Waco ISD will ensure innovation and excellence in education to prepare all learners for productive engagement in a global society.

Waco High students Stefan White, Reed Cooper, Jordan Blair, and Kristen Chapman participated in the Group Performance, Senior Division of the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair. The group won first place at the Texas History Day competition and advanced to compete at the National History Day contest in College Park, Maryland.
The Board of Trustees reorganized at the Business meeting on May 27, 2012.
The 2010-2011 school year began with a search for a new superintendent under way. Upon the resignation of Dr. Roland Hernandez on July 27, 2012, the Waco ISD Board of Trustees named Waco ISD Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services Sheryl Davis as Interim Superintendent on July 29, 2010. Davis led the District for seven months until a successor was named. On Feb. 24, 2011, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Bonny Cain, Ed.D. as Superintendent of Waco ISD.
Dr. Bonny Cain, who served as Superintendent of the Pearland school district in southeast Texas since 2000, officially accepted a contract as Superintendent of Waco ISD on February 24. The Waco ISD School Board named her the District’s lone finalist in early February, waiting 21 days -- according to state statute -- to offer her a contract. Dr. Cain, who has more than three decades of professional experience in education, began her service in Waco on March 14.

"Dr. Cain impressed us with her vision and ability to identify talented employees and to give them the resources they need to be strong instructional leaders," said Pat Atkins, search committee chair and board vice-president.

In 2010, Dr. Cain led Pearland ISD to Texas Education Agency Exemplary status -- the highest rating possible for a Texas school district. In addition, she helped to pass four bond elections totaling $252 million for new facilities and renovations and spearheaded a superintendents’ forum to discuss school finance reform with state legislators.

Under Cain’s leadership, Pearland ISD has achieved 10 years of excellent financial audits and six years of "Superior Achievement" ratings from the Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas.

Prior to becoming Pearland ISD’s superintendent, Cain served as a deputy superintendent, assistant superintendent for instruction, executive director and principal. She has also held teaching and principal positions at Alvin Community College and Mabank, Dickinson, Alvin and Bay City school districts.
2010-2011 waco isd
ADMINISTRATION

Sheryl Davis
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services

Jennifer Womack
Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Instruction

Jerry Gibson
Executive Director of Secondary Education
May 26, 2011

Dr. Terri Patterson
Executive Director of Elementary Education

Elaine Botello
Executive Director of Human Resources

Dale Caffey
Public Information Officer

Jack Henderson
Director of Student Services
Waco ISD believes the active engagement of the community in the learning process and development of students contributes to student success.

Waco ISD believes that recruiting, supporting and retaining quality employees by offering competitive compensation and leadership development opportunities promote student success.

Waco ISD believes that active parent participation and support foster student success.

Waco ISD values instruction that engages all learners in a continuous improvement process.

Waco ISD believes that recognizing and celebrating student, employee and community accomplishments promotes pride, builds self-esteem, and generates motivation for further success throughout the district.

Waco ISD believes higher expectations are necessary at all levels of the organization to provide educational opportunities that ensure that students are equipped to succeed in the 21st century.

Waco ISD values an equitable system that promotes educational opportunities for all students and a positive work environment for all employees.

Waco ISD believes that it is accountable to its stakeholders for academic achievement, fiscal responsibility and community involvement.

Waco ISD believes the 21st century learning environment must be safe and secure physically, emotionally and academically.

Waco ISD believes leadership development is necessary to promote innovation, excellence, personal integrity and accountability for all learners.
2010-2011 PROJECT UPDATES
investment in the future of education
The May 10, 2008 Waco ISD bond referendum was a successful endeavor and a monumental moment in Waco’s history. The bond referendum raised $172.5 million to be used on various construction projects across the District. The bonds will allow numerous improvements to take place throughout the District during the next two to five years. All of the construction projects were designed by PBK Architects. The six major projects are listed below.

**BELL’S HILL ELEMENTARY**

Bell’s Hill Elementary is the fourth and final new school to be built and funded by the $172.5 million bond referendum. The new school will be built on the old site, commemorating a building that has served Waco school children since 1925. Following a groundbreaking ceremony held at the school on June 20, 2011, at 6 p.m., the old Bell’s Hill school was demolished during the summer to make room for the new structure that will open in August 2012. Beginning in 1886, the property was the site of the Bell Water Company, founded by Captain Joseph D. Bell who drilled Waco’s first artesian well. The Texas Historical Commission placed an historical marker at the site in 1998.

**J.H. HINES ELEMENTARY**

At the end of the 2009-2010 school year, the District celebrated the opening of the brand new $13.3 million J.H. Hines Elementary on Thursday, August 5, 2010. The school is located at the site of the former J.H. Hines Elementary, at 301 Garrison. The ceremony began in the school’s cafeteria, followed by a “ribbon cutting” at the front of the building for Waco ISD School Board members and a crowd of onlookers. With the exception of the gymnasium, the former J.H. Hines Elementary building was demolished to make room for the new state-of-the-art campus in 2010-2011.
East Waco. Students formerly attending both J.H. Hines Elementary and Doris Miller Elementary schools will now attend the new J.H. Hines Elementary.

DEAN HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY
The demolition of the Dean Highland Elementary building was bittersweet. The school, whose oldest walls were constructed as far back as 1917, held many memories. However, during the 2010-2011 school year, the school was replaced with a new, state-of-the-art campus at an estimated cost of $12.9 million. In early summer of 2010, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held and demolition on the old building began on Monday, July 28, 2010, with a small crowd of onlookers watching through the metal construction fence. A gymnasium and classroom wing that were built ten years prior were preserved. While the new school building was under construction, Dean Highland Elementary students were housed in the Doris Miller building at 2401 J.J. Flewelling Road. A Dedication Ceremony was held on Monday, August 15 at 6 p.m.

