

THE LAMAR CISD

FACTS

FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES,
CURRICULUM, TEACHERS,
AND STUDENTS

SPRING 2011

Lamar CISD student artists shine at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show

Artworks by four Lamar CISD artists were auctioned off at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show, continuing the District's run of success at the HLSR Show. Results of the auction, March 13, were not available at press time.

In addition to the students going to auction, a painting by Foster High School's Christy Beltz was named Reserve Champion, Non-Auction. Beltz's piece was Grand Champion at the 2011 Lamar CISD Art Show, but was not eligible for auction after being named Grand Champion at the 2010 HLSR Art Show.

The four students advancing to auction were:

- Rhyne Acuff, Terry High School (12th grade) for her mixed media work, "Southern Child." Joan Batts is her teacher. She earned Special Merit at the Lamar CISD Art Show;
- Karrie Cheng, Foster High School (12th grade) for her mixed media work, "Ghost Rider." Kim Henry is her teacher; She earned a Gold Medal at the LCISD Art Show;
- Jennifer Eaves, FHS (11th grade), for her colored drawing, "Cowboy Blue." Kim Henry is her teacher. She earned a Gold Medal at the LCISD Art Show; and
- Morgan Mee, FHS (12th grade) for her colored drawing, "Baby, It's Cold Outside." Henry is her teacher. She earned Special Merit at the LCISD Art Show.

Other results from the Lamar CISD Art Show are:

- Best of Show – Christy Beltz, Foster High School (10th grade), for her painting "Raising Mayhem." Alana Kocich is her teacher;
- Gold Medal – Lindsay Cates FHS, (12th grade) for her sculpture, "The One that Got Away." Henry is her teacher;
- Special Merit – Diem Tran, FHS (10th grade) for her colored drawing, "Misty Blue." Kocich is her teacher
- Special Merit – Jessie Lerch, FHS (12th grade) for her painting, "Rustic Countryside." Henry is her teacher;
- Special Merit – Taylor North, Lamar Consolidated High School (11th grade), for her colored drawing, "One-eyed Jack." Peggy Artripe is her teacher; and
- Special Merit – Skyler Smith, FHS (12th grade) for her mixed media piece, "Texas Born, Texas Bred." Henry is her teacher.

In addition to the 10 high school student artists advancing to HLSR Art Show, two elementary students and two junior high students have their artwork on display at the Rodeo in the Hayloft Gallery.

Best in Show in the Junior High Division went to Briscoe Junior High 8th-grader Sarah Ramirez for her colored drawing "Forgiven, But Forgotten." The Gold Medal went to Amani Halawa, also a Briscoe Junior High School 8th-grader, for her colored drawing "Staring Contest." Audrey Feuge teaches both students.

Best in Show in the Elementary Division went to Hutchison Elementary 4th-grader Christina Zhang for her colored drawing "Texas Life." Karen Downey is her art teacher. The Gold Medal went to Dickenson Elementary 2nd-grader Aarushi Gaikwad, for the colored drawing "Texas Alligator." Victoria Rivas is the art teacher.

The Hayloft Gallery is located in the lobby of Reliant Center, and a second gallery highlighting past champions is located in Reliant Arena.

The HLSR also awards 34 students with a trip to the Western Art Academy summer workshop held in Kerrville. Beltz and North were chosen for the four-week workshop and Acuff is an alternate.

Acuff was also chosen for the Glassell Junior School of Art, which is part of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



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Superintendent's Message

As a native Texan, I know there is almost no such thing as "normal" weather. But this February is one of the strangest stretches of weather I can recall.

As the leader of the administrative team, I can assure you that calling off the school day, or releasing students early, is among the hardest decision to make in the school business. While we think every day in our school calendar is important to the education of our students, we have to weigh that against the safety of those students, as well as the safety of parents and staff.

We work with weather forecasters, emergency personnel at the city and county level and our own transportation team in making a decision in a timely manner. The earlier the decision is made, the easier it is for parents to make the plans needed for dealing with a change of schedule.

As you probably have heard, April 22 will be used as the "make-up" day. State law requires that two "make-up" days are included in the school calendar. A committee puts together the school calendar every year, which gets input from every campus and department. It is then reviewed by the District School Improvement Committee, which is made up of staff, parents and business people. The Board of Trustees approved the 2010-2011 school calendar in January of 2010.

