophie Thorn, Jillian Wallick, and Alex Wise.

Fossil Ridge High School Cast & Crew

John Corley, Aubrey Cox, Makenna Cross, Brylee Daniel, Chris De La Cruz, Zoey Gall, Aubry Gaskill, Ashton Griffiths, Rocco Guido, Mason Hestermann, Isabelle Hurst, Isabella Lipscomb, Alivia Lovelace, Evelyn Lydick, Andie Morse, Maddie Ramsey, Ava Roberts, Nani Sanchez, Thanh Tri, Leyna Wagner, Tristen Wallace, and Liam Young.