



REAL INNOVATION. LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY.

HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

By April Cunningham

Introducing Inaugural Hebron High School Hall of Fame Class

Hebron High School, which officially opened its doors in 1999, is thrilled to announce its inaugural Hall of Fame class. This first class celebrates distinguished former Hawks, both students, and staff, who represent the heart and pride of Hebron as well as left an indelible impression on the school. These Hawks were nominated and then selected by a committee of Hebron teachers and community members. The inductees, who were announced March 14, are as follows:

Jesse Iwuji, Class of 2005:

A former football and track standout, Iwuji also excelled in the classroom and was a leader on campus while at Hebron. His academic and athletic accomplishments earned him a coveted spot at the US Naval Academy, where he continued playing the two sports. Upon graduation, Iwuji served two Arabian Gulf deployments. Today, Iwuji is a NASCAR driver, the first US Naval Officer, and US Naval Academy graduate to compete in NASCAR. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Iwuji, who is committed to serving others and always ready to lend a hand, once saved a family of four before their disabled vehicle burst into flames. When he's not racing, Iwuji finds time to return home to LISD to make appearances in the community.

Samuel Freeman, Class of 2005:

Goal-oriented and a person of integrity are how those closest to Freeman describe him. Freeman, who again

SUPERINTENDENT NOTE



LISD Alumni,

It's hard to believe, but spring is here! I hope you are enjoying the sun and warmer temperatures as much as I am. For those of us in education, spring also means we're almost to the finish line for the 2020-21 school year!

Since the last newsletter, much has happened across the district. This semester, as many of you likely experienced, we were hit by a historic winter storm resulting in four days of school closures. While several campuses sustained various levels of damage, thanks to the dedication and outstanding work of several district teams, we were quickly able to resume normal operations. I hope you and yours are also doing well following the unprecedented storm.

Speaking of campuses, a few bond-funded facility projects have recently been completed. In February, Hebron High School opened the doors to its new state-of-the-art multipurpose facility, just in time for the final home basketball games of the season. If you haven't driven by The Colony High School recently, you may not recognize it! The front entrance received a much-needed refresh and is completely reconfigured and updated. The new elementary school on Josey Lane on the east side of the district is also on track to open this fall as the LISD STEM Academy at Memorial Elementary.

I hope you enjoy the stories and updates in this edition of the alumni newsletter. For those of you new to the Student Alumni Association, I want to thank you for joining and welcome you back home.

Kevin Rogers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Lewisville ISD

LISD COVID PROTOCOLS

By April Cunningham



Keeping LISD Safe in a Global Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closures of schools across the state and nation, including Lewisville ISD last March, there were many unknowns. School districts pivoted to remote learning, not knowing if it would be temporary or if this learning would trickle into the new school year. LISD, committed to the academic and personal success of its students, planned to be ready for any situation.

As dynamics began to change over the summer with many businesses reopening and people returning to work, the district offered families two choices for their student's learning — in-person or virtual learning. However, knowing in a district of 50,000 students that many families would opt for in-person learning, LISD was prepared to go above and beyond to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

In late July, LISD announced an Aug. 19 start date with temporary remote learning until Sept. 8, when school doors would open to students for the first time in months. District and campus administration spent the entire summer break planning and preparing for the return of students and staff to the classroom. "I can say one thing without a doubt, the health and safety of our students, families, staff, and communities are at the heart of every choice we make," LISD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Rogers said in a video message to families before the school year began. "We have spent millions of dollars to ensure students and staff can return safely such as the purchase of additional personal protective equipment, desk shields for classrooms and teachers, purchase of specialized machines to deep clean our facilities daily, and the list goes on."

The list did go on. From sanitization stations to directional signage and floor clings, many protective measures were implemented. The district also announced it would enter the school year at "Level Orange," where it remains today. Operating at Level Orange means face coverings for all, no outside campus visitors, limited gatherings, social distancing requirements, and more. Attendance is also capped at district sporting events. While more restrictive, the mitigation efforts mean the school can go on as thousands of students attend classes on campus each day.