Yes, there is another choice for the make-up day, May 30. The recommendation to go with the April 22nd date is based on two factors: the opportunity to get in another day of instruction before the TAKS tests and the possibility there will be another day of school lost – either through weather or flu, or some other event beyond our control -- before the May 30 date.

Only student and staff holidays can be used as bad weather make-up days. That limits us to April 22, May 30, a Saturday or adding a day in June.

Much like we plan for the weather, the District is also trying to plan for whatever the Texas Legislature decides to do about school financing. And like Texas weather, guessing what the Legislature will do is not an easy chore.

There are so many numbers floating around, it is impossible to make an educated estimate on what will happen to our finances. The financial hit to the schools will probably be less than originally reported, but still significant.

Thanks to prudent planning by our staff and the Board of Trustees, we are in much better financial shape than many of our neighboring districts. I would be speaking "out of school" if I gave you specifics regarding the 2011-2012 budget. There are still too many unknowns and many discussions with staff and the Trustees to be held between now and budget adoption.

However, I can assure you that it is our goal to find budget reductions within the existing budget, without implementing reductions in force, furloughs or pay cuts.

I thank all of you for your continued support of our school children. Every new student that comes to our area is a vote of your confidence in our school district.

Sincerely,

Thomas Randle

Thomas Randle, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Six Lamar CISD campuses recognized as 2010 NCEA Higher Performing Schools



The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA), a department of ACT, Inc., recognized Lamar CISD by naming six schools to the 2010 NCEA Higher Performing Schools List.

Ray Elementary led the way, achieving High Performing status in Math, Science and Writing.

Foster High School was High Performing in Science and Lamar Consolidated High Schools was High Performing in Social Studies.

Both George Junior High and Lamar Junior High were High Performing in Social Studies. Wessendorff Middle School was High Performing in Reading.

The Higher Performing Schools (formerly known as Just for the Kids Schools) are identified by two measures: consistent improvement in student achievement from previous years (growth) and/or absolute student achievement using the school's Commended Performance results on the spring 2010 TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test.

NCEA's higher performing methodology controls for school and student demographics to allow for an apples-to-apples comparison of school achievement and to demonstrate that with the commitment of educators, all schools can have success no matter the zip code.

Four Lamar CISD vocalists earn All-State status



Four Lamar CISD vocalists earned All-State status from the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) and performed at the 2011 TMEA State Conference, February 9-12, in San Antonio.

Terry High School senior Hannah Hausler is a first-time All-State selection to the Women's Choir.

Terry junior Carolyn Castillo is All-State for a second time and is a member of the Mixed Choir.

Foster High School junior Alyana Thomas is also a junior and an All-State selection for the second time, as a member of the Mixed Choir.

Lamar Consolidated High School junior Chika Iguh made All-State for the third time, also as a member of the Mixed Choir.

All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. More than 1,500 students are selected through a process that begins with over 55,000 students from around the state vying for this honor to perform in one of 13 ensembles (bands, orchestras and choirs). This competitive process begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by 28 TMEA Regions.

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Two named National Merit Finalist

One Foster High School student and one Lamar Consolidated High School student were among only 15,000 of the 1.5 million students nationwide to be named National Merit finalists, a designation based on performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The finalists are Foster's Jessie Lerch and Lamar's Albert Chung.

More than 8,000 finalists will be selected as Merit Scholar winners, earning scholarship money and the Merit Scholar title.

National Merit finalists and those who go on to earn the Merit Scholar title will have the opportunity to earn individual scholarships from many corporations, colleges and universities around the nation.



Jessie Lerch



Albert Chung

Project LEARN commended by State

Texas LEARNS, the State Office for Adult Education and Family Literacy, has recognized Lamar CISD's Project LEARN as a Commended Even Start Program for 2009-2010. Commended is the highest rank.

This is the second consecutive year for Project LEARN to be listed as Commended.

All Even Start programs are measured on 16 indicators, based on participant outcomes. Child and parent academic achievement is included in those indicators. Programs that met at least 14 of the indicators received the Commended rating. Project LEARN met all 16 indicators.

Project LEARN (Let's Eliminate At-Risk Needs) is Lamar CISD's family literacy program. The program offers adult basic education, GED and English as a Second Language for parents. Children receive homework assistance, pre-kindergarten or kindergarten instruction, or developmental child care.

