

**Board Recognition**  
**February 22, 2022**

**Texas Music Educators Association All-State**

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) is an organization of more than 12,000 school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. Each year through an audition process, TMEA selects the best musicians in their respective groups: band, choir, orchestra and jazz ensemble.

The following nine students have been honored as the recipients of All-State honors for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Braswell High Band**

Aidan Evano, All-State Jazz Ensemble 2 Trumpet  
*Directors: Aaron Snipes III, Taylor Sitzman and Alan Miller*

**Denton High Band**

Caleb Harold, 5A All-State Band Horn  
Marco Illari, 5A All-State Band Horn  
*Directors: Brian Wilson, Jesse Woolery and Phillip Elder*

**Denton High Choir**

Margaret Nicholson, All-State Mixed Choir Alto 2  
*Directors: Kaitlyn Candler and Emilio Sanchez*

**Guyer High Choir**

Claire Gillman, All-State Mixed Choir Soprano 2  
Luke Knittle, All-State Mixed Choir Bass 2  
*Directors: Katherine Engle and Tyler Fox*

**Guyer High Orchestra**

Sofia D'Aquilio, All-State Orchestra Harp  
Audrey Lee, All-State Orchestra Violin 1  
Christian Luevano, All-State Orchestra String Bass  
*Directors: Michelle Hanlon and Sarah Wright*

**Ryan High Band**

Rafael Gonzalez, 5A All-State Band Clarinet  
Cooper Randolph, 5A All-State Band Contrabass Clarinet  
*Directors: Mary Brown, Jarrod Beard and Frank Chapple*

*Assistant Director of Fine Arts Eddy Russell will be on hand to make the presentation.*

**Community Spotlight – Rotary Club**

Each year the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses and organizations for their support and exceptional advocacy of local schools. This state-wide honor, as part of “Stand Up for Texas Public Schools,” recognizes local businesses and community

organizations who partner with districts, making a difference in the lives of local public-school students.

The Denton – Lake Cities Rotary Club focuses its work in three areas: connect, engage and transform. They have taken each of these three aims to heart when supporting and partnering with Denton ISD.

First, they often reach out to invite district leadership and administrators to present on a variety of topics, keeping their members connected to the district and in tune with the growth and direction of Denton ISD.

Recently, the Denton - Lake Cities Rotary Club has been an integral part of the Denton Back to School Fair, assisting with raising funds for school supplies, organizing the supplies for the fair and providing volunteers for the large event, from which many of our families have benefited. In addition, they've also helped sponsor and support the Interact Club at Fred Moore High School, engaging the students in service projects and leadership activities. They've lent their expertise in career presentations to Denton High and LaGrone ATC, among others.

As the Club strives to make a lasting impact on both students and staff, they've focused on a few key areas to transform lives. For more than a decade, every third grader in Denton ISD has received a dictionary - and for some students, this may have been the first book they've ever owned and many often take the dictionaries with them to college as the years progress.

Finally, for the past two years, the Denton – Lake Cities Rotary Club has been a Diamond Level Adopt-A-School District Partner and earmarked their donations to go directly to grants to new Denton ISD teachers to enhance their classrooms. They firmly believe in supporting and sponsoring our newest educators and helping them start their first year in our district on the right note.

The organization's motto is "Small enough to care, Big enough to make a difference." The difference they've made for Denton ISD's students and staff is why we are honoring them as this month's business spotlight.

*President John Smyers, Treasurer Darhyl Ramsey and International Chair Cathy Henderson will be on hand to accept this award.*

## **School Board Appreciation 2022**

The task of educating more than 5.4 million Texas students can seem overwhelming. The idea of 5.4 million young minds relying on local citizens to provide what they will need to succeed in their ever-unfolding future can feel insurmountable.

While educating children may not be rocket science, it is a complex, demanding responsibility: ensuring that schools are available, qualified teachers are in place, buildings are safe, and resources are provided. It's a responsibility that locally elected board members generously accept. They commit to read reports, learn the laws, understand the community's needs, set thoughtful goals, and wisely handle the district's financial resources.

Serving as a locally elected board member means going through an election and making difficult decisions for the district, more specifically its employees, and its children. It means

being available to hear from concerned parents in the grocery store, at the game, or over the backyard fence. It means committing the time it takes to do the job right. And in Texas there is no pay for school board members, and there are required training requirements, creating further demands on their time.

Fortunately, in Denton ISD, a group of caring adults have signed on for the responsibility and accept the hard work of making our schools the best they can be. They immerse themselves in learning what they need to know to make good decisions that will provide for students, from the very youngest Pre-K student to the graduating senior. Trustees are public servants who generously work to benefit the most vulnerable members of each community.

Please join us as we celebrate our Board of School Trustees that includes Doug Chadwick, president; Mia Price, vice president; Charles Stafford, secretary; Dr. Jim Alexander, trustee; Barbara Burns, trustee; Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sanchez, trustee; and Sheryl English, trustee.