WACO HIGH
Waco High welcomed the much-needed renovations to the existing building during the previous school year including the addition of a new science lab and the renovation and conversion of all existing science labs to typical classrooms. The school’s cafeteria was expanded to accommodate more students and the library was expanded and renovated. The science labs were completed for use during the spring semester of 2010 while the other projects were slated for the 2010-2011 school year. Cost of the project is estimated at $7.1 million.
UNIVERSITY HIGH

Construction of the new University High school at the southwest corner of New Road and Old Robinson Road at 3201 South New Road is the subject of much excitement. The project began in June of 2009 with the design development. The 80-acre tract of land, acquired in August 2009, will house a two-story steel structure consisting of 275,000 square feet of classroom space, an 850-seat auditorium and 30,000 square feet of gymnasium space, including two auxiliary gymnasiums and a competition gymnasium with fixed stadium seating. Construction on the project, which will also include outdoor athletic practice and training facilities, and a day care facility for the Trojan Tyke program, began in May 2010. Cost for the project is estimated at $70.0 million. The building will open for the 2011-2012 school year. A Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, August 14, 2011, at 3 p.m.

A.J. MOORE ACADEMY

An estimated $4.5 million project at A.J. Moore Academy provided for two new science labs at the school as well as upgrades to all existing science labs to meet new TEA standards. In addition, the cafeteria and library were both expanded. Renovations to the school began in May of 2009 with the project scheduled for completion for the 2009-2010 school year. A fire in the building during construction caused unanticipated delay to the project. The school year began with some students attending classes in portable buildings on the school property.
The Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports are developed by the Division of Performance Reporting at the Texas Education Agency. These reports pull together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. These reports also provide extensive information on staff, finances, programs, and demographics for each school and district.
The Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) measures the performance of Texas school districts and campuses on designated criteria or indicators. This system integrates district accreditation status, campus ratings, district and campus recognition for high performance and performance improvement and campus, district, and state level reports into a single system.

Three base indicators are utilized within the Academic Excellence Indicator System to determine the 2010-2011 ratings:

- spring 2011 performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS);
- the completion rate for the class of 2010; and
- the 2009-2010 annual dropout rate


• Three campuses achieved “exemplary” status for the 2010-2011 school year: Hillcrest Professional Development School, Kendrick Elementary, Parkdale Elementary.

• Seven campuses achieved “recognized” status: Dean Highland Elementary, Lake Waco Montessori Magnet, Mountainview Elementary, Provident Heights Elementary, Sul Ross Elementary, Viking Hills Elementary, and South Waco.

• Ten campuses were rated as “academically acceptable” for the 2010-2011 school year: A.J. Moore Academy, Alta Vista Montessori Magnet, Bell’s Hill Elementary, G.W. Carver Academy, Cedar Ridge Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Lake Air Intermediate, Meadowbrook Elementary, North Waco Elementary, and West Avenue Elementary.

• Eight campuses were rated as “academically unacceptable” for the 2010-2011 school year: Brook Avenue Elementary, J.H. Hines Elementary, Brazos Middle, Cesar Chavez Middle, Tennyson Middle, University Middle, University High, Waco High.
• One campus was rated as “AEA: academically acceptable”: STARS High.

• Three campuses were not rated for the 2010-2011 school year due to their status as disciplinary alternative education programs: Challenge Academy, Waco ISD Alternative School, and JJAEP.

• The District accountability rating for 2010-2011 was “academically acceptable.”

• The District earned a Gold Performance Acknowledgement for Advanced Academic Courses (2009-2010) and 12 campuses earned a total of 37 Gold Acknowledgements.
budget and resources

Waco ISD strives to provide efficient budget management to meet the needs of students. The budget development process is coordinated with the instructional division to ensure that funding is utilized in a manner that maximizes positive impact on student achievement.

2010-2011 revenue and expenditures

Total revenue, general fund: $115,096,965

Tax rate per $100 valuation: $1.365

Maintenance and Operation Rate: $1.040

Interest and Sinking Fund Rate: $0.325

Total expenditures, general fund: $111,531,204

Total operating expenditures, general fund: $106,810,145

Expenditures per student, general fund: $7,002
Fiscal management

Waco ISD earned a “above standard achievement” rating for financial management, based on indicators from the 2008-2009 fiscal year that ended August 31, 2008. School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas) is a financial accountability system developed by the Texas Education Agency authorized by the 77th Texas Legislature. School FIRST was established to improve the management of school districts' financial resources in light of the steadily increasing complexity of the state's funding system. The goal for all districts is allocate as many funds as possible for direct instructional purposes.

Expenditures by program (general fund):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>$82,609,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual/ESL Education</td>
<td>$656,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career and Technology Education</td>
<td>$4,209,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerated Education</td>
<td>$5,100,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted and Talented Education</td>
<td>$1,184,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Education</td>
<td>$55,935,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>$8,261,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics/Related Activities</td>
<td>$2,819,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Allotment</td>
<td>$1,342,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,100,129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### students by grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>1,252</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>1,306</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total students: 15,240
student information

Economically Disadvantaged 13,219 86.7%
Limited English Proficient (LEP) 2,575 16.9%
Students w/Disciplinary Placements 950 5.7%
At-Risk 10,344 67.9%

ethnic distribution

African American 4,779 31.4%
Hispanic 8,432 55.3%
White 1,714 11.2%
American Indian 64 0.4%
Asian 52 0.3%
Pacific Islander 1 0.0%
Two or more races 198 1.3%

program information

Student enrollment by program

Bilingual/ESL Education 2,472 16.2%
Career & Technology Education 4,227 27.7%
Gifted & Talented Education 1,224 8.0%
Special Education 1,593 10.5%
As a district: Waco ISD was rated Academically Acceptable and earned one gold performance acknowledgment for Advanced Academic Courses and 12 campuses earned a total of 37 Gold Acknowledgements.

exemplary campuses
Hillcrest
Kendrick
Parkdale

recognized campuses
Dean-Highland
Lake Waco
Mountainview
Provident Heights
South Waco
Sul Ross
Viking Hills

academically acceptable campuses
AJ Moore
Alta Vista
Bell’s Hill
Carver Academy
Cedar Ridge
Crestview
Lake Air Int.
Meadowbrook
North Waco
STARS HS
West Ave

How campuses receive “exemplary” status by the Texas Education Agency

• 90% or more of students meet TAKS standards;

• 95% completion rate, grades 9 through 12

• 2% or less annual dropout rate, grades 7 and 8
academically unacceptable campuses