Parents learn valuable job skills, while becoming more involved in their children's education.

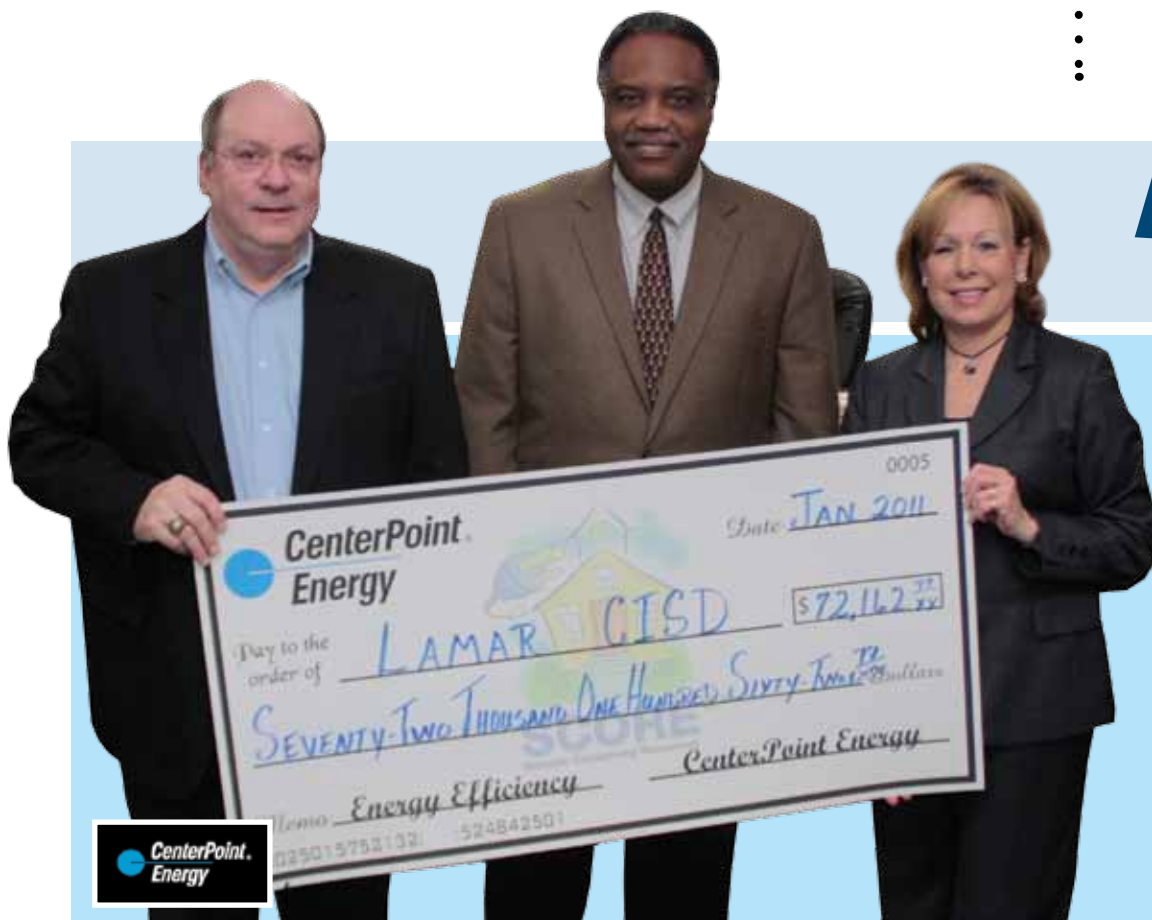


CenterPoint Energy awards \$72,162.77 to Lamar CISD

CenterPoint Energy awarded \$72,162.77 to Lamar CISD as part of the company's Schools Conserving Resources (SCORE) program.

CenterPoint Energy's Texas SCORE Program provides free assistance and financial incentives to reduce energy demand in school buildings. The program pays incentives for energy efficiency measures that reduce peak electricity demand, which is between 1 and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, from June until September.

The conservation initiatives represent 741 metric tons of carbon dioxide gas removed from the atmosphere. That equates to 142 cars being removed from the roadways.



