ThePflyer

Pflugerville ISD | **November 2025**



THIS EDITION

- PFESTIVAL OF BANDS BRINGS MUSIC AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER
- HOMECOMING: THEN AND NOW
- PFISD CELEBRATES DISABILITY AND INCLUSION AWARENESS MONTH
- DISTRICT REPLACES AGING AEDS WITH NEW AVIVE UNITS

3E'S SPOTLIGHT | PG. 20

Carpenter ES Pre-K Explores Community Helpers Through PfISD's 3Es


Parmer Lane ES

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Military Family Appreciation Month
National Homeless Youth Awareness Month
American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

2	Daylight Saving Time Ends
6	Board of Trustees Workshop Meeting
8	Nat'l STEM Day
3-7	Nat'l School Psychology Week
11	Veterans Day
19	Edu. Support Professionals Day
19	Pfuture Ready: Planning Your HS Experience
20	Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
20	Nat'l Parent Involvement Day
21	Substitute Educator's Day
24-28	Thanksgiving Break

SAVE THE DATE

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

November 14, 2025 | 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.



JOB FAIRS

TXST Teacher Job Fair
Nov 5, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
LBJ Student Center, 601 University Dr, San Marcos, TX 78666, USA

TAMU San Antonio Educator's Fair
Nov 7 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Texas A&M ATM - Recreation Center, 1 University Way, San Antonio, TX 78224, USA

TAMIU School Districts Career Fair
Nov 13 2025 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn more about job fairs and other career opportunities.

Visit PfISD.net/calendar for full academic and events calendar.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
Malcom Hill - Weiss HS

Coach Hill goes above and beyond to support students and staff at Weiss HS.

From greeting students in the hallways to attending every home volleyball game, he leads by example-promoting positivity, teamwork, and accountability.

Known for being one of the first to arrive and the last to leave, Coach Hill's dedication to Weiss athletics and the entire campus community truly stands out.



SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
Mike Morgan - Wieland ES

Mike is new to Wieland ES this year and has quickly become an essential part of the team! Always ready to help, he supports teachers, assists students, and keeps our campus safe and clean.

His kindness and positive attitude shine through daily, whether greeting staff, helping students, or staying late to support EDP. Mike goes above and beyond, making everyone feel valued.



GUEST EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH
Manuel Villegas - Provan Opportunity Center

Mr. Manuel Villegas brings warmth, and dedication to the Provan Opportunity Center. Always ready to step in, he's built strong relationships with students and staff alike.

His calm, optimistic presence makes him more than a substitute; he's a trusted partner in education who consistently fosters understanding and trust.

With empathy and care, he helps students feel seen and supported every day.



SHOUTOUTS

CELEBRATE THE WORK OF PFISD STAFF!

If you know a staff member who goes above and beyond, let them know how much they're appreciated by submitting a Shoutout.

Click here to share your message of gratitude.

Teacher Assistants – Delco ES (via Cheryl Perkins)
"The aides in my grandson's class are amazing! They are so helpful and supportive—it truly takes a village. A big thank you to each of you!"

Erin Perrino – Riojas ES (via Anonymous)
"Thank you, Mrs. Perrino, for setting up the GT morning group! My child has loved learning new things like sphere-o-bots and talks about it constantly. Your time and energy are greatly appreciated!"

Erin Perino – Riojas ES (via Najja Conway)
"Ms. Perino has done a great job with the Apple Launchpad Program! Our daughter loves attending each week and has learned so much. Thank you for creating such a valuable experience!"

Coaches – Westview MS (via Maria Lopez)
"Thank you for arriving early and staying late so students can practice! Your dedication and encouraging words are making a difference. We appreciate you!"

FROM THE SUPT

DR. QUINTIN SHEPHERD

Celebrating Inclusion and Support during Disabilities Awareness Month

October is recognized nationally as Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to celebrate the unique talents, achievements, and contributions of individuals with disabilities, and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. At Pflugerville ISD, this commitment is woven into the fabric of who we are as a district.

Our Special Education Department provides a wide range of services designed to meet students where they are and help them thrive. From individualized education plans (IEPs) and speech, occupational, and physical therapy services to specialized instructional support and transition programs, our educators and staff work tirelessly to create environments that foster learning, confidence, and inclusion. Their dedication reflects our belief that all students, regardless of ability, deserve equitable access to quality education and the tools to succeed.