- Brazos Middle
- Brook Ave
- Cesar Chavez Middle
- JH Hines
- Tennyson Middle
- University High
- University Middle
- Waco High

not rated
(due to status as disciplinary alternative education programs)

- Challenge Academy
- Waco ISD Alternative School
Gold Performance Acknowledgments are utilized to acknowledge high performance on other indicators not used in determining ratings. Campuses in Waco ISD received Acknowledgements in five areas:

- Advanced Courses/Dual Enrollment Completion
- Attendance Rate
- Recommended High School Program/DAP
- Commended on Social Studies
- Commended on Reading/ELA
- Commended on Mathematics
- Commended on Science
- Commended on Writing
- Comparable Improvement: Reading/ELA
- Comparable Improvement: Mathematics

**GOLD PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT: attendance rate**

A.J. Moore Academy

**GOLD PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT: recommended high school/ Distinguished Achievement program participation**

A.J. Moore Academy
Lake Waco Montessori Magnet
A number of campuses received Gold Performance Acknowledgements in TAKS subject areas for commended performance. To do so, a campus must have 30 percent or more of the students who took a subject area test score at or above the commended level.
A number of campuses received Gold Performance Acknowledgements in TAKS subject areas for commended performance. To do so, a campus must have 30 percent or more of the students who took a subject area test score at or above the commended level.

Comparable Improvement is a measure that calculates how student performance on the TAKS test has changed (or grown) from one year to the next, and compares the change to that of the 40 schools that are demographically most similar to the target school.

To be eligible for Gold Performance due to Comparable Improvement in reading/ELA or mathematics, a campus must test students on TAKS reading/ELA or mathematics and have a rating of at least “academically acceptable”; the campus’ average Texas Growth Index must be within the top quartile (25 percent) of their 40-member campus comparison group for the subject.

**GOLD PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT: comparable improvement**

A number of campuses received Gold Performance Acknowledgements in TAKS subject areas for commended performance. To do so, a campus must have 30 percent or more of the students who took a subject area test score at or above the commended level.

**Comparable Improvement: Reading/ELA**
- Alta Vista Montessori
- Cedar Ridge Elementary
- Crestview Elementary
- Mountainview Elementary

**Comparable Improvement: Mathematics**
- Alta Vista Montessori
- Cedar Ridge Elementary
- Crestview Elementary
- Dean Highland Elementary
- Kendrick Elementary
- Mountainview Elementary
- Viking Hills Elementary
Lisa Howard, primary teacher at Alta Vista Montessori, was selected for the OfficeMax "A Day Made Better" program, a one-day event that awards more than 1,100 teachers nationwide with over $1,000 in school supplies. The OfficeMax event is part of an initiative designed to award deserving teachers across the country with a cache of classroom supplies and bring awareness to the fact that every year teachers spend an average of $1,000 of their own money on classroom supplies.

Former Waco ISD OfficeMax "A Day Made Better" Recipients:

Janet Joiner
G.L. Wiley Middle
Jane Harris
Dean Highland Elementary
Hannah Williams
Mountainview Elementary
teacher information

Teachers by Ethnicity and Gender:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>168.3</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>127.9</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>748.1</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>247.4</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>829.9</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers by highest degree held:

- 886.7 or 82.3% of all teachers held a bachelors degree;
- 176.0 or 16.3% held a masters degree;
- 7.5 or 0.7% held a doctorate degree;
- 7.0 or 0.6% held an associates degree or no degree.

Teachers by years of experience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Teachers</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 Years Experience</td>
<td>336.3</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 Years Experience</td>
<td>201.0</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20 Years Experience</td>
<td>232.3</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 20 Years Experience</td>
<td>229.3</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Years Experience of Teachers: 11.5 years

Average Years Experience of Teachers with District: 7.9 years

Number of students per teacher: 14.1
Average Teacher Salary by Years of Experience (regular duties only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience Level</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Teachers</td>
<td>$39,259</td>
<td>$39,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 Years Experience</td>
<td>$40,456</td>
<td>$41,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 Years Experience</td>
<td>$43,164</td>
<td>$43,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20 Years Experience</td>
<td>$46,805</td>
<td>$47,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 20 Years Experience</td>
<td>$53,722</td>
<td>$54,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Actual Salaries (regular duties only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>$45,069</td>
<td>$45,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Support</td>
<td>$50,749</td>
<td>$51,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Administration</td>
<td>$67,460</td>
<td>$66,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(School Leadership)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>$88,212</td>
<td>$85,943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Turnover Rate for Teachers: 15.8%

Teachers by Program (population served):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual/ESL Education</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career &amp; Technical Education</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensatory Education</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted &amp; Talented Education</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Education</td>
<td>823.2</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Waco ISD recognizes those teachers who pursue their profession with passion. Each year, the district presents its “outstanding teachers” at a ceremony in December. The 31 outstanding teachers were selected by their peers to represent their respective campuses. In the spring, the 30 teachers presented a blind application and essay to a selection committee from the community, narrowing the list to six. In May, the “outstanding elementary” and “outstanding secondary” teachers were presented at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

outstanding teacher finalists

Magi Davis
Hillcrest PDS
Elementary Teacher of the Year

Kari Emblem
A.J. Moore Academy
Secondary Teacher of the Year

Liza Cunningham
Bell’s Hill

Lindsey Helton
Crestview

Gail Filas
Waco High

Tarl Lloyd
University High
EVENT SPONSORS:
The Paul and Jane Meyer Foundation, Insurors of Texas, and Karr-Hunter Motors
2010-2011 VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS

A.J. Moore Academy
Kimberly Farias, Valedictorian
A.J. Moore Academy
GPA: 102.0972
College: University of Texas at San Antonio; Major: Pre-med
Parents: Nelly and Samuel Arocha

James York Rauhut, Salutatorian
A.J. Moore Academy
GPA: 101.7729
College: University of North Texas; Major: International Studies
Parents: Shawna and Lonnie Sibley; Keith Rauhut

University High
Arielle Elizabeth Harris, Valedictorian
University High
GPA: 102.79
College: Texas A&M; Major: Civil Engineering
Parents: Jane and Darwin Harris