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Students In the News



Fariha Rashid

Fariha Rashid, a student at B.F. Terry High School, is a finalist in the sixth annual Lucerne "The Art of Dairy Sharing Joy" art contest. She is one of three finalists chosen from the Austin, Dallas and Houston areas. As a finalist Rashid could be chosen to design and decorate a 5-foot by 8-foot cow sculpture. From there, she could be eligible to win a grand prize of \$5,000 for her, \$20,000 for the school and \$5,000 for the art department. Rashid's art instructor is Joan Batts.



Hallie Jackson

Congratulations to Lamar CHS freshman singing sensation Hallie Jackson, who recently signed a contract with the Camp Jam Artist label.

She will be working in Atlanta. All her friends and teachers at Hutchison, Wessendorff, Lamar JH and Lamar CHS are proud and wish her well.

Mariah Berry

B.F. Terry High School Senior Mariah Berry has been selected as a recipient of the 2011-2012 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship. This \$1,000 award, funded through The Comcast Foundation, recognizes high school seniors from Comcast communities for commitment to community service, academic achievement and demonstrated leadership.



Check grades from home

Wondering how Junior is doing in Advanced Placement World Geography? Keep up with the Classroom Connection Center.

Classroom Connection Center (CCC), Lamar CISD's web-based system, gives access to the latest grades, assignments, assessments and attendance information.

CCC uses a self-service registration process that allows parents and guardians to identify their respective students and gain access to their student's — and only their student's — information.

The registration process requires knowledge of student identification information that should be known only to students, parents and legal guardians. This identification information includes a combination of the following:

- **A District-issued Student Identification number;**
- **The last 4 digits of a student's Social Security number; and**
- **A student's date of birth.**

The registration process uses a secure e-mail-based activation mechanism to ensure the person providing the information is the person who has legitimate access to the student's grades.

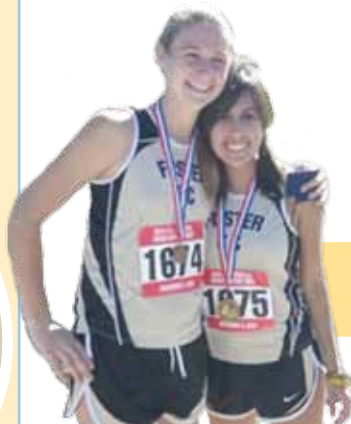
To sign-up for CCC, go to the Lamar CISD webpage – www.lcisid.org – and look for the "Online Grades" icon in the middle of the page.



Lamar Consolidated High School's **Amber Smith** earned a \$1,000 scholarship at the District 4 Cabinet Meeting of the Lions Club with her essay on diabetes.



Amber Smith



Elyssa Garza and Meredith Duncan



Congratulations to the Lady Falcon Cross Country Team for winning the District Championship in both the varsity and JV divisions. Two Falcon flyers -- Elyssa Garza and Meredith Duncan – qualified for the state cross-country meet. They are coached by Anna May.



LCISD's Willman recognized by state organization for Professional Achievement



Christy Willman

Lamar CISD Executive Director for Community Relations Christy Willman was honoured by her colleagues with the Professional Achievement Award at the Texas School Public Relations Association's (TSPRA) annual conference, held February 23-25 in Arlington.

Willman, who served as the Association's President in 2007-2008, was nominated by her peers for the award. TSPRA gives the Award annually to someone who has worked in school public relations "for at least 10 years and during that time exhibited a creative, dedicated and professional approach to school communications."

Willman has served Lamar CISD as the Executive Director of Community Relations since 2004. She worked as an elementary classroom teacher for 13 years in the Cypress Fairbanks, Austin and

Lamar CISD schools before becoming Director of Communications at Lamar in 1996.

She has been an active member of TSPRA since 1997, serving twice as a Conference Day Chair of the association's convention and as Vice President of the Houston/Beaumont area.

She is also a member of the Houston Area School Public Relations Association and the National School Public Relations Association.

Under her leadership the LCISD Communications department has received seven Crystal Awards and numerous Best of Category, Gold and Silver awards from TSPRA.

Lamar CISD's website was honored at the TSPRA annual Star Awards Banquet

Lamar CISD's website was honored at the Texas School Public Relations Association's annual Star Awards Banquet, earning Best of Category.

The website, designed and maintained by LCISD's Webmaster Chris Davis, competed against other school districts in Texas with more than 10,000 students, but less than 30,000.

Davis, the District's first webmaster, has been in the position for three years.



