



Fall Newsletter

Instrumental News - James Drew, Director

Mark of Excellence Recognition



Six orchestras and two concert bands in Fort Bend ISD received national recognition as winners in the 2019 *Mark of Excellence* project, a not-for-profit organization sponsored by *The Foundation for Music Education*, which promotes music education through scholarships and other worthwhile projects.

The *Mark of Excellence* project 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. The top 25 percent of entrants are recognized as National Winners, with the second 25 percent named as Commended Winners. This year, 320 of the finest musical ensembles in the nation entered the competition. The project received entries from thirty-eight states. Winners are recognized in regional and/or national publications and at national and regional conventions.

In this year's *Mark of Excellence's National Orchestra Honors* project, the **Dulles High School Symphony Orchestra**, directed by **Michael Isadore**, **Joe Pruitt**, and **Angela Yip**, the **Austin High School Camerata Orchestra**, directed by **Ann Victor** and **Zoran Jasmak**, the **Fort Settlement Middle School Chamber Orchestra**, directed by **Angela Peugnet** and **Roger Vasquez**, and the **Sartartia Middle School Symphony Orchestra**, directed by **Sophia Hsieh**, were named **National Winners**. The **Clements High School Chamber Strings**, directed by **Ginger Wolfe** and **Neal Springer**, and the **Dulles Middle School Honors Orchestra**, directed by **Sally Kirk** and **Regan Henrick**, were named **Commended Winners**.

In the *National Wind Band Honors* project, the **Dulles High School Honor Band**, under the direction of **Joe Pruitt**, and the **Sartartia Middle School Wind Ensemble**, under the direction of **Julianne Amos**, were named **Commended Winners**.

Congratulations to the students and directors of these outstanding FBISD secondary music programs for being selected winners in the 2019 *Mark of Excellence* project!

All-State String Orchestra Musicians



Congratulations to the 23 FBISD high school musicians who qualified for placement in one of the 2019 Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestras. These students will perform a concert with their peers from around the state at the 2020 TMEA convention in San Antonio in February. Listed below are

the FBISD All-State string players by school:

Austin High School: Jonathan Chang, Violin; Andy Jiang, Double Bass; Derek Jiang, Double Bass; Paul Li, Violin; Timothy So, Violin; Nathan Nguyen, Cello; Nathan Su, Violin; Elton Tai, Viola; Deanna Venkatesan, Violin; and Ken Xiao, Violin. Orchestra directors are Ann Victor and Zoran Jasmak

Clements High School: Wen Chen, Violin; Eric Peng, Cello; Alexander Nguyen, Double Bass; Ryan Peng, Double Bass; Natalie Wang, Cello; Gregory Young, Cello; and Alice Zhong, Violin. Orchestra directors are Neal Springer and Emory Daniel.

Dulles High School: Timothy Feng, Violin; Jeffery Li, Violin; Morris Li, Cello; Phebe Tan, Violin; and Tommy Yu, Violin. Orchestra directors are Michael Isadore and Angela Yip.

Travis High School: Reece Bedee, Cello. The orchestra director is Sabrina Behrens.

Congratulations to these fine High School Musicians and their Orchestra Directors!

Midwest Clinic Performers 2019

Congratulations to two FBISD ensembles selected to perform at this year's 73rd annual Midwest Clinic, the world's oldest and largest band and orchestra conference held annually each December in Chicago, IL.



The **Clements High School Symphonic Band** will perform on Friday evening, December 20, at 6:15 PM, the most coveted performance time at the conference. Clements was one of only five high school bands selected to perform at this year's conference. CHS Band Directors include Daniel Galloway, Head Director, Jeff Johnson, Associate Director, Leslie Collins, Assistant Director, and Bryan Waites, Percussion Specialist.



The **Macario Garcia Middle School Chamber Orchestra** will perform at this year's Midwest Clinic on December 20, 2019 at 4:30 PM. The Garcia orchestra is one of only three middle school string groups in the nation chosen to perform a concert at this prestigious event. GMS Orchestra Directors are Francis Weberpal and Giovanni Fuentes.