Santiago Vallejo-Gutierrez, Salutatorian
University High
GPA: 102.29
College: MCC; Major: Film and Media Studies
Parents: Maria and Santiago Vallejo

Waco High
David Clifton Miller, Valedictorian
Waco High
GPA: 107.63
College: Baylor University; Major: Pre-law
Parents: Beth and Gary Miller

Fernando Ramirez, Salutatorian
Waco High
GPA: 105.78
College: Rice University; Major: Biochemical Engineering
Parents: Maria and Jesus Ramirez
Waco Independent School District is an urban district that enrolled 15,240 students at 32 campuses: 19 elementary schools, five middle schools, one intermediate school, four high schools and three alternative placement programs. During the 2010-2011 school year, three campuses were rated as “exemplary” and seven campuses were rated as “recognized” by the Texas Education Agency.
BEGINNING THE SCHOOL YEAR
The school year began for teachers, support staff and administrators at Convocation on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, at the Ferrell Center on the Baylor University campus. The District’s outstanding elementary and secondary teachers were recognized, as were the five “exemplary” and 10 “recognized” campuses from the previous year.

The keynote speaker was Coach Ken Carter whose success at turning around the academic performance of a high school basketball team was chronicled in the 2005 motion picture "Coach Carter" starring Samuel L. Jackson. Teachers and administrators gathered at the Ferrell Center again on Wednesday, August 18, to hear keynote speaker Rafe Esquith, educator and author of the book “Teach Like Your Hair’s On Fire.” Convocation marked the start of four consecutive days of professional development for teachers and administrators.

PARKDALE ELEMENTARY BOASTS "CUSTODIAN OF THE YEAR"
Paul Watkins, a custodian at Parkdale Elementary who is in his 18th year at Waco ISD, was named "Custodian of the Year" by Keep Waco Beautiful. He received the award at a banquet held at the Waco Civic Theater.

MEADOWBROOK TEACHER RECEIVES "GOLDEN APPLE"
Meadowbrook Kindergarten Teacher Lindsey Sorrel received the KWTX Golden Apple award on Thursday, September 16. She was nominated for the award by a parent whose daughter, Jaden, was a student in Ms. Sorrel’s class. A KWTX television crew, including morning anchor Josh Wucher, surprised Ms. Sorrel in her classroom where she was presented with the golden apple award in front of her class and Principal John Campbell.
**LABRASKA GOES TO WASHINGTON**

LaBraska Washington, a junior at A.J. Moore Academy, left Waco during the Labor Day weekend to spend part of the school year in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, LaBraska was one of a small group of students from across the country selected into the prestigious U.S. House of Representatives Page Program.

**HILLCREST PDS MAKES TBEC HONOR ROLL**

Hillcrest Professional Development School, a perennial high-performing Waco ISD campus, was among the top four percent of Texas public schools to be honored by the Texas Business and Education Coalition for sustained academic excellence. Each year, TBEC recognizes schools that have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students scoring at the "commended" level in every subject tested. TBEC recognized all the Honor Roll Schools on Monday, November 15, at an Awards Reception and Dinner in Austin sponsored by H-E-B Food Stores.

**CULTURAL ARTS FEST BRINGS THE ARTS TO SCHOOLS**

Thanks to the annual Waco Cultural Arts Fest and the Waco ISD Education Foundation, Waco ISD orchestra students were able to learn from world-renowned electric violinist Mark Wood. Wood's week-long visit culminated with a combined Waco ISD orchestral performance at the Arts Fest.
ARTS FEST, CONTINUED
Students at North Waco Elementary learned from the gospel-style musician, Eric Dozier, who spent the week prior to the festival working with students at the school and then sharing the concert stage with them at the event. Dozier worked with the students on posture, choreography and performance techniques, building their self-confidence as they became familiar with the music.

Students at Lake Waco Montessori hosted the South American group, Wayanay Inka, who played music from the Peruvian Andes and Latin America using bamboo panpipes and flutes, charangos, guitars and ronros. The students learned about Inka culture and the origin of the instruments as they were exposed to a part of Peruvian history. The students also enjoyed seeing what was called the world’s largest flute and hearing its rich tones.

THE LAST ENCHILADA, FOR A WHILE
Students, parents, teachers and staff celebrated at the 26th annual Enchilada Dinner at Bell’s Hill Elementary, and the last one to be held in the old school building. From the homemade meal to the colorful entertainment, the event has become a highlight of the school year for the entire Bell’s Hill community. The dinner was hosted with help from the Parents and Teachers Association, serving as a way to bring families together at the beginning of the new school year. It is organized every year around the traditional Mexican holiday "Diez y Seis de Septiembre," the day that marks the Mexican War of Independence against Spain in 1810.

HEARTWARMING SURPRISE AT LAKE WACO MONTESSORI
Lake Waco Montessori Teacher Gana Leggett was nominated by one of her students for the "Educators Student Choice Award," a monthly award that encompasses schools and districts within seven regional areas. Moises Perez, a seventh-grade student, was
one of many students who submitted teacher nominations for the notable award. His was a heartwarming account of why this teacher is so special. On September 28, she was notified of the award by a surprise visit in the school’s gymnasium from Jim Smith and Rachel Wilde of Educators Credit Union and a Channel 25 camera crew. With a crowd of students watching, Ms. Leggett was presented with a plaque and a $100 bill.

**SCHOOL BOARD SOLICITS INPUT ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

In August, the Board hired TASB Executive Search Service as its consultant in the search process for a new Superintendent and established a timeline of having a new Superintendent hired in February 2011. The Waco ISD Board of Trustees provided numerous opportunities for District stakeholders to provide input about the qualities and characteristics desired in the new Superintendent. Over 20 forums were held October 11 through 13 at various locations throughout the city. Stakeholders were also encouraged to submit their comments using an online survey. The comments received during the forums and through the online survey were compiled into a Leadership Qualifications and Characteristics Report that served as a guide for prospective applicants as well as a blueprint for the Board as it narrowed down and interviewed qualified candidates.

**Jazz Cats earn seats in All-Region ensembles**

Eight Waco High School jazz musicians secured spots in the TMEA All-Region Jazz Ensembles marking the highest number of students ever to be placed in the All-Region jazz bands from the school at one time. Auditions were held Tuesday, September 28, at Temple High School where 16 members of the WHS jazz program competed for seats. The Waco High Jazz Band Director is Cameron Akin.

**POPULAR CHILDREN’S AUTHOR VISITS WEST AVENUE ELEMENTARY**

Children’s author David Schwartz from Oakland, California entertained West Avenue Elementary students and enriched their understanding of mathematics on Thursday, October 7, in the school’s library. Schwartz is an accomplished storyteller who uses...
humor and energy to present mathematical information in engaging ways. Some of Schwartz’ published books include, “On Beyond a Million,” “Millions to Measure,” and “How Much is A Million?” The Waco ISD Education Foundation funded a $5,000 grant to West Avenue Elementary that enabled the school to bring the author to its campus.

**WAL-MART SUPPORTS WACO ISD TEACHERS**

A group of ten teachers at Meadowbrook Elementary each received a $100 Walmart gift card from the local Walmart store on Franklin Avenue in Waco through the Wal-Mart Teacher Rewards program. The donated gift cards enabled teachers’ to purchase classroom and school-related supplies. Ten teachers at Brook Avenue Elementary received the same gift from the Waco Walmart Distribution Center earlier in the year.

**WHO WILL BUILD THE BEST ROBOT?**

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, students representing three Waco ISD high schools put their knowledge of engineering to the test at the Heart of Texas BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology), a head-to-head robotics competition in which students displayed their creativity, ingenuity, design and math skills. The student teams from A.J. Moore Academy, University High and Waco High also competed against other Central Texas high schools as they tried to advance to the Texas BEST Regional Robotics Championship on November 19 and 20 at the University of North Texas in Denton.

**WACO ISD BANDS MARCH TO VICTORIES**

For the first time ever, both Waco ISD high school bands earned Superior ratings in the same year at the UIL Region 8 Marching Band Contest. For Waco High, it is becoming old hat, while for University High, it is a long-awaited return to the top.

**SUCCESS IN TROJAN LAND**

University High School had not scored
a top rating since 1998, when its Band Director Archie Hatten IV was a trumpet player in the Trojan Band. In recent years, the band known as “The Proud of the Southside” has increased from a mere 40 students to more than 140 musicians, with many more awaiting their turn at three middle schools.

LION PRIDE CONTINUES

Waco High School received its second Superior rating in a row and sixth in the last seven years. In addition to its success in UIL competition, the Lion Pride, under the direction of Scott Stulir, also earned a United States Scholastic Band Association Texas State Championship this fall.

UHS SOPHOMORE EARN S BERTH IN CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL

Juan Salas, a sophomore at University High, recorded a ninth-place finish at the District 8-4A meet in Killeen to earn a spot in the Region 1 meet in Lubbock on November 6.

3RD ANNUAL EDUCATION SUMMIT RAISES AWARENESS OF EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Third Annual Greater Waco Community Education Alliance Education Summit was held at the Waco Convention Center and featured two days of break-out sessions covering a variety of educational topics and issues. Featured keynote speakers were Rick Stephens, Sr., vice president human resources and administration, The Boeing Company, and Elaine Scott, Future Workforce Strategist, Birth2Work.

BOOK DONATION ENHANCES LITERACY PROGRAM AT HINES

The largest book club in America, PaperBackSwap.com, donated 1,500 books to J.H. Hines Elementary School. PaperBackSwap.com (PBS), is based in Atlanta GA. It is a free online book club where members swap books for only the cost of postage. Janet Bassi, counselor at J.H. Hines Elementary, is a member of the book club and through her membership, she applied to the book donation program on behalf of the school.
STUDENTS HELP CREATE A SAFER SCHOOLS
To help students learn nonviolent communication and intervention skills to stop bullying and violence among their peers, approximately 50 Waco High students continued the intensive two-day training program that teaches students to become "Safe Schools Ambassadors." The program is offered through Community Matters, a national nonprofit organization based in California. This is the second year for Waco High School students to participate in the program.

WACO ISD STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM
Five Waco ISD students recently received notification of their qualification in the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarship that began in 1955. University High students Essence Stowe and Alexis Thornton were recognized as Commended Students in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Two Waco High seniors, Alex Atkins and Fernando Ramirez, along with University High senior Santiago Vallejo qualified for the National Hispanic Recognition Program. This program identifies nearly 5,000 Hispanic/Latino students each year from more than 200,000 juniors in the United States and US territories.

RECORD NUMBER QUALIFY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL-REGION BANDS
One out of every four students on the Region 8 Middle School Symphonic Band and one out of every three students on the Region 8 Middle School Concert Band is from the Waco Independent School District. These two facts alone indicate a strong and growing middle school band program throughout the District. This year, a record 39 Waco ISD students qualified for the all-region middle school bands. The students represented University Middle, Cesar Chavez Middle, Brazos Middle, Tennyson Middle and G.W. Carver Academy.
UNIVERSITY STUDENT WINS VFW ESSAY CONTEST

Essence Stowe, a senior at University High School, won the "Voice of Democracy" essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Mart. As a result, she received a beautiful plaque and a $300 scholarship check. Her essay then advanced to district level competition along with the writings of 23 other students. Essence won second place at the district level. Her prize included an additional plaque and $300 check.

UNIVERSITY HIGH TEACHER HONORED BY TSTC

Karen Baier, a teacher at University High, was honored by Texas State Technical College as the TSTC Teacher of the Year for the college readiness program and financial aid seminars that she offers her students. Karen started the University High Crime Stoppers program, and has served as the coordinator of Crime Stoppers, an award-winning high school program, with over 20 years of “best in Texas.”

WACO HIGH BASS CLARINETIST MAKES ALL-STATE BAND

Waco High Band student Fernando Ramirez, a senior, placed first in the entire area and earned a seat the 2011 Texas 4A All-State Symphonic Band at the TMEA convention in February.

