A Profile of an NISD Graduate

The world that our graduates will enter is exciting, challenging, and ever-changing. NISD students must be college- and career-ready. Today’s economy requires workers to have advanced skills and the desire and ability to continuously learn and succeed in an ever-changing world.

As 21st century citizens, NISD students must be prepared with high levels of academic strength including literacy, digital skills, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication. The mission of NISD is to provide a premier education, preparing all students to be successful, productive citizens.

Our vision is to make certain that every student who graduates from one of our high schools is future ready: ready for college; ready for the global workplace; and ready for personal success.

Our schools offer a challenging and engaging curriculum to ensure that all students are proficient readers, effective writers, efficient mathematicians, curious scientists, and strong communicators in each of these areas. High expectations are set for each student and well-designed instruction is crafted to help students achieve personal and academic goals.

A detailed “Profile of a Graduate” can be found on the NISD website. This brochure describes some of the key elements in NISD’s elementary schools.

What can you do to support and enhance your child’s academic success?

- Discuss the learning goals your child has set and help your child monitor his or her goals.
- Attend Back-to-School events, PTA meetings, and other school functions to be an active member of the school culture.
- When you visit your child’s school, pay attention to the work on the Standards-Based Bulletin Board and self-assess your child’s level of performance on the standard(s) showcased on the board.
- Attend your child’s parent conferences to discuss his or her academic progress. Ask how you can help your child meet his or her goals and experience continued success.
- Stay digitally connected through the school & district websites, the Home Access Center, Twitter, & Facebook.
- Establish routines for homework, reading at home, and discussing what your child is learning on a daily basis.
- Volunteer at your child’s school. Most schools have volunteer organizations such as PTA and programs such as Watch D.O.G.S. to foster volunteerism.

Core Beliefs

We Believe that...

1. Kids come first.
2. Continuous improvement is critical for success of the Northwest Independent School District.
3. The success of each student is the shared responsibility of students, families, schools and communities.

Vision

The best and most sought-after school district where every student is future ready:
- Ready for college
- Ready for the global workplace
- Ready for personal success

Mission

Northwest ISD, in partnership with parents and community, will provide all students a premier education, preparing them to be successful, productive citizens.

NISD Elementary Campuses

Carl E. Schluter .................................................. 817-698-3900
Clara Love .......................................................... 817-698-6600
Haslet ................................................................. 817-215-0850
J. Lyndal Hughes .............................................. 817-698-1900
J.C. Thompson .................................................. 817-698-3800
Justin ................................................................. 817-215-0800
Kay Granger ...................................................... 817-698-1100
Lakeview ............................................................ 817-215-0750
O.A. Peterson .................................................... 817-698-5000
Prairie View ........................................................ 817-215-0550
Roanoke ............................................................. 817-215-0650
Samuel Beck ..................................................... 817-215-0450
Sendera Ranch ................................................... 817-698-3500
Seven Hills ......................................................... 817-215-0700
Sonny & Allegra Nance ..................................... 817-698-1950
W.R. Hatfield ...................................................... 817-215-0350
Wayne A. Cox .................................................... 817-698-7200

For more information, contact:
Northwest ISD
Curriculum and Instruction Division
PO Box 77070 • Fort Worth, Texas 76177
817.215.0000 • Fax 817.215.0107
www.nisdtx.org
A Focus on Literacy

Readers and Writers Workshop

A strong literacy foundation is essential in today’s rapidly changing world. Students must experience meaningful learning opportunities tailored to meet a variety of outcomes. Teachers in NISD concentrate on helping students: 1) read clearly and smoothly; 2) build larger vocabularies; 3) understand what they are reading; and 4) develop critical thinking skills, such as inferring and summarizing. To reach these goals, students engage in Readers and Writers Workshop every day. During this block of time, they read independently and in small groups, discuss books, and share their thoughts and experiences through writing. In lower grades, students also work on their literacy skills each day during a Skills Block that focuses on word-work.

Reading Goals/Million Word Challenge

Students at every school are challenged to set reading goals and monitor their progress towards reaching their goals. Many schools encourage students to set a goal to read 1,000,000 words during the school year. This initiative is often referred to as the Million Word Challenge. You can help your child reach this goal by providing books to read and quiet time for reading. You can also ask your child questions about the book and have a discussion about the content of the book. Students keep a log of all the books they read. We encourage you to review your student’s book log and offer positive feedback on progress towards meeting personal goals, including the Million Word Challenge.

Book of the Month

Each month, elementary schools select a focus book that is read to all students in the school to provide a shared learning experience and build a community of connected learners. Schools choose books that convey powerful messages about character traits and important life lessons. Students are provided rich learning experiences related to the Book of the Month, including classroom discussions about the book, opportunities to write about the book, and various activities that help students relate the story to their own lives. We encourage you to ask questions about the Book of the Month and find out what your child is learning.

Literacy Assessment

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2) is administered to all students in kindergarten through third grades. The Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI5) is administered to all 4th and 5th graders. Both assessments are informal reading inventories that are individually administered by the teacher. The data is used to plan and deliver targeted reading instruction to meet the needs of every learner.

A Focus on Mathematics

Math Workshop

In today’s world, graduates are expected to clearly communicate mathematical understanding, apply this knowledge flexibly in many different situations, and identify and solve non-routine problems, both on their own and in group settings. This requires teachers and students to work differently. In NISD, students learn through the Math Workshop framework to demonstrate understanding of mathematical concepts by using them to solve problems that are challenging and relevant to the real world. Students are expected to reason mathematically and to communicate their thinking and learning effectively through numbers, graphs, symbols, diagrams, and words.

A Focus on Problem-Solving through Science

Inquiry Learning

Elementary students in NISD experience hands-on learning through Science Inquiry projects. Students are routinely presented with projects which challenge them to determine the effect a variable has on the outcome of an investigation. The projects utilize the Scientific Method to find solutions to scientific questions.

Problem-Based Learning (PBL)

NISD students experience real-world, authentic projects based on open-ended problems. With Problem-Based Learning projects, students use teamwork, collaboration, communication, and project management skills to experience an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. PBL projects include opportunities for presentation of a solution to a problem in an informative venue to an authentic audience.

Journaling

Students in every classroom routinely use journals to express their thoughts and record their learning in Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop, Math Workshop, and Science. The journals serve as powerful tools for students to reference as they deepen their knowledge, demonstrate their understanding, and monitor their own learning.

Technology Integration

Students in all elementary schools have ongoing access to state-of-the-art technology to enhance the learning process. Each school is equipped with iPad and netbook carts for ease of mobility so teachers can place technology in students’ hands wherever learning occurs. Additional technology, such as a document camera, student-feedback systems, and classroom netbooks are available in each classroom to foster engagement, creativity, and authenticity.

Showcasing Student Learning

Standards-Based Bulletin Boards

Teachers display student work related to state standards on the standards-based bulletin boards outside each classroom. These displays are windows into the learning that is occurring in each classroom. Observers can better understand the level of instruction and quality of student work in NISD classrooms. Selected pieces of student work are prominently displayed along with teacher and student commentary explaining how the work meets the standard(s) being showcased. In addition, a description of the lesson, the standards learned, and the rubric that was used to assess student learning are displayed on the board.

TechnoExpo & Night of No Limits

Kindergarten through twelfth grade students have two unique opportunities to showcase their learning and enhance their communication skills in front of audiences of peers, parents, teachers, and community members. In early spring, NISD hosts TechnoExpo. At this event, students share innovative ways they have experienced learning with the use of technology. Night of No Limits is an opportunity provided to NISD students to showcase Inquiry and Problem-Based Learning projects.