



Summer 2019 Newsletter

Department News

Fine Arts Recognition Night

In the spirit of recognizing achievement and future success, the Fine Arts Department hosted its first **Fine Arts Recognition Night**, which was held on May 21st at the Sugar Land Auditorium. The event was organized to honor the 73 graduating seniors that received some type of Fine Arts scholarship. Students reported receiving over \$3,000,000 in scholarships in recognition of their Fine Arts endeavors. The FBISD Fine Arts department hopes to expand the event in the future to also recognize students accepted to selective Performing and Visual Arts programs and those accepted to collegiate Fine Arts groups and ensembles, in addition to celebrating the academic achievements of all Fine Arts students in the District.



Convocation 2019

FBISD Fine Arts Department took center stage at the Wheeler Fieldhouse! The opening number of the convocation, *This Is Me*, featured the talents of the FBISD Elementary Honor Choir, the Neill Elementary Rockin' Longhorns, the Crockett Middle School Choirs, the Ridge Point High School Choirs, Clements High School Color Guard, soloists, singers, actors, and dancers from across the District for a wonderful performance to inspire FBISD's teachers. Hundreds of FBISD Fine Arts students, teachers, and administrators worked collaboratively throughout the summer to prepare for the big event. Choir members from Clements High School, Garcia Middle School and Ridge Point High School performed the National Anthem. We are so grateful to all the students and teachers who shared their time and talents to make the event a huge success.



Fine Arts Summer Camps 2019

FBISD Fine Arts Department sponsored six summer camps to provide ways for students to hone their artistic skills in a collaborative environment. Granting students the opportunity to express their creativity promotes the mission of the Department to inspire artistry and equip students for future success. Almost 50 students attended **Art Camp** from June 3-6 at Clements High School. Approximately 30 high school dancers participated in **Dance Camp** at Clements and 155 middle and high school students attended **Theatre Camp** at Dulles High School during the week of June 9th. Two-hundred fifteen middle school band students participated in the middle school **Band Camp** at Elkins High School and over 160 middle school orchestra students attended **Orchestra Camp** at Garcia Middle School during the week of June 23rd. Sixty-four high school vocalists participated in the **All-State Choir Camp** on July 30-31 at Fort Settlement Middle School.

The Fine Arts Department wants to extend our gratitude to the generosity of the Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation, which provided 53 FBISD students approximately \$5,000 in full and partial scholarships to participate in the Department's summer camps. SLCAF is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit arts organization that exists to enhance the quality of life and tourism in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County by advocating, supporting and promoting the cultural arts through programs, initiatives and alliances. The Foundation also exists to preserve and present historic Sugar Land Auditorium as a venue for the cultural arts and resource for the Sugar Land community.



High School Choir Camp



Visual Arts Camp



Middle School Band Camp

Instrumental News: James Drew, Fine Arts Director

Ensembles Win National Acclaim

Congratulations to the **Clements High School Symphonic Band** for being selected to perform at the 73rd annual Midwest Clinic, the world's largest band and orchestra conference held annually each December in Chicago, IL. The last FBISD concert band chosen to perform at the Midwest Clinic was in 2002. Clements was one of only five high school bands selected to perform at this year's conference. The Clements Symphonic Band will perform on Friday evening, December 20, at 6:15 PM, the most coveted performance time at the conference. Clements 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 Camerata Orchestra** was selected to perform at this year's Midwest Clinic on December 20, 2019 at 4:30 PM. The Midwest Clinic has been held annually each December for 73 years, making it the oldest and largest band and orchestra director's conference in the world. The Garcia orchestra is one of only three middle school string groups in the nation chosen to perform a concert at this prestigious event. Congratulations to the GMS students and their Orchestra Directors, Francis Weberpal and Giovanni Fuentes.



Texas Honor Orchestra Finalist

Congratulations to the **Sartartia Middle School Orchestra** and their conductor, Sophia Hsieh, for being selected as first runner-up in the Texas Middle School/Junior High String Honor Orchestra competition sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association. This is the second time the SMS orchestra under Ms. Hsieh's direction has won second place at the state contest.



Choir and Elementary Music News: Gene Holkup, Assistant Fine Arts Director

First-Ever FBISD Choir Invited to Sing at the Texas Music Educators Convention

The **Clements High School Varsity Mixed Choir** will perform at the 100th Anniversary Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) conference in February 2020. The TMEA conference, held in San Antonio every February, is the premier conference for music educators in the United States. With an attendance of nearly 30,000 teachers, students, parents, and members of the music industry, it draws attendees not only from Texas but also from all over the world. Choirs selected to sing at TMEA submit recordings, which are evaluated through a competitive audition process. Congratulations to the CHS students and their Choir Directors, Janet Menzie and Ryan Bogner.



Two FBISD Choirs Earn Regional Recognition

Two FBISD Women's Choirs will perform at the prestigious Southwestern Division of the American Choral Directors Association (SWACDA), representing the very first FBISD Choirs to earn this honor. The SWACDA conference meets every other year at various locations and is the premier conference for choral music educators in the Southwestern United States. The groups were selected to perform through a competitive blind-audition process of hundreds of submitted recordings.

The **Garcia Middle School Varsity Treble Choir** will perform for the SWACDA conference on March 5, 2020 at 10 AM at the Robinson Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. This year's SWACDA convention will focus on strength through diversity. Congratulations to the GMS students and their Choir Director, Kelsey Appleby.