PURCHASING DIRECTOR NETS PRESTIGIOUS CREDENTIALS

Sherry Smith, Director of Purchasing for Waco ISD, completed the necessary requirements to earn the designation of Certified Texas School Business Official. The certification requires specialization in the areas of accounting, purchasing, supply management and risk management. The certification process offers school business officials an opportunity to expand their professional knowledge base and to seek excellence in their profession. The program helps individuals stay current on the ever-changing state and federal laws and provides those with the credentials a
competitive edge in the education community. Maintaining the certification requires a minimum of 60 hours of continuing education every three years.

**AJM STEEL DRUM BAND SUCCESS AT UIL REGIONAL COMPETITION**

A.J. Moore Academy’s two steel drum bands received 1st Division ratings at the UIL Region 8 Solo and Ensemble contests on Saturday, Feb. 19. The Band Director is David Middlebrook.

**SKILLSUSA COMPETITORS ARE STATE BOUND**

Eight Waco High School students advanced to the state competition after their success at the District 6 SkillsUSA printing and imaging contest hosted by Texas State Technical College. SkillsUSA is a non-profit youth organization that facilitates trade and industry education. Students develop essential skills to gain a competitive edge in the work force.

**TWENTY-EIGHT STUDENTS COMPETE AT TEXAS HISTORY DAY**

Twenty-eight students representing five Waco ISD campuses earned a trip to Texas History Day after a successful showing at the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair at Baylor University on February 11. History fair competitors qualify for the state meet by placing first or second at the regional fair. Sending the most students to state from the Heart of Texas Region resulted in sweepstakes awards for Lake Air teacher Marianne Heller and Waco High Teachers Courtney Copas, Kenneth Heller, Neil Shanks and Nicholas Davoust.

**WACO HIGH COMPETE AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY**

The Waco High team of Jordan Blair, Kristen Chapman, Reed Cooper, and Stefan White won first-place at the Texas History Day state competition and will be representing Waco at the National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland in June. Their senior group performance called, "The Scopes Monkey Trial: A Debate at Dayton," documented the famous American legal case in 1925, The State of Tennessee v. Scopes, in which a high school biology teacher, John Scopes, was accused of violating the state’s Butler Act that made it unlawful to teach evolution.
A.J. Moore Academy, a magnet high school in Waco ISD, is one of seven National Academy Foundation academies from across the nation to be designated as a Distinguished Academy. The National Academy Foundation (NAF) is an acclaimed national network of high school career academies predominately based in urban districts using the schools-within-schools concept.

Last year, A.J. Moore Academy served 657 students, graduating just over 98 percent of its students; of which 56 percent were considered to be "at risk" and 84 percent were considered "economically disadvantaged." To earn the "Distinguished Academy" designation, A.J. Moore Academy participated in a self-assessment review process, followed by a site visit from members of the National Academy Foundation research and evaluation team.

A.J. Moore Academy demonstrated best practices in a number of areas, including academy development, advisory board, curriculum and instruction and work-based learning.

WACO ISD TEACHERS RECEIVE KWTX GOLDEN APPLES

In one week, two Waco ISD teachers received KWTX Golden Apple Awards: Sul Ross Elementary Second-Grade Teacher Jennifer Drummond and Waco High Math Teacher Mark Pietka.

WACO ISD PURCHASING DEPARTMENT HONORED BY TASBO

The Waco ISD Purchasing Department received the Texas Association of School Business Officials “Award of Merit” for Purchasing and Operations for the third consecutive year, and the second year to earn the award with "recognized" status, demonstrating Waco ISD’s commitment to fiscal responsibility. The award is provided to school districts and Education Service Centers statewide that are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. Waco ISD was recognized by TASBO on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Second General Session of the 65th Annual Conference in Austin. In determining the Award of Merit designees, TASBO reviewed various procedures and practices including: organization, policies and procedures, contract opera-
tions, staff training and certification, p-card systems (if applicable), ware-
housing, use of technology, communi-
cation and management of co-operative programs.

**WHS MOCK TRIAL TEAM IS A CONSISTENT WINNER**

The Waco High Mock Trial Team won eighth-place out of 24 teams from across the state at the annual Texas State Mock Trial Competition held in Dallas and sponsored by the State Bar Association. After 30 appearances at the regional completion, it was the tenth time for Waco High to win the regional trophy, this year defeating Midway High before advancing to state. Jason Dalrymple is the mock trial coach at Waco High.

**WACO ISD RECEIVES MULTIPLE "STAR AWARDS"**

The District received multiple "Star Awards" at the 2011 Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) annual conference held this year in Arlington. TSPRA annually recognizes school communicators for outstanding work in both print and electronic media. This year, there were 1,076 entries from across the state of Texas. Of those, 91 earned Best of Category. There were 616 Gold Stars and 262 Silver Stars awarded this year. Waco ISD received three Best of Category award, 11 Gold Star awards and four Silver Star awards for excellence in school communications by the Texas School Public Relations Association.

**HONORING ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS**

Academic Achievers at A.J. Moore Academy, University High and Waco High were honored at the annual Waco ISD Academic Achievers banquet on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at the Waco Convention Center. The guest speaker was Grant Teaff, former football coach at Baylor University and currently the executive director of the American Football Coaches Association. Waco ISD Academic Achievers are 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 96.5. Each of these dedicated students received a letter jacket, school letter or certificate for their accomplishment. This year, 187 students were recognized at the banquet. Each student was accompanied by his or her parents, along with a guest educator.
Heat of the Kitchen Teaches a Life Lesson

Child Nutrition Services and Sodexo hosted the third annual Kid’s Culinary Competition with 34 contestants from six local school district, that included: China Spring, Connally, LaVega, Lorena, Robinson and Waco. Four Waco ISD schools participated: Alta Vista Montessori, Dean Highland Elementary, Hillcrest PDS and Mountainview Elementary. The contestants were charged with creating healthy, tasty and nutritious after-school snacks that other kids would find appealing. The students had to prepare 100 servings of their snack, decorate a table display and withstand the questioning from multiple judges.

Three Waco ISD Students Honored at State Level in Reflections

The work of three Waco ISD students was judged to be among the best in Texas in the annual PTA Reflections contest. As a result, the products of Alyssa Riggs and Madalyn Moore, fifth-grade students at Lake Waco Montessori, and Abbey King, a first-grade student at Hillcrest PDS, were on display at the State Capitol and other nearby government buildings in Austin this spring. More than 70,000 students participated in the various categories of the Reflections contest this year. Out of those, approximately 900, or 1.2 percent rose to the top. Each year, the PTA Reflections program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. This year’s theme was "Together We Can."