"I feel that our staff and students have done a tremendous job of implementing and following safety guidelines in the classroom and around the building," said Amanda Werneke, Principal of Hebron High School 9th Grade Campus in Carrollton. "From room arrangements to mask-wearing to directional traffic flows around the building to sanitizing between classes and lunches, our school community has shown a commitment to keeping everyone safe inside the school building. These procedures have become part of our new normal, and I am proud of the care and concern for others demonstrated daily."

She added, "These safety measures have allowed for us to focus on learning and teaching inside classrooms and beyond." Students, while not quite the school year they hoped for, are appreciative to be back on campus learning and seeing friends with their health and safety at the forefront of district and campus leadership's minds.

"The district's Level Orange protocols allowed us the chance to have the in-person experience while keeping us safe with social distancing and mask-wearing," Lewisville High School senior Erin Bonehill said. "We have been limited by what we're able to do like football games and the parade, which is a bummer, but it helps keep us safe and is for the overall good of the community."

Although LISD, along with many other districts across Dallas-Fort Worth, has experienced higher COVID case numbers from time to time, thanks to the mitigation efforts through the various protection measures and protocols, the district has only had to temporarily transition four campuses of 68 to remote learning.

"Because of the thought through and collaborative decision making of the district leadership and Board of Trustees, I am confident our students and staff have remained safe from most ills of the pandemic due to the daily wearing of face coverings and use of individual desk shields, which contributed to a thriving learning environment for all in-person students," said Tim Greenwell, Principal of Liberty Elementary School in Flower Mound.

Today, while in-person learning is still not taking place at many schools around the country, LISD is looking ahead to May commencement. Recognizing the Class of 2021 and reflecting on a school year wasn't always easy, but still had much to celebrate and commemorate. LISD does not yet know what the future will hold but hopes to return to a more typical school year in the fall. One thing is for certain, the district, as always, remains committed to its top priority — the safety and well-being of students and staff.

INCUBATOREDU ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM



Lewisville ISD is excited to expand our INCubatoredu entrepreneurship program to The Colony High School in the Fall. INCubatoredu has been at Lewisville High School for three years now and we have seen great success with students starting businesses while learning valuable business concepts along the way.

With the program launching this fall, we are looking for volunteers who can help with the program at The Colony High School.

If you are an entrepreneur, we would love to have you mentor a student group. Mentors work with students throughout the school year as they launch their business and ultimately seek funding in a “Shark Tank” style pitch. The mentors meet with their student groups weekly either virtually (or hopefully) in person.

The program also has Coaches who come in as subject matter experts throughout the year. Coaches are assigned a topic, provided with a “lesson plan” of what to cover, but use their own expertise to teach the class. Coaching lessons are everything from the legal aspects of starting a business to how to market your business and everything in between.

If you want to learn more about either of these important volunteer roles, please reach out to **TCHSINCubator@lisd.net**. We will be happy to connect with you and tell you more about the program and how to get involved.

LISD PODCAST COMING SOON

Earlier this year, when discussing ways to showcase the great student learning experiences Lewisville ISD has to offer families, the district toyed around with the idea of a podcast. Well, that idea will soon become a reality.

“Although it may resemble a traditional podcast, our episodes will be taped in advance,” Bill Lee, LISD Marketing Director, said. “The first few episodes will likely be produced in this manner, but it is possible future episodes could be live.”

The premiere episode, which was filmed and produced by LISD high school students, was recorded in late March with distribution scheduled sometime in April. The monthly podcast will be available on LISD’s YouTube channel as well as the district’s websites, LISD.net and bestschoolsintexas.com. It is possible future episodes could be live. Listeners can expect two LISD guests per show as each guest highlights and discusses their respective department’s specialties.



The first show features two popular topics in education — pre-kindergarten and career and technical education.

In the first half of the podcast, LISD Director of Early Childhood Education, Heidi Veal, focuses on the district's pre-k offerings and how they stand out from area competition. From the quality of teachers to the daily activities, to the LISD culture of excellence, LISD's highly-rated pre-k program offers students an early childhood experience of a lifetime.

