GCISD INSIGHT

Spring 2026 Edition



The official magazine
of Grapevine-Colleyville
Independent School District

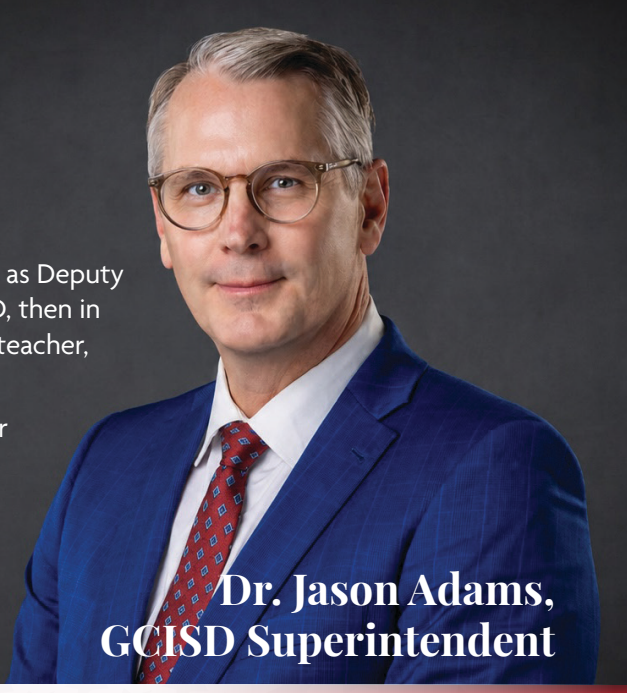
GCISD

Welcome to GCISD, Dr. Adams!

Dr. Jason Adams joined GCISD from Garland ISD, where he most recently served as Deputy Superintendent. His 28-year career in public education also began in Garland ISD, then in Chicago Public Schools before returning to Garland ISD. He has experience as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and Executive Director of Leadership.

Dr. Adams earned a Bachelor of Education from Illinois State University, a Master of Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy from The University of Texas at Austin.

He and his wife, Alandra, a dyslexia therapist, are the proud parents of two sons – Ian, who just completed his freshman year of college, and Lucas, a 2026 high school graduate.



Dr. Jason Adams, GCISD Superintendent

"GCISD's tradition of excellence, strong community support, and deep commitment to students make this district truly special. I look forward to working collaboratively with the board, staff, families, and community to build on that strong foundation and continue creating opportunities for every student to grow, succeed, and thrive in school and beyond graduation. I am excited to serve the GCISD community and work side by side with stakeholders to continue building on the district's legacy of excellence."



Think back to your favorite teacher growing up. What is one thing they did that you've carried with you into your own career?
I have been blessed to learn from outstanding teachers as a student and later working alongside exceptional educators throughout my career. When I think back to my favorite teacher growing up, my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Jameson, immediately comes to mind. What I've carried with me throughout my career is the way she balanced genuine care and connection with high expectations. She created a classroom environment built on community, where every student felt supported and valued, while also being challenged to grow.

As a teacher and later as an administrator, I've had the opportunity to work with some truly remarkable educators. The one thing they all have in common is a deep belief in the potential of every child. They build meaningful relationships, inspire confidence, and challenge students to achieve more than they thought possible. That combination of care, connection, and high expectations is something I've carried with me throughout my career and continues to shape how I serve students, staff, and communities today.

What does "community" mean to you and your family?
I think community is about working together for the greater good—people united by shared purpose, common interests, and meaningful relationships. It is built through strong connections, serving others, and investing our time and energy to make a positive difference. These are values my wife and I strive to instill in our sons, and they are reflected in my belief that public education is one of the most powerful ways a community comes together to invest in its future.

If you could pick one song to be your personal "walk-up" or hype song when entering a classroom, what would it be?
I'm always excited when I'm in classrooms, so I don't really need a hype song—there's already a natural energy and excitement that comes from being around students. But if I had to choose one, it would be *Don't Stop Believin'* by Journey because being around young people brings so much hope and optimism for the future. Spending time in classrooms with teachers and students is like a fountain of youth, constantly renewing my sense of purpose and reminding me why this work matters. I have so much confidence in what lies ahead. Students are thoughtful, passionate, and full of potential, and *Don't Stop Believin'* captures that spirit of belief, in them, in their growth, and in the bright future ahead.