Last week, our Special Education Department hosted its Parent Connection Night, a wonderful evening focused on strengthening the partnership between schools and families. The event brought together parents, staff, and community partners to share resources, strategies, and support systems that empower families of students receiving special education services. The turnout and feedback were outstanding, underscoring the power of collaboration in building strong educational foundations.

We are also proud to share that Pflugerville ISD was recognized nationally this month by the Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA), receiving two awards at its annual conference, including the Outstanding Special Education initiative award. This recognition reflects the district's intentional efforts to better engage families, particularly those from Spanish-speaking and Latino backgrounds.

This initiative was spearheaded by Julie Schwarz, the district's Pflugerville ISD Special Education Family Engagement Specialist. This role serves as a vital bridge between schools and families, ensuring that communication is responsive, accessible, and inclusive. It is a tangible demonstration of our ongoing dedication to meaningful partnership with our community.

As we reflect on Disabilities Awareness Month, we celebrate the incredible students we serve, the dedicated professionals who support them, and the families who walk alongside us in this important work. Together, we are creating a district where every learner belongs, every voice is valued, and every student has the opportunity to shine.

Yours in Education,



8th Annual Rumble in the 'Ville

STATE of the District

PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PfISD

The Pfoundation
Pflugerville Education Foundation

NOVEMBER 14, 2025
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Courtyard Marriott Pflugerville
16100 Impact Way, Pflugerville, TX 78660



Join the Pflugerville ISD and the Pflugerville Education Foundation for the **2025 State of the District**. This premier community event brings together business leaders, elected officials, educators, and families to hear directly from Superintendent Dr. Quintin Shepherd about PfISD's achievements, priorities, and vision for the future.

Learn More!



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Pflugerville ISD takes great pride in celebrating the outstanding achievements of our educators, students, and staff who continue to raise the bar for excellence. At last month's Board meeting, we recognized several individuals whose hard work and dedication exemplify what it means to be #PflugervilleProud.



Samantha Stokes Competes at TSA Nationals
HHS junior Samantha Stokes advanced to the TSA Nationals in Nashville, TN, after placing 2nd at state in Dragster Design. Samantha's creativity and innovation highlight PfISD students' excellence.



PfISD Receives MASBA National Awards
PfISD earned two national awards from the Mexican American School Boards Association: Outstanding Special Education Initiative and Outstanding Advocacy Partner, recognizing the district's commitment to equity, inclusion, and family engagement.



PLEDGE LEADERS

WIELAND ELEMENTARY

This month, our Pledge Leaders from Wieland ES proudly represented their campus by leading the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.



Danielle Nunez Earns Lone Star FFA Degree
PHS senior Danielle Nunez earned the Lone Star FFA Degree, the highest honor for Texas FFA members. Danielle has demonstrated leadership through raising cattle, serving as a chapter officer, and giving back to her community.



Lyza Daud & Payton Lin Place 5th at FCCLA Nationals
HHS juniors Lyza Daud and Payton Lin competed at the FCCLA National Competition in Orlando, FL, after finishing 2nd at state. They placed 5th nationally in Event Management Level 2 with a score of 98.8/100.



Hendrickson HS Marine Corps JROTC Excels

Naval Honor School Award
HHS Marine Corps JROTC, led by Lt. Col. Deborah Roberts-Shaw and Sgt. Maj. Carlos Torres, earned the prestigious Naval Honor School Award for the 3rd consecutive year and the 8th time in program history. The unit is recognized for excellence in leadership, academics, citizenship, and community service.

ROTC Leadership Academic Bowl
HHS MCJROTC cadets placed 4th overall at the ROTC Leadership Academic Bowl in Washington, D.C., ranking among the top eight programs nationwide. They also competed at the National Youth Physical Fitness Competition in Arkansas, with the female team placing 4th and the male team 6th.



PfISD Earns Gold-Level MHWC Partner Recognition
Pflugerville ISD received Gold-Level recognition from the Mayor's Health & Well-Being Council for its commitment to employee wellness. Of 32 schools honored, 25 were in PfISD. Parmer Lane ES and Kelly Lane MS each earned $1,000 top division awards, while Copperfield ES received the District Changemaker Award and $400 prize.

Weiss HS Students Place 4th at TAFE Nationals
WHS seniors Emilia Ortiz and Helena Padron placed 4th nationally in the Children's Literature (Spanish) competition at the Educators Rising Conference in Orlando. Their original book, Diferente (dee-feh-REN-teh) A Mi, stood out among competitors nationwide.



