



Partnership

An Education Link with the Birdville ISD Community



SAT/ACT Scores Surpass State Average

Birdville ISD's 2008 graduating seniors' demonstrated strong performance in comparison to other state and national public school students on the two national college entrance examinations: SAT and ACT. On the SAT, students in Birdville outperformed other public school students in Texas in all three areas tested: critical reading, mathematics and writing. BISD's 2008 composite score on the SAT, 1,020, continues to be higher than the state and national averages. Individual campus performance was 999 for Haltom High School, 1,023 for Richland High School, and 1,038 for Birdville High School. On the writing portion of the assessment, BISD scored above the state average with a score of 487. Individual campus scores were 471 for Haltom High School, 487 for Richland High School, and 504 for Birdville High School. Birdville and Richland high schools exceeded the state average of 480 and Birdville High also scored above the national average of 494.

[>>> More Information](#)

Six BISD campuses named 'exemplary' and 12 others 'recognized' this year



The Texas Education Agency has rated six campuses "exemplary" for 2008. Along with our exemplary campuses, 12 campuses earned the second highest rating of "recognized," and the district and all other campuses earned the "academically acceptable" rating. These ratings are a result of the hard work of students, teachers, parents and staff.

"I am very proud of the accomplishments that our principals, teachers and students have made," Superintendent Stephen F. Waddell said. "We are

a leader in student achievement, providing a first class education for all our students. The district is dedicated to continuous improvement and our results demonstrate the progress being made."

Thanks to the support of the entire BISD community, BISD continues to strive for all 32 of its campuses-and the district itself-to earn the premier rating that signifies excellence in education.

[>>> Individual Campus Ratings](#)

Fall 2008

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Dates to Remember

- Nov. 26-28
Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2
Holiday Break

[>>> 08-09 Calendar](#)

Important Links

- [>>> BISD Homepage](#)
- [>>> BISD Family Homepage](#)
- [>>> Skyward](#)
- [>>> Photo Archives](#)

Superintendent Exchange



On October 15, Birdville ISD and HEB ISD trustees along with top administrators from both districts met with local legislative representatives to discuss the upcoming legislative session in Austin. Leadership from both districts took the opportunity to visit with Senator Jane Nelson, Representative Kelly Hancock and Representative Todd Smith concerning issues facing our districts.

One of the key issues discussed is the equity of funding between school districts. Under the current state funding formula, all school district's revenue is frozen, but not at the same amount. Birdville receives \$4,588 from the state for each student, HEB ISD receives \$5,088, and Northwest ISD receives \$6,480. We expressed our desire for the state to use a more equitable formula in funding schools by raising all districts at least to the state average. In addition, the group expressed concern that the state was taking all the taxes from increasing property values and placing it in the state's general fund. This means the state is using property taxes to fund programs other than education. It was requested that the districts be allowed to keep their local tax revenue rather than sending it to the state, or that the state use it to provide additional funding for all school districts.

[> More](#)

Fast Facts

- Over the past 5 years, TAKS performance by African American, Hispanic and Economically Disadvantaged students increased more than 20 percentage points in reading and math, and increased more than 35 percentage points in science.
- In 2008, BISD students took 2,062 AP exams, and scored a 3, 4 or 5 on 753 of the tests. This represents a potential savings in college tuition and fees of more than \$900,000 for BISD parents.
- BISD received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of BISD's financial management and reporting system.



[> Learn More](#)

[> Did you know ... 2008?](#)



Skyward Family Access Offers New Features

Skyward Family Access is an easy-to-use, password-protected Web site that allows parents and guardians access to information about their child or children from any computer with Internet access. In addition, it allows parents to use one login to view information within a single family, even if their children are in different schools.

If you do not have your Family Access login information, please contact your school registrar.

- New for 2008-09

- **District Links**

Look for the special links on the left of the screen to take you directly to your school's home page, the BISD home page or other important information.