Michael Jagoditsh

Executive Director of Technology



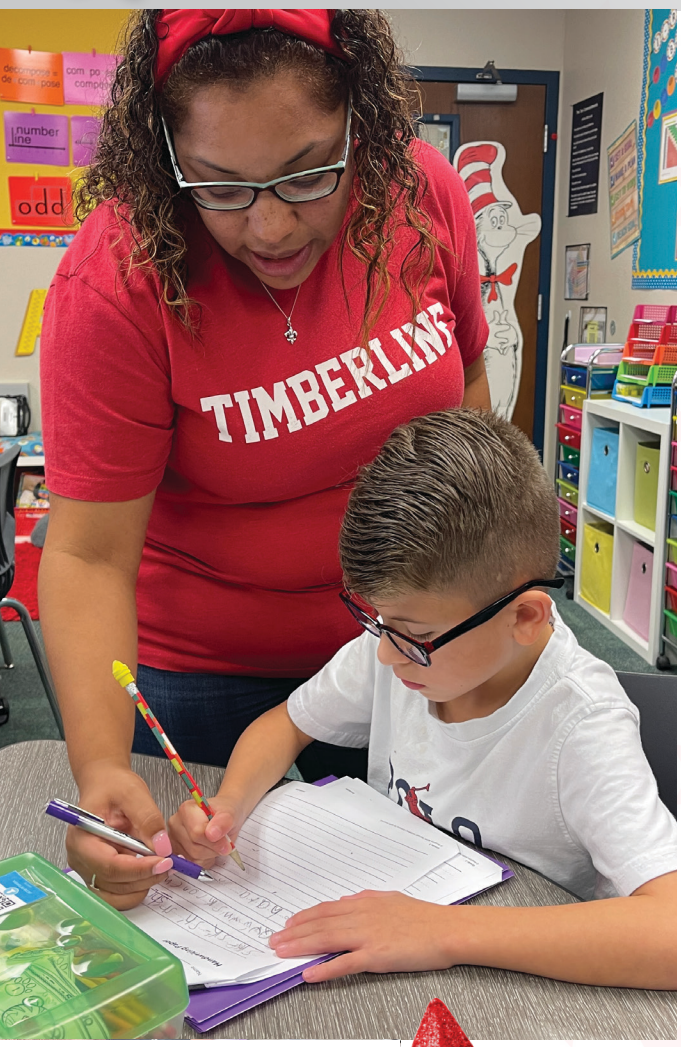
Having served in different capacities both within and outside of school districts, how have your roles prepared you for the responsibilities you hold now?
My path to GCISD is slightly unique; while this is my first time working directly within a district, my background at the Region 10 Education Service Center and Skyward allowed me to support educational leaders throughout Texas and across the country. This vantage point gave me invaluable insight into district efficiencies and system processes. Experiencing a wide variety of organizational models taught me how to identify successful strategies and avoid common pitfalls, which directly informs how I lead and manage my responsibilities today.

When you face a challenging day, what is the core "why" that keeps you focused on the mission?
What keeps me focused on challenging days is a singular focus on GCISD student success. Every operational and technological goal we pursue is designed to elevate their learning experience. To achieve that, we have to look out for our staff as well. I am driven by the goal of utilizing technology to simplify processes and reduce daily burdens on our teachers and students. This enables them to focus on what matters most and equips them to achieve excellence in the future.

What is a current trend in education or leadership that you are particularly excited to explore here?
I'm particularly interested in the trend of data-driven leadership, as I came from the data side of technology, and how we can turn the massive amounts of data school districts have into actionable, easy-to-read insights. By building more ingestible data models and smarter reporting tools, we can help campus leaders make timely and informed decisions that directly benefit classroom instruction and operational efficiency.

