

**Recognition
Board of Trustee Meeting
June 22, 2021**

Dallas Summer Musical Awards

Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) announced the 2021 winners of the 10th Annual DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards (HSMTA). The awards ceremony was presented as a virtual livestream through DSM's YouTube page on June 11. A total of 41 performances from 39 participating high schools were evaluated by a diverse group of highly qualified judges from the North Texas theater community.

Guyer High School garnered ten nominations, resulting in two Guyer students and one staff member ultimately being recognized for their work in the school's production of "The Phantom of an Opera."

Parker Jackson, Class of 2021 graduate, was named Best Actor, and Emily Langley, Class of 2021 graduate, earned the theater major scholarship award of \$2,500 for her standout performance.

Guyer High School's theater musical director and technical director, Chris Crotnell, received accolades as his production of "The Phantom of an Opera" was recently named Best Musical Direction during the 2021 DSM Awards.

Of note – Guyer's nominations were performances and individuals in two productions – "Bright Star" and "Phantom of the Opera."

Eleshia Crotnell is the Theater Director at Guyer High. Dr. Shaun Perry serves as the principal.

Betty Lynn Buckley Awards

The Betty Lynn Buckley Awards Ceremony was recently hosted at the Casa Manana Theater in Fort Worth. Named after Fort Worth's own Tony® Award-winning Best Actress, the scholarship awards program stands to promote and celebrate excellence in high school musical theatre.

Guyer High School's Ryley Patten, Class of 2021 graduate, was named Best-Supporting Actress in a Musical, for her performance in "Bright Star."

Participation is open to students in Denton, Wise, Parker, Hood, Johnson and Tarrant County.

Eleshia Crotnell is the Theater Director at Guyer High. Dr. Shaun Perry serves as the principal.

UIL State Solo & Ensemble Orchestra Awards

Two members of the Guyer High School orchestra and a member of the Denton High School orchestra were named "Outstanding Performer" at the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Awards. Denton ISD had several gold medalists across its four high school campuses and three standout students were named first in the state on their respective instruments.

The “Outstanding Performer” Award is the highest award in the state of Texas for an individual performer and it is selected by the adjudicator from all state gold medalists.

Denton High School sophomore Maya Huber received “Outstanding Performer” for her performance on the cello.

The Denton High School Orchestra is led by Julianne Booth and Carrie Atkins. Joel Hays serves as the principal.

Guyer High School had two students win including Ocean Xie, junior, won “Outstanding Performer” for his performance on violin, and Christian Luevano, Class of 2021 Graduate, won the “Outstanding Performer” distinction for his performance on bass.

The Guyer High Orchestra is under the direction of Michelle Hanlon and Jeremy Atkins. Dr. Shaun Perry serves as the principal.

Staff Spotlight

Denton ISD recognizes all campus Teachers of the Year each May as a celebration of teaching excellence. Esme Gamez, Hodge Elementary 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year, was selected by her peers for her unwavering love and dedication for her students and colleagues. However, a life defining diagnosis prevented her from attending the district’s celebration.

In her final days, friends and students honored her for her commitment to education and passion for learning. They seized the opportunity to share with her, and the world, the incredible impact her teaching talents have made on countless people – focusing us all on the ultimate lessons of love.

Andrea Hare serves as the principal of Hodge Elementary School.