- **Login and Passwords**

BISD added the ability for parents to change their login as well as their password. Be sure to keep your login and password safe. If you forget your login or password you can request it be sent to your e-mail address. Be sure to keep your e-mail address up to date in Family Access. Remember, if you share your log in with anyone they could change it, locking you out.

[>> Additional Features for 2008-09](#)



**Attention
Parents**

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, the state has **new immunization requirements** for school aged children.

[>> New Requirements](#)

Birdville ISD Students Earn National Honors

BISD is proud to announce it has 11 National Merit Semifinalists, four National Hispanic Merit Semifinalists, one National Achievement Scholar and 15 Commended Scholars. This is the largest group of National Merit honorees ever for the district.

Nearly 1.3 million students in more than 21,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2008 Merit Program by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors. Less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors received the prestigious designation of becoming a semifinalist this year.

BISD's 2008 National Merit honorees are:

Birdville High School

National Merit Semifinalists



Miranda Cunningham is a member of the National Honor Society, secretary for the art club, Anime club and Character Counts. Her favorite subjects are art and English. She plans on attending TCU and major in art or law. Miranda is the daughter of Barry and Daphne Cunningham.



Kayla Freeman is a member of the National Honor Society, knitting club and UIL academics team. In addition, she is the Birdville theatre president, Students Against Genocide in Africa founder and president, and French Club secretary. Her favorite subject is English. Kayla plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin with a major in radio, television and film. She is the daughter of Ken and Kara Freeman.



Rachel Stonecipher is a member of the newspaper staff, current events club, Midcities Democrats and UIL academics team. Her favorite subject is history. She plans on attending the University of Texas at Austin or Washington University in St. Louis to major in government or radio, television and film. She is the daughter of Philip and Susan Stonecipher.

Haltom High School

National Merit Semifinalists



Archer E. Chattin is a member of the National Honor Society, National German Honor Society, choir and PTSA executive board. Outside of class, she is active in her church youth group and praise band. Archer plans on majoring in geology at Texas Tech University. She is the daughter of Steve and Shelly Chattin.



Derek M. Dotson is a member of the band, environmental club, Latin club and Academic Quiz League. Outside of school, he plays in the church orchestra and sings in the youth choir. Derek plans on majoring in music theory at the University of North Texas. He is the son of Beverly and Glenn Dotson.

Haltom High School

National Merit Semifinalists



Catherine R. Poslusny is a member of the National Honor Society, drum major for the band, and an officer in High on Life. Outside of school, she teaches third-grade choir at her church and volunteers with the North Richland Hills animal shelter. She plans on majoring in marketing or chemistry at Oklahoma University, UCLA, or Carnegie Mellon University. Catherine is the daughter of Richard and Nancy Kittrell.



Emily K. Williams is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, band and math club. She is a junior volunteer at Cook Children's Medical Center and a student leader at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Emily plans on majoring in chemical engineering at either Texas A&M University or Southern Methodist University. She is the daughter of Lewis and Ila Williams.

Richland High School

National Merit Semifinalists



Jacob Austin Butler is a member of the National Honor Society, band, soccer team and chess club. He plans on majoring in engineering at Texas Christian University. Austin is the son of Jerald and Jenette Butler.



Jonathan Hupp is a member of the National Honor Society, Johnny Rebs, football and soccer teams, STUCO, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, band and choir. He is undecided on his major and college. Jonathan is the son of Greg and Cathy Hupp.



Ashley Loest is a member of the National Honor Society, band and High on Life. She plans on majoring in math at Southwestern University. Ashley is the daughter of Craig and Karen Loest.



Bracken Conner is a member of the band, Latin club and jazz band. He plans on majoring in computer science and engineering at the University of Oklahoma. Bracken is the son of Tad and Sonya Conner.

[> View All Birdville ISD National Honors Honorees Here <](#)

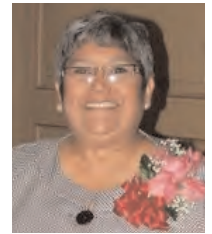
Business Partners

The following business partners were recognized at recent board meetings: **Cathy Bourgojn** and **Avis Crisp**, Davis Memorial United Methodist Church; **Ted Sena**, Key Construction Texas; **Ron Pettet**, Fossil Creek Community Church Assembly of God; Washington Mutual (WaMu); **Debbie Robinson**, Minyards; **Kelly Brown**, Dollar General Store in Watauga; **Amanda Stallings** and **Maria Trevino**, Gill Children's Services; and **Mike and Kyle LaPointe**, J.L. Steel Reinforcing, LLC



Amy Allibon, former choir director at Haltom High School, was recognized for being named the recipient of the Chesapeake Energy Hero Award for being the most outstanding choir director in all of North Texas. **Ernie Horn**, Score a Goal in the Classroom director, presented the award. Allibon now teaches at Watauga Middle School.

Congratulations to **Olga Hernandez-Coar**, Academy at West Birdville teacher, for being recognized as a local hero in the Bank of America 2008 Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards program. She was awarded \$5,000 to give to her favorite non-profit organization, which she chose her school. Mayor **Bill Lanford**, Haltom City mayor, nominated her for the award.



Wayne Bynum (left) of Walker Creek Elementary and **William Robinson** (right) of North Ridge Middle School and were recognized for being named "Custodians of the Year" by the Northeast Environmental Team (NEET).



Five counseling departments in BISD were recognized for winning the Texas Counseling Association's Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) Award. CREST is a continuous improvement document that gives school counseling programs the opportunity to demonstrate effective communication and a commitment to getting results. Snow Heights Elementary, Smithfield and Watauga middle schools, and Haltom and Birdville high schools were five of 15 Texas schools to receive this honor for the 2007-08 school year. Counselors recognized were: **Connie Donahue**, Snow Heights; **Byron Sparkman** and **Scott Eager**, Smithfield Middle; **Chris Urquhart** and **Thalia Ross**, Watauga Middle; **Jerri Lewis**, **LeAnn Carroll**, **Ruth Cooper**, **Rebecca Forrest**, **Shelly Knight**, **Terri Staley** and **Andrea Breedlove**, Haltom High; and **Debra Ellis**, **Deborah Conaway**, **Carolyn Goodrich**, **Cindy Larson** and **Ann Newhouse**, Birdville High.



Nine BISD Special Olympians were recognized for their efforts at the state Special Olympic Track Meet in Arlington. They were: **Chad Earley**, **Marvin Elliott**, **Fred Elliott**, **Luis Moreno**, **Lauren Kuykendall**, **Ashley Roady**, **Brianna Thomas**, **Ryan Wagley** and **Matthew Sweat**. Their coach was JoAnne Ferris.



BISD's "The Circle" Cancer Support Group and other participants from BISD's 2008 Komen Tarrant County Race for the Cure team were recognized. Birdville placed second for total school team participation with 196 registrants.

Birdville ISD and JPS Join Together

Birdville ISD and JPS have joined together to provide two school based clinics in the district. One is in Haltom City at 2807 Layton Ave., and the other is on the south side of The Academy at C.F. Thomas at 8200 O'Brian Way in North Richland Hills. The clinics treat students in BISD and their sibling's ages newborn to 18-years-old for a \$5 office charge. Services include: well child visits, sports physicals, acute care, chronic illnesses (asthma, diabetes), immunizations, and much more. The clinics do not have X-ray capabilities or dental services. They see uninsured students or Medicaid that do not have a specified primary care physician. For appointments, call 817.759.2035 (Haltom City) or 817.547.3046 (C.F. Thomas).



District Public Notices



During the 2008-09 school year, Birdville ISD will administer the following federal programs to students that live within district boundaries.

- Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs)
- Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment Fund)
- Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology)
- Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)
- Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act)
- IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Representatives of privately educated students interested in participation in any of these programs can contact Dr. Betty Grubbs, director of special services, at 817.547.5740 or by e-mail at: Betty_Grubbs@birdville.k12.tx.us.