Outside of the office, what is a hobby or passion that helps you recharge and stay balanced?
Outside of the office, my favorite way to recharge is spending quality time with my wife and daughters. Family is very important to me, and being present with them keeps everything in perspective. When I'm looking to clear my head and challenge myself physically, you can usually find me at the gym lifting weights. Finding that balance between family time and physical fitness gives me the energy and focus I need to bring my best self to GCISD every day.

GCISD Students Show Strong Academic Gains, Higher Performance









More GCISD students are performing on grade level or higher in reading and math, according to district data measuring student academic growth.

By the end of the year, student performance at or above grade level reached 72% in both math and reading. These results correspond to a 32% increase in math proficiency and a 23% improvement in reading. Individual student data also demonstrates progress toward typical growth and stretch growth goals.

What's driving the gains?

High-Quality Instructional Materials

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Shiela Shiver said, "The number one factor in a classroom is the teacher—their relationship with their students and the instruction the teacher is providing."

To support teachers, the district has adopted new instructional materials in reading and science over the past several years and is updating math materials for 2026-2027. The district has also provided supplemental instructional resources, which students use during small group instruction.

"We want to make sure we are providing the right tools and creating coherence in instruction districtwide," Shiver added.

Data

"Data is so important when you're trying to teach," said Alex Easterling, eighth grade English teacher at Cross Timbers Middle School. "If I don't know where students are or how the class is doing, everything can look like it's going well, but the data proves if it is going well or if it isn't."

Through i-Ready's dashboard, Easterling can review students' reading levels, analyze growth and collaborate with colleagues during campus professional learning time.

"As a professional, I can also see, based on data, if I need to go back and re-teach a concept," she added.

Student Ownership

Easterling said that data also helps students see their own progress, which can be highly motivating.

"When students see where they started and how far they've come, that motivates them. They realize they accomplished their goal and see their growth because they put the work in."

In the end, it's not about data, but about students.

"We report data as a district, as a campus, and as a grade level," she said. "However, our focus is truly each individual student. Are we able to identify that each student had an education experience that helped them grow? That's what we are trying to do."

GCISD Insight

P.E. Classes Held Their Own Winter Olympics at Silver Lake Elementary

While the slopes of Italy were thousands of miles away, Silver Lake Elementary P.E. classes participated in their very own 2026 Winter Olympics.







"They are building endurance, muscle control, teamwork and physical skills—all while having fun."
— Cynnara Bivin, Silver Lake Elementary teacher







While the slopes of Italy were thousands of miles away, Silver Lake Elementary P.E. classes participated in their very own 2026 Winter Olympics, thanks to the creativity of teacher Cynnara Bivin.

The idea came to Bivin after being selected to be a torchbearer for the 2002 Winter Olympics through a contest sponsored by Coca Cola, one of the major sponsors. An avid athlete who played basketball, softball and tennis growing up, Bivin carried the torch through Fort Worth as it made its way to Salt Lake City, Utah.

That honor inspired her to start adapting the games into her P.E. classes in 2006, while a teacher in GCISD.

"Once I decided I wanted to incorporate the Olympics, I wanted my students to get the whole experience."

Bivin adapted events to be student versions. For example, for speed skating, students raced around cones while sliding paper plates beneath their feet. For hockey, they individually maneuvered rubber balls around cones using plastic hockey sticks.

"They are building endurance, muscle control, teamwork and physical skills—all while having fun," Bivin stated.

But it's not just lining up and competing.

To familiarize students with the events and build vocabulary that might be new to them, Bivin showed students videos from the races happening in the Olympics, answering questions and seeing the excitement build in students' eyes.

Posters of countries filled the gym walls as students competed.

According to Biven, converting P.E. into their own Olympics was "getting them excited for something that is current and going on in the world. It's also building a great memory that they will carry for the rest of their lives."

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION R





Bridges

Bridges Academy proudly graduated 51 students. Through unwavering dedication and perseverance, the senior class completed an impressive 955 courses and earned $4,000 in scholarships.