The **Clements High School Chorale Women** will perform for an audience of choral music educators at the SWACDA conference on March 6, 2020 at 3:45 PM in Little Rock, Arkansas' Robinson Center. In honor of this auspicious performance, Fort Bend ISD Department of Fine Arts has commissioned a work from nationally renowned composer Jocelyn Hagen. The work is entitled ***I Count It All Joy*** and is in memory of Heather Michelle Menzie, daughter of the Chorale Women's conductor Janet Menzie. Jocelyn Hagen is a pioneer in the field of composition, pushing the expectations of musicians and audiences with large-scale multimedia works, electro-acoustic music, dance, opera, and publishing. ***I Count It All Joy*** will receive its Houston premiere on March 2, 2020 at 7 PM in Christ Church Sugar Land. This concert also will feature the Garcia Middle School Varsity Treble Choir.



[Theatre and Dance News: Travis Springfield, Assistant Fine Arts Director](#)

Area, Region, and State UIL One Act Play Results

Three high schools advanced to the UIL One Act Play (OAP) Area contest last spring. In the 5A contest, Marshall High School's production of a ***Hatful of Rain***, directed by Nancy Lynch, advanced to Area. In 6A competition, Bush High School with their production of ***In the Blood***, directed by Destyne Miller, and Ridge Point High School with their production of ***Kholstomer-The Story of a Horse***, directed by Brook Aurand and Andrew Russell, advanced to Area. Bush and Ridge Point High Schools advanced to the Region contest, with Bush advancing all the way to the UIL State OAP contest, where their production went on to win second place in the state. This was Bush High School's third consecutive trip to UIL One Act Play State and their third consecutive 2nd place win! This is an amazing accomplishment for any high school theatre program. Congratulations to all of our UIL One Act Play participants on their accomplishments in the 2019 season!



Bush High School production of *In the Blood* recognized by FBISD Board of Trustees

International Thespian Festival

Students from Fort Bend ISD high school theatre programs traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska for the International Thespian Conference in June. This conference is held annually and attended by over 4,500 theatre students and teachers from around the world. Attendees can participate in over 800 workshops taught by experts in acting, directing, technical theatre, movement, dance and other theatrical areas. Rising seniors also are able to audition for colleges and scholarships. Fifteen rising seniors received over 322 callbacks collectively from the 60 colleges represented. Congratulations to Dulles High School 2019 graduate, Rayevin Johnson, on being selected as one of only eight recipients of an International Thespian senior scholarship!

In addition, students compete in individual events for the chance to perform on the mainstage for the entire conference. Ten FBISD students from Austin, Bush, Clements, Dulles and Travis High Schools received Superior ratings on their entries and three students from Bush High School were selected to be one of only 12 main stage performers this year: Atara Romero-Wilson in Solo Musical, as well as Nelson Nwachukwu and Se'an Boatner in Duet Acting. Recently, Atara was asked to perform in September at the Broadway Back to School Gala charity event for the Educational Theatre Foundation in New York City as a result of her performance in Lincoln, NE this summer. Congratulations to all of our students who represented Fort Bend ISD at the 2019 International Thespian Festival!



Nelson Nwachukwu & Se'An Boatner



Atara Romero-Wilson

FBISD Dance Students Off to College

Seven Fort Bend ISD students graduating from dance programs in the district will go on to pursue dance at the college level at Texas A&M, University of North Texas, Prairie View A&M University, and the American Music and Dramatic Academy (AMDA). Four of these students will be dancing on their respective college dance teams. These graduates represent Ridge Point, Bush and Hightower High Schools. Congratulations and good luck to these students!



Visual Arts News: Fahmi Khan, Visual Arts Coordinator

National Art Honor Society of Ridge Point High School

National Art Honor Society (NAHS) magnifies the innovation and skills that high school art programs bring to the schools and community. NAHS inspires and recognizes students with an outstanding ability and keen interest in the Visual Arts. NAHS is more than just an “art club.” Students are required to meet the eligibility criteria for membership; a significant part of being a member is to increase awareness for the visual arts in the community, by bringing more art into the community and school.

Student members of Ridge Point High School’s NAHS have been busy creating art for the community. They completed some wonderful murals for Scanlan Oaks, their elementary feeder school.



NAHS student members also created banners and lunch bag decorations for Camp Periwinkle – a nonprofit weeklong summer camp filled with joy for children with cancer and their siblings sponsored by the Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers.



Winners at the Dr. Jon Mari Filla Student Art Exhibit: Man’s Best Friend

Congratulations to Bruce Shu (grade 2), Alvin Zhou (grade 2) and Chloe Xia (grade 4) of **Commonwealth Elementary School** and their Art Educator, Tamana Patel, for receiving two Committee Choice Awards and one Best-in-Grade Award at the Dr. Mari Jon Filla Student Art Exhibit and Contest. More than a 1,000 entries

were judged in seven categories: Best in Show, Best in Grade, Commemorative Art Award, Committee Choice Awards, Excellence Awards, Merit Awards, and Participation Awards.



Upcoming Fine Arts Events

October 9, 6:30 PM, Hall Stadium: FBISD Band Night featuring Clements, Elkins, Hightower, Marshall, Ridge Point, and Willowridge High School Marching Bands

October 10, 6:30 PM, Mercer Stadium: FBISD Band Night featuring the Austin, Bush, Dulles, Kempner, and Travis High School Marching Bands

October 22, 4:30 PM, Hall Stadium: UIL Region 13 5A & 6A Marching Band Contest

October 26, TBD, Katy Legacy Stadium: UIL Area E 5A Marching Contest

October 28, 29 & 30: 1:30PM, Willowridge High School: Middle School UIL One Act Play Zone Competitions

November 7, 7:00 PM, Rodgers Auditorium, Dulles High School: Men's Choral Festival



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH ARTISTIC **EXCELLENCE**

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS