

## **Board Recognition** **November 15, 2022**

### **National Merit Semifinalists, Commended named for Class of 2023**

Eleven Denton ISD students have been chosen out of 1.6 million total entrants to be semi-finalists or commended scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program for this year's graduating class.

The College Board named Declan Ayre of Denton High, Audrey Lee, Matthew Spivey, and Sydney Wall of Guyer High to the distinguished list of National Merit Semi-Finalists.

The four join a pool of just 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists in the entire country. High school students are selected into the program based on their top scores on the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The Class of 2023 commended scholars include Sabella Smith of Denton High: Asher Colley, Samantha Donnet, Wesley Geldersma, Mandalyn Greene, Sam Kreutzer, Carson McManus, and Brandon Rosengren of Guyer High.

Students recognized as "commended" will not continue in the competition for further National Merit awards, however they place among the top five percent of the students who entered the competition by taking the exam. Merit scholar designees are selected based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

The National Merit Scholarship program was founded in 1955 to identify and honor scholastically talented American youth and encourage them to fully develop their abilities.

### **College Board honors 115 students as Advanced Placement Scholars**

The College Board honored 115 current Denton ISD high school students with distinctions for the 2021-2022 school year, according to their annual list of recipients who are named Advanced Placement Scholars.

The national program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated college-level achievement through exceptional scores in AP courses and on AP exams. Students are awarded based on four levels: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction and National AP Scholar.

Students receive an award certificate from The College Board and although there is no monetary award, this achievement is acknowledged on any score report that is sent to colleges.

#### **Braswell High - Part One**

##### **AP Scholars**

The AP Scholars, students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams are: Jackson Baker, Majula Ceesay, Nick Farley, Dustin Holland, Andrew Keele, Ian Mitchell, Reagan Netherland, Kaylei Picot, and Catelyn Washerlesky.

Students who received an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of those exams, AP Scholars with Distinction, are: David Withaeger.

### **Denton High**

The AP Scholars, students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams are: Joseph Oliphant, Ivy Ta, Daniel Wen, Sarah Wood and Pratiksha Yadav.

The AP Scholar with Honors, students who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams are: Wyatt Bone, Alexander Evangelopoulos and Ammar Mandviwalla.

Students who received an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of those exams, AP Scholars with Distinction, are: Phoebe Richter, Caleb Harold, Leo Illari and Sabella Smith.

Any student who received at least a score of 4 on all AP exams taken on eight or more of those exams, is designated a National AP Scholar: Declan Ayre.

### **Ryan High**

The AP Scholars, students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams are: Naomi Bonham, Elva Chen, Catheryn Elaiho, Shepard Fosdyke-Jackson, Cooper Grubbs, McKenzie Keeling, Corwin Radcliffe, Amelia Watson and Sylvia Watson.

The AP Scholar with Honors, students who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams is: Oma Lesley, Zoe Lindsey and Emilie Terrell.

Students who received an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of those exams, AP Scholars with Distinction, are: Jonah Armintor, Luis Barbosa-Robles and Carlos Febres-Costa.

*The remaining AP Scholars from Guyer High School will be honored on November 15.*

### **Advanced Placement Scholars – Part Two**

The College Board honored 112 current Denton ISD high school students with distinctions for the 2021-2022 school year, according to their annual list of recipients who are named Advanced Placement Scholars.

The national program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated college-level achievement through exceptional scores in AP courses and on AP exams. Students are awarded based on four levels: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction and National AP Scholar.

Students receive an award certificate from The College Board and although there is no monetary award, this achievement is acknowledged on any score report that is sent to colleges.

## **Guyer High**

The AP Scholars, students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams are: Samuel Burke, Sara Clemens, Kalyn Dakin, Ha-Young Kim, Lucas Peterson, Arpan Rijal, Sydney Schliep, Sahanaa Shahdad, Jake Stoker-Schaeffer, Anna-Grace Swenson, Cindy Alonso-Cocuron, Lorena Alvarez, Thomas Arnold, Zoe Burke, Carley Button, Berkay Caliskan, Nicholas Davis, Taylor Dickerson, Samantha Donnet, Andrea Garcia, David Goodrick, Nicholas Hill, Josiah Hugo, Grace Johnson, Caleb Kaufman, Lindsay Klutts, Ben Krebs, Jack Krebs, Claire Laub-Tracy, Abigail Marchant, Natalie Mayes, Ashton Popa, Darios Ramos, Hammad Rao, Gwendolyn Smith, Jazmin Smith, Carys Stephenson, Cooper Tarvin, Lauren True, Arun Vardhini, Yvette Vega, Purvi Weerasinghe and William Weiper.

The AP Scholar with Honors, students who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams are: Chandini Kumaran, Dharshini Kumaran, Melrose Bangura, Grace Campbell, Alivia Christensen, Antonella Echeverria, Ethan Etter, Wesley Geldersma, Sophia Gengo, Mandalyn Greene, Alexandra Halderson, Nathalia Leon de Magalhaes, Carson McManus, Kyan Nelson, Sebastian Pritchard, Brandon Rosengren, Cooper Tarvin, and Fernanda Vargas-Velazquez.

Students who received an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of those exams, AP Scholars with Distinction, are Anthony DeLeon, Luke Foreman, Tyler Griessmeyer, David Hernandez, Sam Kreutzer, Emily Krueger, Raul Ortega, Suhas Ponnala, Mason Schaeffer and Allie Wilson.

Any student who received at least a score of 4 on all AP exams taken on eight or more of those exams, is designated a National AP Scholar: Audrey Lee, Matthew Spivey and Sydney Wall.

## **The LaGrone Academy**

The AP Scholar who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams is Andrew Larsen. The AP Scholar with Honors, who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams is Isaac Meza.

## **Mark of Excellence**

Denton ISD is proud to announce that three of its high school music ensembles were named *Commended Winners* by The Foundation for Music Education for their outstanding performances in 2021-22.

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.

Congratulations to the students and directors of these three outstanding Denton ISD bands for being honored with a Mark of Excellence award. [Click here for the complete list of award winners.](#)

- **Braswell HS Wind Symphony, Aaron Snipes, Director**  
Class 6A Wind Band Commended Winner
- **Guyer HS Rhapsody Orchestra, Michelle Hanlon, Director**  
HS String Orchestra Commended Winner
- **Denton HS Lab Band 1, Jesse Woolery, Director**  
HS Jazz Ensemble Commended Winner

## **Board Spotlight**

When it comes to student support, we can't find a better example than Kelly Fiore-Watson, an educator at Fred Moore High School. She took an after-school theater club and transitioned it into an on-campus opportunity to earn a fine arts credit. Little did students know that by learning previously untapped techniques, the class would boost their confidence, create teamwork and promote self-expression. For her dedication to our students and their success, we shine this month's spotlight on her and express our gratitude.

*Dr. Fred Younkman is the principal of Fred Moore High School.*