Homecoming 79'

HOMECOMING: THEN AND NOW

CELEBRATING DECADES OF TRADITION, PRIDE, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT



The 1978-79 Homecoming Queen Miss Vicki Havins

Photos courtesy of Vernagene Mott

There's something special about Homecoming in Pflugerville ISD.

From spirited pep rallies and Friday night lights to mums bigger than ever, the celebration continues to unite generations of Panthers, Hawks, Cougars, and Wolves in true #PflugervilleProud fashion.

Then: The Early Days of Tradition

In the early years, Homecoming was a simple yet heartfelt affair—a community-wide event where families packed the stands, alumni returned to their hometown roots, and the entire town turned out to cheer for the team. Pep rallies echoed with school pride, and every touchdown felt like a celebration of the whole community.



Judy Wieland
Homecoming 59'



PHS: Homecoming 1986





Now: Evolving with Pride
Today, PfISD Homecoming remains one of the most anticipated events of the school year—but with a modern twist. Students showcase their creativity through elaborate mum designs, and themed spirit days, that spread school pride far and wide.

At every campus, Homecoming is more than a game—it's a weeklong celebration of connection. Elementary and middle schools now join in on the fun, hosting mini spirit days to cheer on their feeder high schools.

Keeping the Tradition Alive
No matter how much things change, the heart of Homecoming remains the same: celebrating community, tradition, and the pride of being part of PfISD. Alumni continue to return to their roots, students build memories that will last a lifetime, and the stands still roar with the same excitement that started it all.

Because in Pflugerville, Homecoming isn't just a tradition—it's a legacy.









PFISD AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM EARNS ASE ACCREDITATION

After years of dedication, and perseverance, the Pflugerville ISD automotive program has officially earned Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accreditation, a nationally recognized mark of quality in automotive education.

The achievement reflects PfISD's commitment to the 3 E's: Enrollment, Enlistment, and Employment.

The accreditation reflects the district's focus on preparing students for success at every stage—helping them get started in career and technical education, guiding them toward advanced training opportunities, and equipping them with the skills needed to enter the workforce.

ASE accreditation, granted by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, ensures that students are trained on industry-standard equipment, follow up-to-date curriculum, and develop skills that meet real-world automotive industry standards.

Latasha Wilson led the accreditation efforts, with vital support from campus leadership to ensure that curriculum, instruction, and program procedures met ASE standards.

With official certificates on the way, PfISD's automotive program now joins an elite group of schools recognized nationwide for excellence in technical education, opening doors for students to enroll in high-quality programs, pursue further training, and confidently enter the workforce.





PFUTURE READY

PLANNING YOUR PATH TO FUTURE SUCCESS

At Pflugerville ISD, we are dedicated to our 3E's Promise: ensuring every student graduates with an actionable plan for Employment, Enrollment, or Enlistment.

You'll have the chance to explore academic and enrichment programs for college enrollment, discover career pathways that lead to employment, opportunities for military enlistment, and learn about our advanced academics, CTE, JROTC, athletic and fine arts programs.

This event is your opportunity to connect with staff, current students, and community partners who can guide your child toward a successful future.







November 19, 2025

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

PACE High School
700 W. Pecan St.,
Pflugerville, TX 78660



HARMONY IN MOTION:

22ND ANNUAL PFESTIVAL OF BANDS BRINGS MUSIC AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER



A brisk breeze swept through The Pfield on October 29 — one of the first cool nights of fall — as hundreds of student musicians took the field for Pflugerville ISD's 22nd Annual Pfestival of Bands. Families, friends, and alumni filled the stands, bundled against the chill but eager to celebrate a districtwide showcase of talent and teamwork.



The evening opened with the Presentation of Colors by the Connally HS Army Junior ROTC Cougar Battalion and the national anthem sung by Bryce Burwinkel (Hendrickson HS, Kelly Lane MS, Rowe Lane ES).

PfISD's middle and high school bands performed a joint piece, featuring "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift and Liz Rose, arranged by Doug Adams. For many middle school musicians, it was a first opportunity to perform alongside their high school counterparts — a glimpse of what awaits them in the years ahead.

After the combined performance, each of the four PfISD high school marching bands presented its 2025 show. The music ranged from classical interpretations to modern favorites, each program telling its own story through intricate arrangements and visual design.