Career and Technology students had great successes during the 2007-08 school year.



[> Learn More <](#)



**Are you a BISD resident and over the age of 65?
or
Are you retired from BISD with at least 20 years of service?**

BISD offers a "Gold Club Card" to BISD residents only who are 65 and older or retired BISD personnel with at least 20 years of service. The "Gold Card Club" entitles the holder free lifetime admission to BISD athletic and cultural arts events based on the following provisions:

1. Entitles the card holder to general admission to regular athletic events in any Birdville gymnasium, W.G. Thomas Coliseum, Birdville Stadium and the Fine Arts/Athletics Complex. (This card is not accepted at playoff games.)
2. Entitles the card holder to general admission to district cultural arts events such as plays and musicals at all school facilities.

The Gold Club Card is only valid within BISD. It is not accepted in other school districts.

If you qualify for a gold card, bring your drivers license to the front desk of the administration building. The administration building is located at 6125 E. Belknap in Haltom City. For additional information, call 817.547.5799.

Student athletes had great successes during the 2007-08 school year.



[> Learn More <](#)

Birdville ISD offers Prekindergarten programs for children who are 3 and 4 year olds who meet eligibility qualifications. The half-day program is provided for children who are: 3 or 4 years of age by September 1, 2008 and meet eligibility as

- limited English proficient, or
- economically disadvantaged, or
- homeless, or
- child of active military parent(s), or
- child who is or ever has been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing.

For additional information, contact Patti Mullen at 817.547.5730 or Pam Runnels at 817.547.5779.

[> Annual Asbestos Notification](#)

What are people saying in their "A Touch of Class" nominations?



> Make your nomination today! <

- We are overwhelmed at the professionalism, time, and kindness given by Ms. Nguyen in helping our gifted and talented student secure the necessary bus transportation enabling her to take an advanced math class at Haltom High. Ms. Nguyen promised an e-mail with the bus number; that e-mail was sent after 11:00 p.m. Saturday night!
 - Sheri Nguyen works in BIRD's transportation department.
- Clarence Daniels is at work every day doing every thing that he's asked to do with a smile on his face. He has NEVER told me he was unable to do a task. Even when I tell him there is no rush, he's there that day to fix whatever problems I'm having. He is cheerful with the staff and students and it makes a difference to everyone who walks in the door at Foster Village.
 - Clarence Daniels works at Foster Village Elementary.

> [View September Nominations](#)

Why is BIRD calling?



In 2005, BIRD invested in a phone calling system, SchoolMessenger, to be used to notify parents and guardians with attendance and general announcement calls.

Each day, SchoolMessenger automatically gathers attendance information and calls the primary phone number for the student's family. In addition, many campuses use the system to make general announcement calls. If

you experience difficulty receiving a message, please contact your child's campus and ask to speak to the person responsible for sending messages on SchoolMessenger.

In the event of a campus or district emergency, BIRD will use a special component of SchoolMessenger called SchoolMessenger ASP to call up to four phone numbers listed in the student database. It is important that families and staff keep their contact information current with their schools. SchoolMessenger ASP will not be used for attendance or general information calls. It will only be used at the district level in case of a district identified emergency.

If you receive calls from BIRD and do not have children in the district, please call the communications office at 817.547.5799. They will work to remove your number from the calling system.

Inclement Weather: Is school open or closed?



Birdville ISD is dedicated to the safety of students and staff. When the threat of snow or ice is in the forecast, BIRD's superintendent, associate superintendents and director of transportation have established a plan to determine whether schools will be open, delayed or closed. This plan includes driving street across the district during the early morning hours. The district attempts to make a decision about delaying or closing as soon as possible. If the superintendent determines the need to delay or close school, the district notifies local television and radio stations as well as uses the SchoolMessenger calling system to call all homes. (It is important that parents and staff keep their primary number current with the district.) Also, BIRD posts this information on the district's Web site. BIRD only posts these notifications if school will be delayed or closed-**not if it is open as usual.**



BISD implements new visitor tracking system



The safety of Birdville ISD students and staff is a district priority. To supplement existing security measures, Birdville ISD and the board of trustees adopted a visitor tracking system to be used on each campus. This system logs visitors as they enter and exit the campus, generates visitor badges, electronically checks visitors against multiple registered sex offender databases, tracks and maintains a database of campus visitors, as well as other features that can be locally programmed into the system.