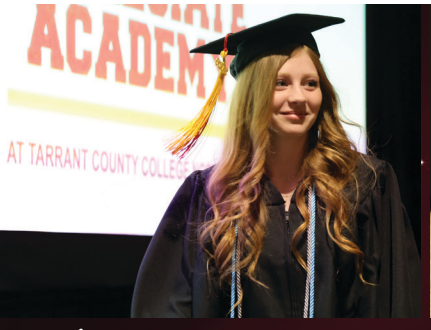


CA

Collegiate Academy's 96 graduates earned a combined total of over $3 million in scholarships. A remarkable 84% of them were also on course to obtain their associate degree, an achievement that eludes most high school graduates. The senior class also achieved outstanding accomplishments in extracurriculars, including advancing to the UIL academics and One-Act Play state competitions.

CHHS

Colleyville Heritage High School's 444 graduates earned $19 million in academic, athletic, and fine arts scholarships and were accepted to Yale, the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy at West Point, Rice University, University of Texas, and Texas A&M, to name a few. Nine graduates plan to serve their country, while many will pursue careers through trade schools. They leave a legacy of almost 5,000 hours of community service; the highest participation numbers in Best Buddies, Hope Squad, and Student Leadership; state tournament appearances in cross country, golf, tennis and marching band; and a national championship by the Premier Panteras dance/drill team.









ECAP







GHS

Grapevine High School's 406 graduates secured over $12 million in scholarships and acceptance to top universities such as Harvard, Dartmouth, Stanford, Rice, Oxford, University of California - Berkeley, the University of Texas, and Texas A&M. Their remarkable accomplishments include perfect ACT and SAT scores and eight National Merit Finalists. Throughout their four years, the senior class won multiple state championships in athletics, including tennis, cross country, and back-to-back state championships in baseball. They also won top awards in FFA, DECA, and UIL Academics, including gold in Math and Number Sense and a third place overall school sweepstakes finish.

iUP

iUniversity Prep's 231 graduates earned over $11 million in scholarships. These graduates from across the state of Texas are soaring, and their post-graduation plans reflect their determination and hard work. They are off to make their mark in the world with 130 going to four-year colleges or universities and 35 choosing two-year programs, while others are joining the military or pursuing certifications in trade professions or professional careers in areas such as dance, gymnastics, and hockey.

TAP - Transition Adult Program

GCISD's Transition Adult Program proudly celebrated five amazing graduates. This special graduation day marked the culmination of years of learning, perseverance, and personal growth. Many of the graduates have been in GCISD since their third birthday and have been working on their individual post-secondary goals since seventh grade. Through community-based instruction, vocational training, independent living experiences, and self-advocacy development, graduates are entering their futures having built the skills needed to pursue employment, access community resources, and achieve greater independence.









Congratulations to GCISD Employees of the Year!



(Above) ***Mike Sode****, Timberline Elementary School, Carolyn Frank Paraprofessional of the Year;* ***Stephanie Maupin****, Cross Timbers Middle School, Secondary Teacher of the Year; and* ***Britt McDougal****, Timberline Elementary School, Elementary Teacher of the Year.*

District Employees of the Year

GCISD announced its district Employees of the Year, Thursday, April 30, at a luncheon co-hosted by the Grapevine and Colleyville chambers of commerce. The event celebrated all of GCISD's Employees of the Year who were announced in February.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
Britt McDougal, Timberline Elementary School
Britt McDougal, P.E. teacher at Timberline Elementary and GCISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year, creates a positive, inclusive environment filled with innovative lessons and learning at every turn, all which build students' confidence to be their very best.

SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
Stephanie Maupin, Cross Timbers Middle School
Stephanie Maupin, social studies teacher at Cross Timbers Middle School and GCISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year, designs high-impact learning experiences that engage students in rigorous thinking and help them make meaningful connections to the past and the present.

CAROLYN FRANK PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:
Mike Sode, Timberline Elementary School
Mike Sode, P.E. assistant at Timberline Elementary School and GCISD's Carolyn Frank Paraprofessional of the Year, blends humor, respect and patience into class activities, helping students feel safe to take risks, grow and feel connected.