2019 Marching Band Season

Congratulations to our 11 high school Marching Bands for an outstanding season. All bands performed at the FBISD Band Nights on October 9-10 and at the Region 13 UIL Marching Band Contest on October 22. Most of the bands performed at other local, regional, or national competitions during the fall semester. Below are the highlights:

- Austin HS Band: UIL Marching Contest –Division 1; BOA Houston Regional Championship – 7th Place overall; BOA St. Louis Super Regional Championship – 8th Place overall (out of 70 bands from 16 states)
- Clements HS Band: UIL Marching Contest – 37th consecutive Division 1; Cypress Showcase – 4th Place overall, Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding General Effect
- Dulles HS Band: UIL Marching Contest – Division 1; Lamar Marching Festival – 4th Place overall

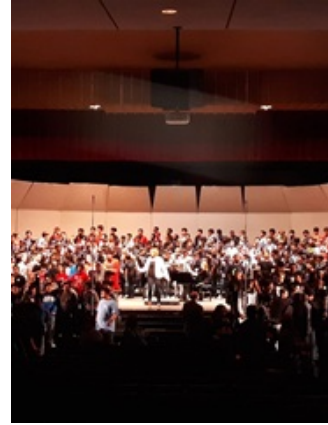
- Elkins HS Band: UIL Marching Contest – Division 1; Gulf Coast Classic Festival – 4th Place overall
- Hightower HS Band: UIL Marching Contest – first Division 1 since 2007; USBands Dekaney Contest – Finalist
- Kempner HS Band: UIL Marching Contest – 15th consecutive Division 1; USBands Remo Finale – Class Champion, Best Music, Best Percussion
- Travis HS Band: Battle at the Berry Contest – Class Champion, 4th Place overall; Cypress Showcase – Class Champion
- Ridge Point HS Band: Lamar Marching Festival – Best Overall Percussion; USBands Remo Finale – Class Champion, Best General Effect, Best Visual Performance



Choir & Elementary Music News - Gene Holkup, Assistant Director

3rd Annual FBISD Men's Choir Festival

Over 700 young men from FBISD and the University of Houston's male chorus, *ManCorps*, performed for a standing-room-only crowd at the 3rd Annual FBISD Men's Choir Festival. Singers from all 15 middle schools and 11 high schools participated in the event which was held at Rodgers Auditorium on Thursday, November 7. The schools were zoned into North, Central or South areas to build relationships in the feeder programs and rehearsed at Austin HS, Dulles HS and Ridge Point HS. The zones each performed two selections conducted by directors from that zone. The University of Houston *ManCorps* performed selections in between each of the zone choirs. Several of the singers from the University of Houston group graduated from FBISD schools and were a part of the previous FBISD Men's Festivals. All groups combined for a grand finale, singing "A Tribute to the Armed Services" for those who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces. Congratulations to these students and their wonderful choir directors!



Theatre & Dance News - Travis Springfield, Assistant Director

FBISD High School Theatre Makes an Impression at Texas Thespian State Festival

On November 21st through November 23rd, eleven FBISD high schools attending the Texas State Thespian Festival in Grapevine Texas along with over 8,000 other drama students and teachers from across the state. Participants attended workshops, auditioned for colleges and scholarships as well as competed in individual and group events in a range of categories. Three high schools were selected to bring productions to the state festival including Ridge Point High School's production of *Urinetown* under the direction of Brook Lemley and Jason Quach that was selected as one of only two productions featured in the Mainstage Venue an All-Conference Event. Dulles High School's *The Revolutionist* under the direction of Blake Minor and Nicole Duga and Clements High School's *Taming of the Shrew* under the direction of Gavin Mundy and Tim Sperlak also participated in the festival Marathon Play Series. In addition, FBISD was well represented with the following individual state recognitions:

- Scholarship Winners: Yusef Dixon-Bush HS, Abdullah Naser-Bush HS, Gabrielle Hudencial-Kempner HS
- Closing Ceremonies Selected Performer: Atara Romero-Wilson-Bush HS
- Mainstage Technical Showcase: Cindy Yan-Costume Design-Travis HS
- All-State Performer: Payton Wolff-Kempner HS
- Mainstage Awards (Ridge Point HS): Best Tech Crew, Best Hair & Makeup, Best Set, Best Lighting, Best Props, Best Stage Management-Lexi Starnes, Best Actress-Ashley Fontenot, Best Supporting Actor-James Cardwell, Best Cameo-Brandon Thompson
- Marathon Play Awards: Best Actress-Giselle Nguyen-Dulles HS; Best Overall Tech Crew-Clements HS

In addition to state recognitions, 55 students qualified for Nationals in 36 individual and group events:

- Austin HS: Jill Stewart & Briana Martinez-Duet Acting; Michelle Arriaga-Solo Musical; Catie Harris-Stage Management
- Bush HS: Abdullah Naser & Jasmine Aurelio-Duet Acting; Haja Dumbuya, Yusef Dixon, & Jamal Davis-Group Acting; Naomi Adams, Evon Igwilo, Felix Nguyen, Noel Obi, Jordan Okeke, Chinenye Osi, Jarrin Sanders, & Dariel Silva-Group Musical; Mia Begnaud-Lighting Design; Nabil Shamin-Monologue; Atara Romero-Wilson-Solo Musical, Emilie Petrich-Sound Design
- Clements HS: Paria Ghaderi-Costume Design; Prince Pierre & Laura Mia-Duet Acting, Michael Mitchell-Lighting Design; Kaitlyn Millikin-Make Up Design; Adrian Pacini-Short Film; Elizabeth Bence-Marketing
- Dulles HS: Christine Barrett, Jacob Gough, Naia Poulsen-Group Acting; Ryan Wakefield-Monologue; Brigid Ferris-Hughes-Solo Musical
- Elkins HS: Macy Katapodis & Emma Barberena-Duet Acting; Aarti Patel-Scenic Design; Arwen Costello-Solo Musical
- Kempner HS: Gabrielle Hudencial & Payton Wolff-Duet Musical; Zach Sharer-Lighting Design; Wendy Castro-Stage Management; Crystal Ike & Eloka Dike-Duet Acting
- Marshall HS: Terrell Rhody-Monologue
- Ridge Point HS: Myles Keys-Monologue; Maddy Marlowe-Solo Musical; Cassidy Lapp-Marketing
- Travis HS: Marissa Diaz-Scenic Design; Trent Soto-Solo Musical; Cindy Yan-Costume Design; Stevee Johnson & Madison Prentiss-Duet Acting; Emily Smith-Solo Musical; Lilibryn Broekhuis-Marketing

The National competition occurs during International Thespian Festival in Indiana in June. Best of luck to all of our National competitors!



Middle School One Act Play Makes History

This past October, fifteen middle schools participated in the FBISD One Act Play Contest. The following campuses advanced from zone competitions to the district contest:

- Garcia MS: *The Tragical, Comical, Historical Adventures of Pinocchio* directed by Jason Duga & Amanda Slusser
- Missouri City MS: *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* directed by Joi Hughes
- Sugar Land MS: *Still Life with Iris* directed by Sarah Rentcome & Chelsa Johnson
- Hodges Bend MS: *She Kills Monsters* directed by Adam Kluth & Cory Kerr
- Bowie MS: *Peter/Wendy* directed by Alexis Gette & Marika Karastamatis
- Sartartia MS: *Agatha Rex* directed by Megan Wallace & Robert Jamerson

These six shows competed on November 6th at the district competition with Missouri City placing 1st, Sugar Land MS placing 2nd and Sartartia MS placing 3rd! This was the first time in the school's history that Missouri City placed first at the district competitions. The three placing schools went on to represent FBISD in our first ever Bi-District Festival held in partnership with Lamar CISD on November 16th. Missouri City MS was selected as the 1st place production making history has FBISD's first MS OAP Bi-District Champion!

Congratulations to all of the schools on their accomplishments in One Act Play this fall!



Angels Dance Team Travels with Austin Bulldog Band to Compete at Bands of America Super Regional in St. Louis

Bands of America Super Regionals offer enhanced two-day regional events at world-class venues, second only to the Grand Nationals experience. Austin High School's Band and Dance team participated in the regional event in St. Louis on October 18 & 19. Sixty-nine bands competed from thirteen states. Austin HS placed 2nd in Class 3A and 8th overall at the event. Congratulations to Austin HS on this amazing accomplishment!!



Visual Arts News - Fahmi Khan, Coordinator - Visual Arts

Fort Bend County Fair Parade Float

Art students of Hightower HS and Austin High school collaborated with Student Leadership and created Floats for Fort Bend County Fair, celebrating the sister city relationship between Foshan, China, Fort Bend ISD and Fort Bend County.



Houston Fire Poster Contest Winner

With over 300 entries in The 45th Annual Houston Fire Poster Contest this year, Barrington Place student Vicky Hung – 2nd grade placed as one of the three selected winner at her grade level. She was the only Fort Bend ISD student to place in this contest. Congratulations Vicky and her Art Teacher Georgia Daniel!



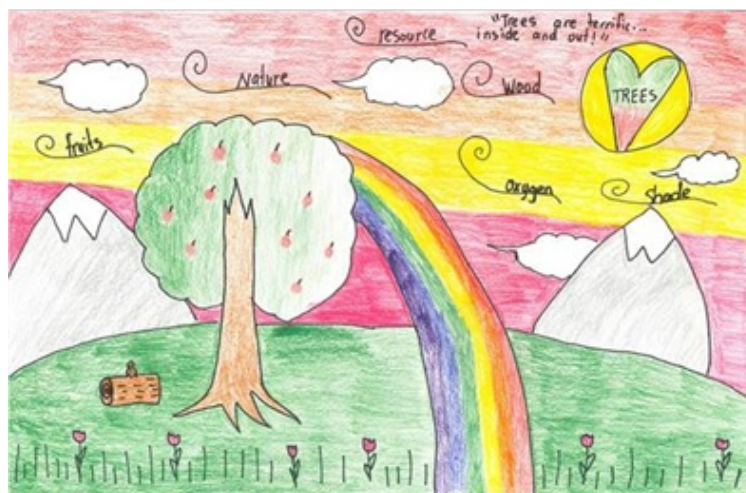


Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

The Arbor Day Poster Contest this year concluded with just under 1000 art entries, with Fort Bend ISD taking a majority of the awards! The intent of this contest was to increase an awareness and appreciation of the important role trees play in our environment, economy, and in our quality of life. Congratulations to the winning students and their teachers!

K-2nd Grade Winners

1st Place = Isabella Jin – Cornerstone Elementary – Art Teacher: Jennifer Anderson



2nd Place – Nitin Surya – Cornerstone Elementary – Art Teacher: Jennifer Anderson

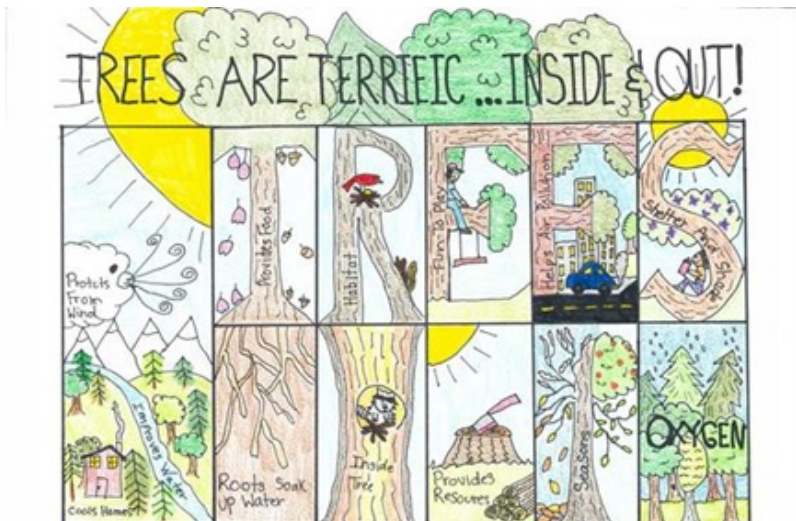


3rd Place – Audry Blanks – Walker Station Elementary – Art Teacher: Lura Colson



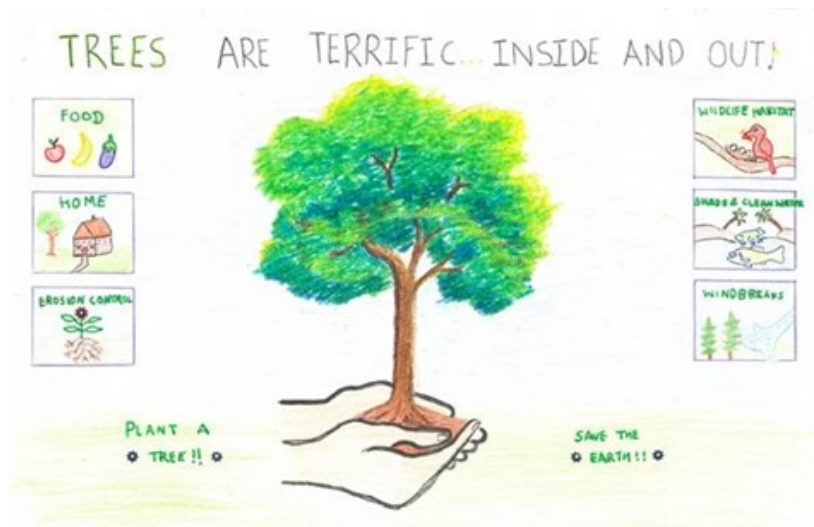
3rd - 5th Grade Winners

1st Place – Gabriella Reumont – Sugar Mill Elementary – Art Teacher: Meghan Boyd





2nd Place – Vihaan Reddy – Cornerstone Elementary – Art Teacher: Jennifer Anderson




3rd place – Taniya Mehta – Cornerstone Elementary- Art Teacher: Jennifer Anderson



It was a proud moment when the Dulles High School counselor received an email from the College Board, showcasing artwork by DHS student Chelsea Tang that would have been viewed by thousands of educators world-wide since September 2019 through the College Boards on-line AP Coordinator Training sessions. Congratulations to DHS art teacher Kayla Munson!

Prepare Exam Order

Student: **Chelsea Tang**
 School: **Dulles High School, TX**
 Instructor: **Kayla Munson**
 AP Coordinator: **Lezlie Ladd**





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