Chris Davis

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Garbriela Benitez



Isabelle Antes

Two Lamar CISD student artists have their works featured in the 2011 calendar from one of Texas largest architecture and engineering firms.

George Ranch High School's Isabelle Antes drawing of her school received an Award of Excellence and appears in the May section of the calendar.

The drawing of Frost Elementary by fifth-grader Garbriela Benitez is featured in the Honorable Mention section of the calendar.

More than 50 schools participated in this year's calendar art contest.



U.S. Rep. Pete Olson was a guest at Terry High School in January, visiting students and teachers in classrooms and addressing an assembly of Social Studies classes. Olson used the opportunity to offer formal congratulations and a certificate to Terry for being named a MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals "Breakthrough School." Terry is one of only five high schools in the country to receive such an honor.

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Lamar CISD
 3911 Avenue I, Rosenberg, Texas 77471
 832.223.0000 • 832.223.0002 (Fax) • www.lcisd.org

INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

- Student and Staff Holiday
- Staff Development and Student Holiday
- Workday/Student Holiday
- Ⓞ Six/Nine Weeks Begins/Ends
- ▲ New Teacher Staff Development Day
- Ⓢ Teacher DMA Day and Student Holiday
- ◆ Bad Weather Make-Up Day (if needed)
- ⏸ Early Release Day (K-5)
- ⏸ Early Release Day (6-12)

Student & Staff Holidays

- July 4 • Independence Day
- September 5 • Labor Day
- September 23 • Fort Bend Fair Day
- November 23 - 25 • Thanksgiving Break
- December 19-30 • Winter Break
- January 16 • MLK Day
- March 12 - 16 • Spring Break
- April 6 • Good Friday
- May 28 • Memorial Day

Staff Development & Student Holidays

August 10-12 (New Teachers); August 15-19;
 January 2; February 20; April 9; June 1

Grading Periods

- First Semester
- Ⓢ Elementary = 89 Days
 - Ⓢ Secondary = 80 Days
- Second Semester
- Ⓢ Elementary = 89 Days
 - Ⓢ Secondary = 98 Days
- TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS = 178

230 Day Employees

7 Non-Work Days

251 Day Employees

Jul 4, Sept 5, Nov 24-25, Dec 22-23,
 Dec 30, Jan 16, Apr 6, May 28

2011-2012

Month	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JULY						1	2
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	31						
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SEPTEMBER						1	2
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JUNE							
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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14-18

Spring Break

April 22

School in Session
 (Makeup Day for ice storm)

May 2-6

Kindergarten Round Up

May 14

City School Elections

May 22

Baccalaureate Services at Foster,
 Lamar Consolidated and Terry H.S.

May 27

Student Holiday (Staff DMA Day)

May 28

Graduation ceremonies,
 Merrell Center, Katy

Lamar, 10 a.m.

Foster, 2 p.m.

Terry, 6 p.m.

May 30

Memorial Day,
 Staff Student Holiday

June 2

Last day of school

Lamar CISD
3911 Avenue I
Rosenberg, TX 77471

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Check out the LCISD Website;
www.lcisd.org for all of
your 2011 updates



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Julie Thompson • Jesse Torres

Dr. Thomas Randle, Superintendent

FACTS is a publication of the Community Relations Department of the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, written for all citizens of the district. Comments, suggestions and requests to be placed on the mailing list are welcomed and should be directed to 832.223.0330/Fax 832.223.0331.

The School Alert System

Lamar CISD uses The School Alert System to alert the media and the general public if there is an unexpected delay or cancellation of the school day.

Parents can subscribe to the System to receive texts or e-mails at the same time the message is being given to the local media.

Go to www.school-alerts.com, and then enter your school, or school district, and your e-mail address. There is no charge for this service.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'The School Alert System' website. The browser's address bar shows 'http://www.school-alerts.com/'. The website has a red header with the title 'The School Alert System - Formerly The School Closing Notification System www.sch'. Below the header, there are several sections: 'Get Notified by Email' with a sub-section 'Get Notified when Your School Sends an Alert' containing steps 1 and 2, and a 'Find Your School' button; 'More Options' with links for 'Get All Alerts', 'School System/District Alerts', and 'Unsubscribe'; and 'More Information' with links for 'Home', 'Contact Info', and 'Register Your School'. On the right side, there are sections titled 'How Does it Work?' and 'Who can use it?' with introductory text and a 'School Name' input field.