As District Teachers of the Year, McDougal and Maupin will now represent GCISD at the regional level, with a chance to compete for the 2026-2027 State Teacher of the Year recognition.

All Campus and Department Employees of the Year

The selection process begins with each campus naming a Teacher of the Year and a Paraprofessional of the Year, while departments across the district name an Employee of the Year.

Bear Creek Elementary
Remi Connolly, Teacher of the Year
Genilda Rodriguez, Paraprofessional of the Year
Bransford Elementary
Jenna Flink, Teacher of the Year
Ana Comber, Paraprofessional of the Year
Cannon Elementary
Daniela Contreras, Teacher of the Year
Konnor Aitken, Paraprofessional of the Year
Colleyville Elementary
Mandy Galloway, Teacher of the Year
Alisa McGregor, Paraprofessional of the Year
Dove Elementary
Joyce Mery, Teacher of the Year
Marlisa Roedel, Paraprofessional of the Year
Glenhope Elementary
Tiffani Griffard, Teacher of the Year
Tanya Hill, Paraprofessional of the Year
Grapevine Elementary
Natalie Hickerson, Teacher of the Year
Amy Jones, Paraprofessional of the Year
Heritage Elementary
Jane Simmons, Teacher of the Year
Manjit Liyanage, Paraprofessional of the Year
O.C. Taylor Elementary
Tiffany Dagger, Teacher of the Year
Ana Medrano, Paraprofessional of the Year
Silver Lake Elementary
Dora Urena-Clase, Teacher of the Year
Lenimar "Leni" Perez, Paraprofessional of the Year
Timberline Elementary
Britt McDougal, Teacher of the Year
Mike Sode, Paraprofessional of the Year
Colleyville Middle
Amber McClintock, Teacher of the Year
Kade Barron, Paraprofessional of the Year
Cross Timbers Middle
Stephanie Maupin, Teacher of the Year
Marlene Smith Ramirez, Paraprofessional of the Year

District Employee of the Year Finalists

Employee of the year finalists were surprised with the news by GCISD leadership on their campus in front of peers and students to celebrate this exciting achievement.

Elementary Teacher of the Year Finalists



Britt McDougal,
Timberline Elementary School



Remi Connolly,
Bear Creek Elementary School



Tiffani Griffard,
Glenhope Elementary School

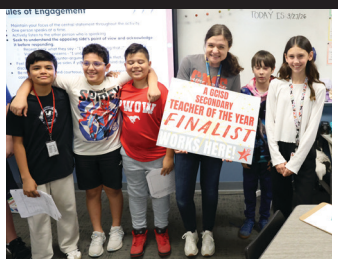
Secondary Teacher of the Year Finalists



Amanda Fedorko,
iUniversity Prep



Amber McClintock,
Colleyville Middle School



Janae McGlothlin,
Grapevine Middle School



Stephanie Maupin,
Cross Timbers Middle School

Paraprofessional Teacher of the Year Finalists



Dawn Frazier,
Grapevine Middle School



Mike Sode,
Timberline Elementary School



Phyllis Madison,
Colleyville Heritage High School

Grapevine Middle
Janae McGlothlin, Teacher of the Year
Dawn Frazier, Paraprofessional of the Year

Heritage Middle
Rachael Creel, Teacher of the Year
Patrice Snowden, Paraprofessional of the Year

Bridges and VISTA
Jaclyn Buchanan, Teacher of the Year

Collegiate Academy
Diana Alvarez, Teacher of the Year
Leah Lorkowski, Paraprofessional of the Year

Colleyville Heritage High
Sonya Loughran, Teacher of the Year
Phyllis Madison, Paraprofessional of the Year

Grapevine High
Robyn DeArmond, Teacher of the Year
Stephanie Martinez, Paraprofessional of the Year

iUniversity Prep
Amanda Fedorko, Teacher of the Year

Central Administration
Elyzabeth Durard, Paraprofessional of the Year

Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)
Henny Torres, Paraprofessional of the Year