The second segment of the podcast is recorded at the audio and visual production studios within Technology Exploration and Career Center-West, the district's new, state-of-the-art facility. It was fitting to have TECC-W Director Justin Gilbreath serve as the second guest. In the episode, Gilbreath shares the 18 professional career courses offered at the center, along with how students and parents can determine if an LISD career center is a good fit for their family.

According to Lee, who regularly speaks throughout Denton County about the benefits of LISD, the podcast's content revolves around more than 20 major "components of success" that the district provides that families may not find at other schools of choice. For future podcast episodes, Lee plans to include guests who represent these "components of success" departments and programs.

"I want to continue to ensure the public knows and hears about the great things happening in LISD," Lee said. "The district is committed to providing students the best opportunities to thrive."



Araceli Castillo
Class of 2015, LEF Scholarship Recipient

"Every small amount, every scholarship that a student earns, especially a first year student that maybe doesn't have a constant support system or is feeling like going to school is so out of their reach, **matters.**"



BUILDING A LIFELONG COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Araceli Castillo, 2015 graduate of LHS, was awarded the Doug Killough Honorary Scholarship through the Lewisville ISD Education Foundation's scholarship program.

"Honestly, the scholarship helped me appreciate everything I have. Thanks to the support of LEF and LISD, I was able to fight for my dreams and continue my education." Castillo is one of many students and teachers impacted by LEF's mission to fund scholarships and grants through private philanthropy. Since 1990, LEF has given back more than \$5 million to LISD.

Join LEF's community of public education advocates and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of countless teachers and students at LISDEF.com



Every \$25 donated helps a student start the school year with a new backpack, supplies and more!
Learn more and how to become a sponsor at LISD.net/BacktoSchoolFair.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR



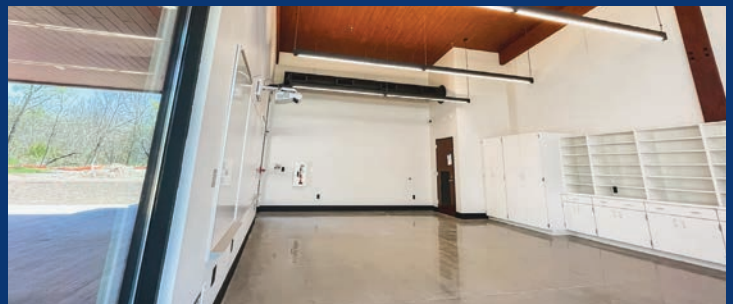
LISDOLA FACILITY UPDATE



Finish Line Near for the New LISD Outdoor Learning Area

Did you know Lewisville ISD has 84 acres of land dedicated to environmental learning? In 1995, the U.S. Department of Education supplied LISD with the land, located off of State Highway 121 Business on the south side of Lewisville Lake, to use for outdoor learning. Every year, more than 10,000 students visit the LISD Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA) to receive hands-on learning experiences about topics such as water conservation, animal tracks, soil and also enjoy the many nature trails the area has to offer. Soon, the LISDOLA learning experience will be enhanced.

In 2017, LISD voters passed a bond referendum that included a new structure for LISDOLA. Construction on the new structure has made great strides this spring, with the finish line becoming closer each day. The future learning facility will feature both outdoor and indoor spaces for students to get a unique, hands-on learning experience. The new learning center is on track to open this year.



ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER

By Art Young

After talk-show host, Drew Barrymore introduced her viewers to the story of the “Good Deed” Grocery Store that opened in the Linda Tutt High School in Sanger, Texas, Principal Charde Dockery of DeLay Middle School in the Lewisville Independent School District knew this concept would be a great addition to her school’s mission. Drew was delighted to learn that one good deed, led to another.

They Don’t Accept Money at the Good Deed Grocery Store



The concept of the Good Deed Grocery Store is simple. It’s a grocery store located within the walls of the school, where students can buy fresh, healthy food for themselves and their families. The unique twist involves the payment for these goods. Students earn points for exceeding expectations in the classroom, positive mentoring of other students, being a good friend to classmates, and other “good deeds.”

