

KATYTIMES.COM

## Royal ISD named 'showcase district' by Capturing Kids' Hearts

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

When Rick Kershner became superintendent of schools at Royal ISD, he knew he had to change the culture of the district, Kershner told attendees at the district's annual "Teacher of the Year" dinner on May 7th.

Together with Diane Holub, RISD Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator, Kershner worked to implement a district-wide program to do just that, using "Capturing Kids' Hearts", a relationship-building approach to discipline that creates self-managing groups. Through experiential training, expert coaching, a character-based curriculum for students, and personalized support, Capturing Kids' Hearts equips professionals

in K-12 education to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven campus culture, and student connectedness, according to their website. The organization recognizes outstanding school administrators, teaching staff, and faculty for producing exemplary outcomes with the Capturing Kids' Hearts Process by awarding a "Showcase School" designation.

Of the more than 10,000 campuses served by Capturing Kids' Hearts, only 612 are designated as "showcase schools," Kershner told the Royal ISD school board members at their May 13th meeting. Now, five of those "showcase schools" are in Royal ISD.

And with five out of the district's five campuses all named as



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Making Royal ISD a "showcase district" for the "Capturing Kids' Hearts" program – a vision of RISD Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator Diane Holub (far left) and Superintendent of Schools Rick Kershner (far right) – became a reality at the district's school board meeting on May 13th, as board members and representatives of all five winning campuses celebrated the achievement.

"showcase schools," Royal ISD is now a "showcase district," Kershner announced to the board.

Board members, principals and campus representatives celebrated the big moment with confetti guns and cake.

Kershner and Holub achieved their complete vision of a "showcase district" this year, just as Holub retires from RISD. Their first success came in May 2023, when Royal ISD announced that Royal Early Childhood Center was

named a Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) National Showcase School. On September 12, 2023, the Royal Early Childhood Center team unveiled their National Showcase School banner, which is proudly displayed in the ECC gym.

## National Merit Scholarship Program announces winners

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

On May 8, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced this year's National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners. The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program and included 12 students from the greater Katy area:

- Brooks R. Bryant, Fulshear High School, Fulshear, Probable career field: Computer Science.
- Ananya R. Pasunuri, Jordan High School, Fulshear, Probable career field: Mechanical Engineering.
- Pelin D. Gurmen, Jordan High School, Katy, Probable career field: Biochemical Engineering.
- Antai A. Liu, Seven Lakes High School,

Katy, Probable career field: Computer Science.

- Henry Xiang-Hao Liu, Taylor High School, Katy, Probable career field: Biomedicine

- Sneha A. Mamtara, Cinco Ranch High School, Katy, Probable career field: Aerospace Engineering.

- Duran J. Mohabbat, Harmony School of Innovation, Katy, Probable career field: Computer Science.

- Christine O. Onianwa, Cinco Ranch High School, Katy, Probable career field: Engineering.

- Ojas V. Prabhugaonkar, Seven Lake High School, Katy, Probable career field: Biomedical Engineering.

- Aishah A. Shahid, Tompkins High School, Katy, Probable career field: Electrical Engineering.

- Haochen Wang, Jordan High School, Katy, Probable career field: Science/Research.

- Kathleen C. Yu, Seven Lakes High School, Katy, Probable career field: Undecided.

National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors. These Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the Finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied

and grades earned; scores from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT); contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the Finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

This is the second announcement of winners in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. On April 24, about 770 recipients of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were named, and on June 5 and July 15, some 3,600 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners will be announced. By the conclusion of this year's competition, more than 6,870 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$26 million. Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

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## May 9 Puzzle Answers

5	1	8	6	3	9	7	4	2
7	3	4	5	2	1	8	9	6
2	6	9	4	7	8	5	3	1
6	5	3	7	1	2	9	8	4
9	4	2	8	6	3	1	5	7
8	7	1	9	5	4	6	2	3
1	2	5	3	9	7	4	6	8
3	8	6	1	4	5	2	7	9
4	9	7	2	8	6	3	1	5

M	A	A	R	A	E	O	N	S	A	B	B	A
A	B	L	E	A	X	L	E	S	B	R	E	A
M	I	A	S	R	A	D	A	R	E	A	C	H
A	B	I	E	S	G	I	R	C	A	S	K	S
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B	A	B	A	S	A	D	S	B	L	I	N	I
A	C	E	D	P	I	C	A	R	A	B	I	A
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S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S				
A	A	H	E	D	D	E	C	S	A	B	E	R
P	L	E	A	C	A	F	E	S	B	A	R	I
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R	A	D	S	M	E	D	E	A	N	E	C	K

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This notice is regarding the records destruction schedule set by state regulations consistent with the notification requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (34 CFR 300.624) and state regulations regarding the destruction of confidential records. Katy ISD Special Education records for students withdrawn or graduated on or before June 30, 2013, will be destroyed January 15, 2024. If you have any questions about this process or about student specific records, please contact the Department of Special Education in Katy ISD at 281-396-2630.

### KATY ISD Invites Private Non-Profit Schools

Private non-profit schools serving students who reside in Katy ISD attendance zones have the option to participate in federal grant programs. If the non-profit school wishes to participate, a consultation meeting can be scheduled to provide an overview of current federal programs (Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV) and other services. Non-profit schools interested in participating in these federal grant programs for the 2024-2025 school year should contact Erin Hyko at 281-396-2243 to schedule a consultation meeting to discuss programs and eligibility requirements.

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