

BRAZOSPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 28, 2024



BOARD: Recognition

SUBJECT: Awards, Achievement, and Recognitions

BOARD POLICY: BJA(Local)

DISTRICT GOAL: Brazosport ISD will promote, communicate and market the accomplishments, achievements, and successes of students and staff

FISCAL NOTE: N/A

Background Information:

- In alignment with our district's strategic plan, it is desired that BISD work to foster student and employee engagement and community partnerships. One effort towards goal achievement is to recognize and affirm the efforts and performances by our students, staff and community.

Administrative Considerations:

- **Brazoswood High School: Jostens Renaissance School of Distinction-** Brazoswood High School has been honored as a Jostens Renaissance School of Distinction, recognizing its outstanding efforts in cultivating a positive school climate and culture. This prestigious designation is part of Jostens' initiative to celebrate schools that effectively implement the Renaissance formula: RESPECT + RECOGNIZE + REWARD + REINFORCE + RELATIONSHIPS = RESULTS. Tate Carrier, Brazoswood's Student Body President, reflected on the impact of the Renaissance program: "Our mission with Renaissance has been to build a stronger culture and increase positivity throughout our campus. Implementing this program has completely changed the overall vibe and feel of our school and seeing that change makes all of our hard work worth it." Brazoswood is one of 84 schools across North America to earn this distinction in 2024. To reach this level, schools implemented strategies in eight or more separate areas, and also described and documented their successes through a rigorous application process. Schools can earn recognition at three levels—Silver, Gold, and Platinum—with Platinum being the highest honor. Brazoswood's accomplishments have earned them this coveted designation. "Jostens is honored to recognize our Renaissance Schools of Distinction," said Sara Sausker, Director of Jostens Renaissance Education. "The passion and dedication of the educators and student leaders at these schools are a driving force in building a culture of achievement, pride,

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and belonging. Each of these schools has demonstrated measurable results in the areas of their own focus, often educator morale or academic achievement. At the same time, they create a culture where every student belongs, not just attends. These schools truly create an exceptional environment for both staff and students.”

- **Band National Mark of Excellence Award-** Clute Intermediate School’s Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mr. Daniel Fernandez, achieved national recognition in the “New Music Division Middle School” category of the 2024 Mark of Excellence National Wind Band Honors project, earning the highest possible distinction in their division. This prestigious award highlights the highest standards of musical performance, placing the band among the top school ensembles in the country. The Mark of Excellence project, which is sponsored by The Foundation for Music Education, received over 450 entries from 40 states this year. Ensembles were judged by nationally renowned adjudicators, with the top quarter earning the title of National Winner. The Clute Intermediate Symphonic Band stood out for its outstanding performance and musicality. This honor places Clute Intermediate’s Symphonic Band in an elite group of national winners, further underscoring the excellence of Brazosport ISD’s music education program. Mr. Fernandez is assisted by Mr. Thomas Torres, and Mr. Steven Sandon.
- **Spotlight Educator-** The purpose of the BISD Educator Spotlight Award is to recognize outstanding teachers across our district. These are teachers who go above and beyond for not only students, but for their co-workers, as well. They are knocking instruction out of the park, they are collaborative team members, and support all learners. These teachers lift-up their co-workers and students, and their overall performance is spectacular!

October Spotlight Teachers

- **Secondary Spotlight Teacher- Mario Thomas** from Lake Jackson Intermediate School- PE Teacher-Mr. Thomas serves Lake Jackson Intermediate as a P.E. Teacher, coach, and bible study facilitator. Mr. Thomas has shown to have outstanding support of students and staff. His campus admin team has stated, “He engages our students in a positive way that allows them to learn, promote unity and demonstrate a team mentality.” Coach Thomas ensures students are always respectful and participates with the students in their lessons. He has every class participate in sharing Good Things and uses character building strategies when talking to students before ever determining their discipline. Numerous parents have bragged about him and shared what an impact he is making on their students whether it's as an athlete, in the classroom, on the field or in bible study.
- **Elementary Spotlight Teacher- Melissa Williams** from T.W. Ogg Elementary- Special Education Teacher- Ms. Melissa Williams serves T.W. Ogg Elementary as a Special Education in-class support teacher. She was just recently nominated by one of her peers as the RUBY spotlight teacher of the week. Her peers have stated that,“Melissa is always willing to go the extra mile and do whatever it takes to support even our toughest students. She is selfless in her efforts to ensure her students get what they need. She is an asset to Ogg and

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we couldn't survive without her!"

- **National Principal Appreciation Month** - October is once again proclaimed as National Principals Month to honor the contributions and the important role of elementary and secondary school leaders. Brazosport ISD is proud to recognize the importance of our principals, elementary and secondary administrators, during Principals Month. Our principals are essential in making our schools great. We thank them for their hard work each day as school leaders and for all that they do to create a positive climate and culture for our students and staff.

Thank you BISD principals!

SFA STEM Academy	Sheri King Minter
Beutel Elementary	Laura Morris
Brannen Elementary	Julie Evans
Freeport Elementary	Ronald Mercer
Griffith Elementary	Andrea Ham
Lanier Elementary	Tim Day
Ogg Elementary	Melanie Pierson
Polk Elementary	Amanda Bundick
Roberts Elementary	Jennifer Slater
Rasco Middle	Keith Fuller
Clute Int.	Tara Fulton
Freeport Int.	Charolet Black
Lake Jackson Int.	Cheryl Roberts
Brazosport High	Quinton Virgil
Brazoswood High 9th	Shannon Hester
Brazoswood High	Jarrett Johnson
Lighthouse Learning	Herman Hebert
Brazos Success	Amy Pope

Communication Deployment:

- Board Meeting minutes
- Social Media
- District Website

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Respectfully submitted,

Rita Cundieff

Deputy Superintendent of Elementary Academics & Language Acquisition