Extended Day Program (EDP)
Haley Trevino, Employee of the Year

Facility Services - Custodial
Cecilia Abreo-Lopez, Employee of the Year

Facility Services - Maintenance and Grounds
James "Jimbo" Steward, Employee of the Year

Health Services
Betsie Jaeger, Employee of the Year

Nutrition Services
Kristyna Pribylova, Employee of the Year

Technology Services
Shauna Austin, Employee of the Year

Transportation Services
Frank Pinto, Employee of the Year



Thanks to Wish For Wheels and Charles Schwab, several Dove Elementary second graders received the gift of brand new bicycles. The school's counselor applied for the philanthropic experience, and the Charles Schwab team came out to the school to help build the bikes and teach the students how to ride them safely.

Bransford Elementary fifth graders were wowed when Grapevine High School art students delivered three-dimensional clay monsters – especially since the creatures began as sketches the younger students had created just weeks earlier.



#WeAre

GCISD was proud to host athletes from around the metroplex for the annual Mustang Panther Relays Special Olympics track meet. It was a great day to watch athletes show off their hard work and create special memories.





Southern Floral and Kroger donated an estimated $1,400 worth of flowers to the GCISD Career and Technical Education students in the floral design program, and when teacher Jessica Neely asked students what they wanted to do, they said they wanted to create bouquets to brighten up the day of senior citizens at the Bear Creek Assisted Living and Rehabilitation Center in Grapevine.

Drivers at Grapevine Elementary this year might have done a quick double take during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal. That's because the school's safety patrol had four sets of twins – all who were in the fourth grade! Twins Sean and Grant Hazard, Felipe and Evelyn Araujo, Sawyer and Korben Waag, and Jeremy and Joshua Holtzman made up the one-of-a-kind group.



GCISD's Career and Technical Education launched an inaugural commercial roofing program in partnership with TriVAN Roofing and Duro-Last Commercial Roofing Solutions. Through the 18-week program, students learned about commercial roofing practices, proper installation of materials and job safety directly while working with industry professionals.

GCISD roundup



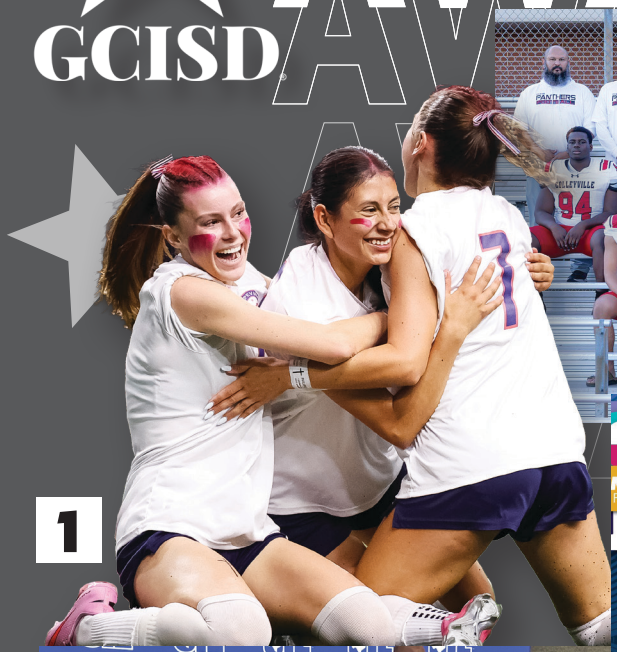


Grapevine High School unveiled a commemorative mural to mark the school's 120th anniversary, alongside America's 250th anniversary. The special artwork was designed by GHS art teacher and GCISD alum Dr. Kristi Rucker, two GHS National Art Honor Society students, and a local artist.

GCISD's fourth annual Walk a Mile event expanded this year, welcoming health experts from Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Grapevine to share information about children's health topics and give out children's bike helmets – for free!



GCISD AWARDS AND











1 The Grapevine High School girls soccer team returned to the UIL 5A State Championship for their fifth appearance in the title game in program history. The final game of the season was six rounds deep in the playoffs, and the Mustangs returned home as silver medalists in Division 2.

