

Roosevelt Alexander Elementary teacher named ATPE Elementary Teacher of the Year



NICOLE NEEDHAM

Texas' largest educator association honors Nicole Needham

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Nicole Needham, a kindergarten teacher at Katy ISD's Roosevelt Alexander Elementary, was recently named

the 2024 Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the organization announced in an August 20 press release. Needham was presented with the award July 10 during the 2024 ATPE Summit at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel at 400 Olive Street in Dallas.

"This award is an extreme honor and a testament to all the amazing students and educators whom I encounter daily," Needham said. "I am fortunate

to be surrounded by an outstanding team within my district, as well as within my own family. Over the course of my 25 years as a kindergarten teacher, my mother, father, sister, and husband—all educators themselves—have been a continual source of inspiration, support, and encouragement."

Needham recently celebrated 25 years of dedicated service teaching kindergarten, which she said is her true passion. For the past 18 years,

she has taught at Roosevelt Alexander Elementary at 6161 S. Fry Rd. in Katy. Her teaching career began in 1999 at Outley Elementary in Alief ISD under the guidance of her former elementary school principal.

"We are proud and excited to be able to recognize outstanding educators who have shown their commitment to furthering public education," ATPE Executive Director Shannon Holmes said.

Katy ISD students earn honors at national business conference

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

More than a dozen future entrepreneurs and leaders from Katy ISD earned awards at this year's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference, held this summer in Orlando, Florida, the district announced in an August 23 press release.

Among the honors earned by district students, Seven Lakes High School students Archana Arangil, Siri Ramineni and Akshitha Varre earned first place in Business Plan, and Tompkins High School student Keerthana Thatikonda earned first place in Word Processing.

"It is great to have so many of our students honored at the national conference, which is attended by thousands of students each year," said Jeannie Knierim, Career and Technical Education Director for Katy ISD. "Congratulations to our CTE teachers as well for supporting these young leaders."

Other awards earned by Katy ISD students include:

Cinco Ranch High School

- Rebecca Jung – 9th Place in Client

Service

- Tiffany Kim – 10th Place in Website Coding and Development

Jordan High School

- Jeffrey Au – 7th Place in Advertising
- Jaiden Suh – 7th Place in Introduction to Business Communication
- Mateo Nigrinis – 8th Place in Supply Chain Management

Seven Lakes High School

- Nikhil Bharadwaj – 6th Place in Personal Finance
- Shiva Uppaladinni – 6th Place in Supply Chain Management

Tompkins High School

- Chimamanda Agbaroji – 7th Place in Accounting II
- Madison Huang – 8th Place in Business Communication
- Emily Powell – 9th Place in Introduction to FBLA

FBLA is the largest business organization for junior high and high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, boasting more than 200,000 members.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROYAL ISD

The JROTC program at Royal High School has been nominated as a Naval Honor School for its fourth consecutive year.

RHS Marine Corps Junior ROTC designated as a 'Naval Honor School' for fourth consecutive year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The JROTC program at Royal High School has been nominated as a Naval Honor School for its fourth consecutive year, Royal ISD announced in an August 19 press release.

The selection is based on several criteria, including the number of cadets active in school activities and clubs, the number of community service hours for the unit as a whole and per cadet, the number of organizations assisted by the unit, and scholastic achievements. The programs are measured by participation in public affairs events, community service, drill/color guard team competitions, marksmanship competitions, academic competitions, leadership camps, physical fitness team competitions, field trips, and enlistment in service. Programs are also evaluated on the professionalism of cadets, JROTC Instructors, classroom management, and the leadership development of our cadets.

Lastly, compliance evaluation is a critical element in the selection process.

Because of this prestigious status, cadets will have the opportunity to send nominations to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point. The award also provides students who have a desire to join a service academy with the significant advantage of earning recommendation letters from their Senior Marine JROTC instructor, which carries just as much weight as a letter from a U.S. Representative or Senator, the district said.

"This recognition means that our Royal ISD has one of the best Marine Corps JROTC programs in the country, an honor that was achieved by the hard work of Falcon cadets and leadership by Royal JROTC Instructors," said a spokesperson for the district. "Gunnery Sergeant McGill and First Sergeant Bland would like to extend many thanks to everyone who supports the Royal MJROTC program and cadets."

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 2 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 10, 2024 at 9:00 am at The Fellowship, 22765 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Bruce Thomas, Rebecca Butler, Dan Barth

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Gary Winkler, Julie Haddix

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.2700/\$100 Adopted	\$0.2500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.41%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$492,863	\$539,684
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled persons exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$492,863	\$539,684
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,330.73	\$1,349.21
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$18.48 1.39%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Registration now open for Katy ISD's fall community education classes

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Ready to embrace a new challenge or pick up a new hobby this fall? Registration is now open for Katy ISD's Community Education classes, offering a wide array of opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, the district said in an August 19 press release.

Classes kick off on September 9 and, for the first time, all classes will be offered virtually. This new format provides greater flexibility and convenience, allowing participants to join from anywhere. Enrollment is open to adults 18 and older.

Discover the extensive selection in the Fall 2024 Online Course Catalog, featur-

ing multi-week classes in drawing, dance, health and wellness, and culinary arts that help participants build new skills. The district also provides single-night courses focused on specific interests, such as business and finance and retirement and long-term planning. Most classes offer certificates of completion, highlighting participants' commitment and accomplishments. The catalog of courses may be viewed at katyisd.org/site/default.aspx?DomainID=3827.

Registration is now available online through the Katy ISD Pay N' Go system. For more information or assistance, please contact the Community Education Department at 281-396-6365.

The Katy Times will be closed on

Labor Day Sept. 2, 2024

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **Sept. 5 edition is Noon on Thursday, Aug. 29.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Katy Times staff

Katy Times

(281) 391-3141
www.katytimes.com