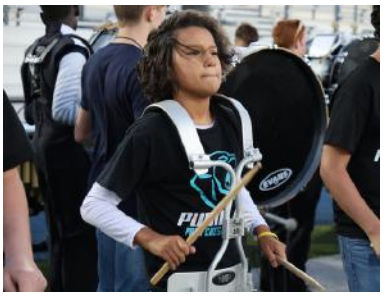








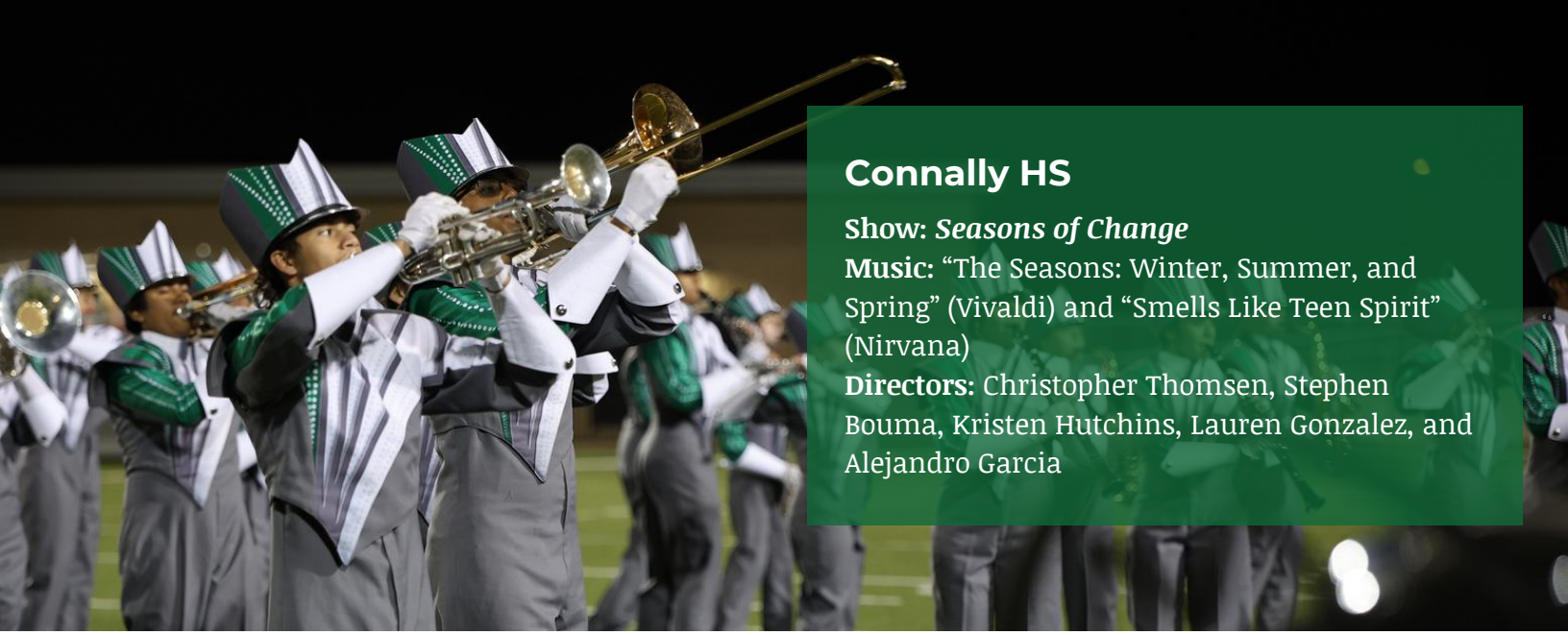






"Our students and teachers have spent the past few months pouring their hearts into the incredible displays of music and art we experienced at Pfestival of Bands," said Dr. Sarah Martinez, PfISD Director of Fine Arts. "They have been building confidence, collaboration, resilience, and communication skills that will help them prepare for their next steps in life, whether that's employment, enlistment in the military, or enrollment in college. It was inspiring to see our community come together to celebrate the work of our students, staff, volunteers, and community partners who made this event possible."

As the final notes faded and the Texas State University Bobcat Marching Band took the field to close the night, the audience's applause reflected more than appreciation for the performances. It was a recognition of the hard work, collaboration, and community spirit that define PfISD's Fine Arts programs year after year.