2 Grapevine High School's Mustang Robotics delivered a thrilling comeback to finish as the UIL 5A FIRST Robotics State Runner-Up. After finishing 13th overall in qualification matches and suffering an early loss that placed them in the lower bracket at state, the Mustangs persevered. This was Mustang Robotics' fourth consecutive year returning to state after winning the bronze in 2025.

3 Colleyville Heritage High School's football program was named the Texas 5A School State Champion in the National Football Foundation's (NFF) 2025-2026 Academic Excellence Awards. They were one of 95 nationwide winners and only six in Texas to receive the honor, which recognizes academic excellence in football teams.

4 GCISD has been honored as one of the Best Communities for Music Education for 2026. This is the 12th year GCISD has received the award, which recognizes districts and schools across the country for their exemplary dedication to music education and ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access to music learning as part of a well-rounded education.

5 Twelve students from Collegiate Academy and Grapevine High School qualified for the UIL Academics State Meet in their respective divisions. At state, they placed in eight individual events and won three team awards.

RECOGNITIONS



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6 Heritage Middle School is one of 17 innovative campuses across Texas named a "2026 Schools Transforming Learning" honoree by the N2 Learning Principals' Institute (PI). These diverse campuses are recognized for making exceptional strides in creating transformative learning environments for all students.

7 Members of the Colleyville Heritage High School and Grapevine High School tennis teams competed at the UIL 5A State Championship, where GHS senior Noah Malin and junior Sara Gyorgy won the mixed doubles state title. The pair defeated Midlothian High School in the finals after being down 1-4 in the first set, and mounting a comeback to win the second and third sets 6-4 and 6-3.

8 Heritage Elementary School teacher Joe Parthemore received a surprise visit from H-E-B representatives to announce that he was an Excellence in Education Award Finalist. The award recognizes educators who exemplify passion and commitment; innovation and creativity in the classroom; and professional growth and development.

9 GCISD Collegiate Academy theatre program's performance of *The Girl in the White Pinafore* by Jiggs Burgess qualified the cast and crew for the UIL 3A One-Act Play competition this spring and finished in sixth place in the state.

10 GCISD's Director of Finance Paula McBride was named a Rise Award recipient by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). The award aims to highlight individuals who are on the rise in the school business community.



Second Grade Podcast Encourages *Only Readers in the Building*



Across GCISD, many schools have "One School, One Book" campaigns to encourage a communitywide love for reading. This school year, a second grade class at Heritage Elementary School came up with one more creative way: a biweekly podcast called "Only Readers in the Building - Turning Pages Together."

"The thing I really love about this podcast is that parents are listening to it and sharing it with their family. I have posters across the school and students can listen to it, so it's reaching more than just our classroom." – ***Christi Cooper, second grade teacher***



Second grade teacher Christi Cooper, who came up with the concept, said, "the thing I really love about this podcast is that parents are listening to it and sharing it with their family. I have posters across the school and students can listen to it, so it's reaching more than just our classroom."

Each week, the class produced two podcast episodes where the students get to put on a fuzzy microphone, which they enjoy, and their teacher asks them questions about a book that they loved.

"My favorite thing about the podcast is explaining the introduction to other people so they can then read the books that we do," said second grader London Barton.

Cooper said that in addition to fostering a love for reading, for her, it's about celebrating her students and making special memories.

"I think they are always going to remember the podcast that they had a chance to record here in second grade."

Scan the QR code to listen to the "HES Only Readers in the Building," podcast available on RSS.com.



A Legacy to Remember

The halls of **Bransford** and **Dove Elementary Schools** were filled with generations of shared history during the campus legacy events in May. Bringing together past and current students, families, and staff, the gatherings celebrated the decades of friendship, tradition, and community that defined these two remarkable campuses.

Thanks to the exceptional dedication of the campus legacy committees, the meaningful tributes beautifully demonstrated how the enduring spirit of **Bransford** and **Dove** will live on through the incredible people who have walked their halls.









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