Outstanding Young Citizen

For 31 years, the Rotary Club of Waco and the Waco Tribune-Herald have co-sponsored the Youth Citizenship Awards as a way to honor area students for their academic success and volunteerism. Waco ISD student nominees were: Jose Cordero, University High; David Miller, Waco High; and James Rauhut, A.J. Moore Academy, who was named the 2011 Outstanding Young Citizen. Rauhut, ranked second in his graduating Class of 2011, reorganized the dwindling Key Club on the A.J. Moore Academy campus. Under his student leadership, the club grew from 10 to 35 members and is now widely known throughout Waco and the surrounding area for its volunteer work.
The Key Club of A.J. Moore Academy reached its goal of volunteering more than 1,000 service hours in the Waco community during the 2010-2011 school year. The A.J. Moore Academy Key Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Waco. Key Club members are model students of A.J. Moore Academy, dedicating their time and effort to helping the community and various non-profit organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Keep Waco Beautiful, and the Cameron Park Zoo. The club also helps at numerous charity fundraising events such as Miracle Match Marathon, Race for the Cure, and MudQuest Adventure Run.

WCCPTA SCHOLARSHIP 2011 REPORT
The Waco City Council Parent Teacher Association wrapped up its annual scholarship fund drive on Tuesday, May 3, by honoring the campuses that excelled in the fundraising effort that totaled more than $25,000. Since 1950, the WCCPTA has awarded scholarships totaling approximately $1,200,000 to date. The WCCPTA scholarship program is one of the largest cash scholarships given in Waco ISD. West Avenue Elementary won the “1st Place Elementary Superintendent Award” for having the largest per capita gift of $3.88 and Waco High won the “1st Place Secondary Superintendent Award” for having the largest per capita gift of $5.06.

WEST AVENUE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
West Avenue Elementary is celebrating 10 years of educating children in Waco. The campus held a reception, program and open house on Tuesday, May 10, for parents, partners and the public to join the celebration. West Avenue has earned a Texas Education Agency “recognized” rating for each of the past three years. Andreia Foster is the proud principal of the campus that opened its doors in 2001.

WACO ISD’S "ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE KIDS" FOR 2011
On Thursday, May 5, 2011, seven Waco ISD students were honored as "Absolutely Incredible Kids" at the CampFire USA Tejas Council annual banquet. The event honors local students who have demonstrated posi-
tive character traits such as courage, generosity and heroism. Many of the honorees have persevered while facing personal adversities and tragedies. The students honored are: Chris Beheler (A.J. Moore Academy), Conner Castillo (Cedar Ridge Elementary), Nicia Guardiola (Tennyson Middle), James Mazza (Waco High), Alexis Rodriguez (Cesar Chavez Middle), Sarah Stewart (Mountainview Elementary), and Aranzazu Torres (University High).

**STUDENT CHOICE AWARD**

Elisha Oliver, Kindergarten teacher at Sul Ross Elementary, received the “Educators Student Choice Award,” a monthly award presented by News Channel 25 and Educators Credit Union that encompasses schools and districts within seven regional areas. To win the award is an honor, especially since the nomination comes from a student.

**WACO ISD WELCOMES DR. CECELIA BOSWELL**

Waco ISD welcomed Dr. Cecelia Boswell as Director of the Advanced Academics Department. Dr. Boswell has served in education for forty years, most recently working as an independent consultant working closely with the Advanced Academics division of the Texas Education Agency to develop a variety of products including on-line courses for educators of Gifted and Talented students. She also has worked as a researcher for Texas International Baccalaureate Schools. She has served as President of the Texas Association for Gifted Talented where she also served as Region 14 director, president-elect, and immediate past president on their Executive Board of Directors as well as chair of that association’s research committee.

**CEDAR RIDGE STUDENTS GET BLITZED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TAKS**

Baylor Bears quarterback Robert Griffin III dropped in on Cedar Ridge Elementary to speak at a pep rally, offering a blitz of encouraging words for the cheering students. Conner Castillo, a first-grader with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, was one of many Cedar Ridge students excited about their visitor.
UNIVERSITY HIGH STUDENTS RECEIVE A SOBERING MESSAGE
In an effort to raise awareness of traffic crashes involving alcohol, University High hosted Shattered Dreams, a dramatization of an alcohol-related car crash and its tragic aftermath. The program involved numerous emergency and crisis response agencies, including: the Waco Fire Department, Waco Police Department, East Texas Medical Services, Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, Providence Medical Center, McLennan County Sheriff’s Department and others.

A.J. MOORE ACADEMY AWARDS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS
The A.J. Moore Academy Business Advisory Board hosted the school’s second annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 3 at Scottish Rite Hall. The Board awarded $12,000 in scholarships to 16 A.J. Moore Academy seniors. Former Major League Baseball outfielder Darryl Hamilton served as the keynote speaker for the event.

PRE-K TEACHERS SWEEP STATE
Three Waco ISD Teachers, Kristen Pliscott at J.H. Hines Elementary and

Alison Davis and Teresa Alanis at Dean Highland Elementary, were the only three teachers named by the state for a prestigious award from the University of Texas Health Science Center’s Children’s Learning Institute. The teachers participated in a curriculum development contest sponsored by the Children’s Learning Institute called, "Developing Talkers: Pre-K and Hablemos Juntos."

MORE CHOICES FOR AVID READERS
Students at Sul Ross Elementary now have a wider selection of books to choose from thanks to a donation from the local chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. With a grant from the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, the organization was able to purchase $500 worth of new books for the young readers.
PARENTS, STUDENTS TRANSITION TOGETHER
Families enrolled in Waco ISD's Parents as Teachers program "walked across the stage" together during the 2011 Parents as Teachers/Even Start Transition Ceremony on Thursday, May 19 at the WISD Playhouse. The 23 three-, four- and five-year-old children who, along with their parents, successfully completed the program are now ready to make a successful transition from home to school. The Waco ISD Parents as Teachers program serves children from birth to five-years of age.