In a district survey conducted in May 2008, more than 90 percent of parents indicated they felt district facilities were safe. To build on their trust, BISD is enhancing the current security plan to provide an additional layer of safety for students and staff.

The Academy at West Birdville and Smithfield Middle School will pilot this new system in November, with all campuses going online Jan. 1, 2009.

[> Visitor Tracking System](#)

[> Campus Guidelines](#)

An Education Link with the Birdville ISD Community

Partnership

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BIRDVILLE ISD MISSION

“BISD, in partnership with the community, pursues educational excellence and dedicates its resources to create a learning environment that encourages all students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners in a global society.”

Public Reporting of Progress in Meeting Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

(2007-08 and 2008-09 Highly Qualified Teacher Data)



The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all core academic subject area teachers should have met the highly qualified (HQ) teacher requirements by the end of the 2006-07 school year. The core academic subjects are: English, reading/language arts, math, science, civics and government, economics, history, geography, foreign languages and fine arts (music, art, dance and theater).

NCLB requires each local education agency to publicly report progress toward meeting the HQ teacher requirements as defined by the State’s measurable highly qualified teacher objectives.

Birdville ISD is in compliance with the NCLB requirement and has reported that 100 percent of all core academic subject area teachers are highly qualified for 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years.

[> Campus Report](#)

[> District Report](#)

Quality Teaching ... Quality Learning

OPEN ENROLLMENT

APPLY TODAY!

You're our missing piece!

Birdville Independent School District

Open Enrollment

BISD Bond projects are within budget

Positive results of your bond dollars can be seen across Birdville ISD. Despite the downturn in the economy, all voter approved projects are within budget.

The following is an update of work completed, projects in progress and schedules for projects being planned.

2006 bond construction update ...

Major Projects

A. Binion/Stowe elementaries

1. Close out documents and final cost issues are currently under review.

B. Middle School Locker Rooms

1. Punch list work is continuing.
2. Closeout documentation is underway.

C. Career and Technology Center

1. Drilled piers are complete.
2. Concrete floor slab is 75 percent complete.
3. Concrete tilt wall panel layout starts the end of October 2008.
4. Structural steel is scheduled to begin on Nov. 21.

D. Haltom High School

1. Band/Choir - Roof deck, plumbing, and face brick are all underway.
2. Classroom Building - Concrete floor slab is complete, and structural steel erection is underway.
3. Gym Lobby - Concrete floor slab is complete, and CMU load bearing wall construction is underway.
4. Weight Room - CMU load bearing wall construction is underway.
5. New gymnasium - Concrete floor slab forming is in progress.

E. Richland High School

1. Concrete floor slabs are poured at science and classroom wing.
2. CMU load bearing walls are in progress at athletic/gym and fine arts areas.
3. Athletic Field House - Roofing is underway.

[> More](#)

[> Bond Oversight Committee Web site](#)

Monthly Bond Financial Reports

[> 2005](#)

[> 2006](#)

Photos

[> Construction](#)

[> Aerial](#)

Birdville at the Bass
~Featuring~
Birdville High School Chorale Haltom High School A cappella Choir Richland High School Chorale
&
the Combined Middle School Choirs

December 16,
2008

7 p.m.

Tickets
\$15, \$20, \$25

Bass Hall tickets 877.212.4280 or www.basshall.com

BE A HERO!
BIRDVILLE SOUNDRY OF PTAS - BIRDVILLE SOUNDRY OF PTAS
BISD
VOLUNTEER!
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