“This is a lofty way to bring out the best in students,” Drew said on her show. “I believe the possibilities for improving the lives of every student with this program are endless! I was overjoyed to learn that the original Good Deed Grocery Store had spawned another store in Lewisville.” This gave Drew the opportunity for an inspirational follow-up story. She also used this to do a few good deeds herself.

“About 90 percent of our students are economically disadvantaged,” she said. “Most don’t have access to fresh food and rely on our school district for lower cost or free food for lunch. Their neighborhoods are often stressful and there is little time for learning about kindness, leadership and other critical aspects to becoming a successful adult.”

A Passion for ALL Students

“About 90 percent of our students are economically disadvantaged,” she said. “Most don’t have access to fresh food and rely on our school district for lower cost or free food for lunch. Their neighborhoods are often stressful and there is little time for learning about kindness, leadership, and other critical aspects to become a successful adult.”

Ms. Dockery, who saw the original “Drew Gooders” feature, introduced the concept of the Good Deed Grocery Store, because she knew that it could dramatically impact her students and their parents. With help and encouragement from the LISD leadership, she opened a Good Deed Grocery Store in DeLay Middle School.

But Wait, There’s More

Like all good stories, this one has a fabulous ending. After interviewing principal Dockery, Drew introduced Catherine Oliveros, the vice-president of Community Health Improvement at Texas Health Resources, one of the largest healthcare systems in North Texas.

To the surprise and delight of the studio audience, millions who were watching, and the forward-thinking LISD principal, Ms. Oliveros announced that the healthcare system, in partnership with Albertson’s food stores, would donate \$30,000 to the Good Deed Grocery Store. While the crowd was still applauding, Drew announced that one of the show’s sponsors, “Omaha Steaks,” would also donate another \$10,000 to the store and supply \$4,000 worth of steak snacks to the students.

Public schools like DeLay Middle School have the resources and mission to teach the whole child. Exemplary academics are critical to the future success of students and so too are lessons in kindness. Congratulations to principal Dockery for being a steward of both!

To view the complete Drew Barrymore feature on the Good Deeds Grocery Store, visit here:



HOW ONE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SENT THIS YOUNG MAN ON HIS WAY!

For many people, it might take many years to decide their life's calling - their true, un-abiding passion. In the case of Vincent Walford, he knew what he wanted to do in the future when he was in high school. His laser focus and help from some great teachers are the two reasons his colleagues and clients now address him as "Dr. Walford."

In 2001, his senior year at Lewisville High School, this highly motivated, intelligent young man knew he wanted to help others as a practicing psychologist. Fortunately for Vincent, LISD was one of the few public schools that offered a class in that very subject. He took the course, and this cemented his ambitious goal. He was on his way.

Vincent's impressive grades, participation in extracurricular activities (including being named Homecoming King), and solid work ethic enabled him to be accepted by Baylor University. Here he continued to blossom, earning a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH), with an emphasis on health education and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. He is now in private practice.

"I am sometimes asked by students what they should do to realize their ambitions," Dr. Walford said. "I say to start by being more engaged with your teachers and counselors. They are there for a reason. They are there to help you succeed!"

"High school is a great time to find your voice, to find what you're interested in. However, you should also realize that 5 or 10 years down the road, your interests might change and that's okay."

Dr. Walford knows how important his time was in LISD. With its broad range of subjects offered, world-class teachers, and the district's commitment to helping every child, no matter what profession he or she is drawn to, this public school has the resources to make dreams come true. Just ask Dr. Vincent Walford.

To view this interview, visit: www.BestSchoolsInTexas.com



DID YOU Know?



LISD has graduated 29 students (thus far) with associate degrees from our collegiate academy located at The Colony High School.

The LISD STEM academy has been recognized nationally and is now in 5 of our elementary schools.

LISD serves more than 50,000 students at 68 campuses spread across 127 sq. miles and 13 communities.

LISD has a 95.7% graduation rate.

LISD has 59 national merit finalists for the 2020-21 school year.

CONTACT US

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Don't forget to check out www.bestschoolsintexas.com/the-loop/ for the most recent and all past editions of The Loop, LISD's seasonal magazine highlighting great stories from within the district.