COLLEGE-BOUND
Sixteen seniors involved in athletics at Waco High and three students at University High will have an opportunity to continue participating in their sport at the college level. On Tuesday, May 24, the athletes along with their coaches, parents, family and classmates gathered at their respective schools to sign letters of intent.

MOUNTAINVIEW CELEBRATES IB AUTHORIZATION
Mountainview Elementary celebrated its authorization as an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school on Monday, May 23 in the school's cafeteria with a program, hot dog supper and open house. The school received notification of its authorization to teach the IB-PYP curriculum, the completion of a three-year process that involved extensive specialized training for Mountainview teachers and administrators. A team of IB professionals visited Mountainview for the final step in the accreditation process.

WACO HIGH BAND
Twelve members of the Waco High Lion Pride Band competed at the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest. They included Helen Hoover, Nathan Wells, Andrew Wells, Larry Howard, Tiana Robinson, Olan Blount, Erik Kranz, Jordan Blair, Zachary Nelson, Sterling Long, Andrew Brenner, and Kurt Kranz.
WACO ISD OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL 2010-2011
Mountainview Principal Dr. Bill Shepard was named Waco ISD Principal of the Year during the Waco ISD Board of Trustees meeting on May 19.

UNIVERSITY HIGH MUSICIANS COMPETE WELL AT UIL STATE CONTEST
Several members of the ever-improving University High Trojan Band brought home one "superior" and four "excellent" ratings from the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest on May 28. Dominic Deleon (Keyboard Percussion solo) became the first student to make a first division at State for University High School since the 1990s. This is quite remarkable considering that Dominic is only a sophomore and a first-time band member.

LAKE WACO TEACHER WINS BIG BUCKS FROM FEBREZE
Jo Lackey, a Life Skills teacher at Lake Waco Montessori, won the Febreze Teacher of the Year Award, an honor that came with a $5,000 grand prize. In April, parents from throughout the country were urged to visit the Febreze Facebook page to nominate teachers who bring a gift of "freshness" into the life of children. Lake Waco Montessori parent Melissa Mays wrote an inspiring commentary about her child’s teacher which was chosen from more than 17-thousand entries.

WACO HIGH SINGERS COMPETE AT STATE UIL CONTEST
The Waco High School Choral Department took nine soloists and one ensemble to the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest during Memorial Day weekend. Of the 12 students who made the trip, four received First Division ratings (Superior) and another four received Second Division ratings (Excellent) on their solos. The Choir Director is Carrie Forehand.

First Division: Jessica Nicholson, freshman; Maya Davis, sophomore; Matthew Reynolds, sophomore; and
John Salvesen, senior. Second Division: Ryan Richards, sophomore; Helen Hoover, junior; Skylyr Smallwood, junior; and Taylor Gersbach, senior.

COMMUNITY EVENT ON CHILD SUCCESS

Waco ISD co-sponsored a free community event with The Greater Waco Community Education Alliance on June 27 and 28. The Community Event on Child Success was headlined by Ruby Payne consultant Dr. Rita Pierson, an educator and counselor since 1972, who spoke on Engaging Parents, giving tips and strategies on practical parenting, parent-child communication, discipline and encouraging children's academic success.

WACO ISD COUNSELOR WINS STATE AWARD

Sharon Hetherington, coordinator of counseling for Waco ISD, was named the Career Technology Association of Texas (CTAT) Area 4 Representative for "Guidance Educator of the Year" at the Texas Career Education Conference in Dallas on July 19, 2011, and will advance to the national Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) award program level. Hetherington has been with Waco ISD for the past 31 years, serving as a homemaking teacher at University High, a department chair in the Career and Technical Education program at University High, and as a district-level career counselor.

UMS GREEN BUILDERS WIN SECOND PLACE IN COMPETITION

A group of students called the University Middle School Green Builders recently competed in the Future School Design Competition in Houston. The competition challenged the students to design a school building of the future and incorporate green technology into their design. The team earned second place and a $250 prize. The students were assisted by Kerri Ranny of PBK Architects. The students are: Ellen Coleman, Austin Deleon, Emanuel Lopez, Lyssette Ortiz, and Gabrielle Smith. Their teachers are: Mr. Michael Hinton and Mr. Patrick Uptmore.

UNITED WAY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

District employees were recognized for their efforts in the local United Way annual campaign for contributing

Rita Pierson

Sharon Hetherington
a total of $49,049.64 towards the campaign with a Districtwide participation of 72 percent and 16 campuses with 100 percent participation. The United Way Waco ISD staff drive was co-chaired by Mary Senter and David Cartwright. This year, the District ranked seventh-place in local campaigns raising $10,000 or more. Hillcrest PDS won first-place and the Superintendent’s Award.

**TITLE 1 DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

Each year, the Texas Education Agency recognizes Title 1 schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three or more consecutive years. Five of the Waco ISD campuses have received Title 1 Distinguished Performance Awards: Hillcrest PDS, Kendrick Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Parkdale Elementary, and Viking Hills Elementary.

**GOLF HISTORY**

Waco High golfer, Katherine Alford, advanced to the Region III tournament this spring after her sixth-place medallist finish at the District 8-4A Tournament in San Angelo, Texas. Katherine, a two-time academic achiever, is the first female golfer in Waco High history to advance to regional competition.

**HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR KENDRICK STUDENTS**

At Kendrick Elementary, the entire fifth-grade class, all 68 students, passed all portions of the state achievement test on the first attempt. Also of note, one fifth-grade student, Sergio Avina, received a special award for having perfect attendance, never missing a day of school from first-grade through fifth-grade.

**MUSIC FESTIVAL BRINGS 150 VOICES TOGETHER**

The 16th annual Children’s Music Festival brought together a 150-voice choir featuring fourth- and fifth-grade students who represented 14 Waco ISD campuses. Parents, family members and teachers filled the Waco High Richfield Performing Arts Center for the special occasion. The concert, directed by Katie Forbis, also featured a 22-instrument Orff ensemble led by Parkdale Elementary music specialist, Lorie Crowder. The Orff ensemble was comprised of fifth-grade students from eight Waco ISD campuses.