Connally HS

Show: ***Seasons of Change***
Music: "The Seasons: Winter, Summer, and Spring" (Vivaldi) and "Smells Like Teen Spirit" (Nirvana)
Directors: Christopher Thomsen, Stephen Bouma, Kristen Hutchins, Lauren Gonzalez, and Alejandro Garcia



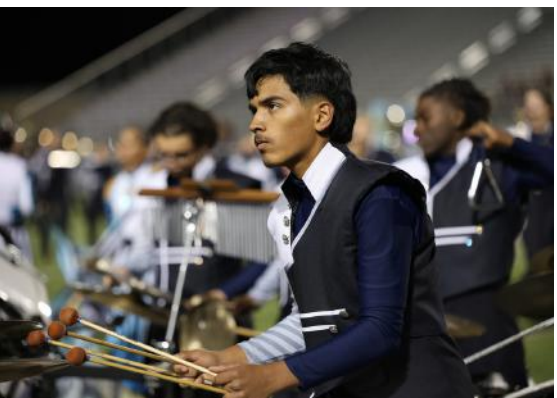






Hendrickson HS

Show: ***Emergence***
Music: "Dance Movement. 1" (Oliver Davis) "Blue" (Billie Eilish), "Courage to Change" (Sia), and "Apres Moi" (Regina Spektor)
Directors: Dean Surface, Isaac Medina, Nicole Davis, Nathan Zamora, and Tom Jackson







Pflugerville HS

Show: ***Keyed In***
Music: "Piano Man" (Billy Joel) "Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Major" (Dimitri Shostakovich), "Grand Piano" (Nicki Minaj), "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43, Variation 18" (Sergei Rachmaninoff) "Heart and Soul" (Frank Loesser and Hoagy Carmichael), and "Chopsticks" (Arthur Delulli and Euphemia Allen)
Directors: OD Wilson, Darrell Wagner, Ryan Ornelas, Trysten Cook, Hannah Mayes









Weiss HS

Show: ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***
Music: "Spring 1" (Max Richter), "Firefly" (Ryan George), "Earth Song" (Frank Ticheli), "Kingfishers Catch Fire" (John Mackey)
Directors: Ian Young, Emely Chacon, Mason Clark, Hunter Langhans, Landy Roberson









GROWING OUR OWN: PFISD'S COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

At Pflugerville ISD, leadership is more than a role — it's a calling to serve, inspire, and make a lasting impact. The district proudly believes in growing its own leaders by offering a wide variety of professional leadership development opportunities for staff at every stage of their career journey. From aspiring teachers who envision leading a team to experienced administrators ready to lead at the highest levels, PfISD provides intentional pathways that empower employees to learn, lead, and grow.

"Our district sees tremendous value in ensuring that we are preparing our leaders for tomorrow," said Holly Galloway, Director of Leadership Development. "When we invest in our people, we invest in our students, our schools, and the future of PfISD."

"When we invest in our people, we invest in our students, our schools, and the future of PfISD."
- Holly Galloway, Director of Leadership Development.

Inspiring Growth and Building Pathways through Leadership Academies

The PfISD Leadership Academies bring together staff from across departments, including teachers, counselors, custodians, nurses, administrators, and more, to explore what it means to lead. The academies are designed to meet participants where they are in their professional journeys, providing opportunities to learn, reflect, and grow alongside peers who share a passion for making a difference.

The **Aspiring Leaders Academy** provides current PfISD employees with the opportunity to take their first steps toward leadership. This program helps participants develop the confidence and foundational skills necessary to transition into future supervisory roles. Through interactive sessions, participants learn about the district's leadership profile, explore their personal leadership styles, and develop effective communication skills. They also practice navigating difficult conversations, leading through change, and fostering cultural awareness and equity in their work. The experience is designed to help them view leadership not as a destination, but as a mindset that empowers them to positively influence their schools and teams.

For those already serving in leadership roles, the **Leadership Development Academy** offers a deeper exploration of the art and science of leading with authenticity. Grounded in Brené Brown's *Dare to Lead*, this academy encourages participants to lead with courage, empathy, and emotional intelligence. Participants examine their strengths and challenges, engage in honest conversations about vulnerability and trust, and strengthen their ability to build resilient, high-performing teams.

This academy also explores the practical side of leadership: resolving conflict, solving strategic problems, and understanding the vital role of board policy in guiding district decisions. The goal is to equip PfISD leaders with the tools and mindset to inspire those they serve while maintaining focus on what matters most: student success.

At the highest levels of leadership, PfISD offers Executive Leadership Coaching, a personalized coaching experience for campus and district leaders.



Dr. Shepherd presentst to Superintendent Cohort

Through one-on-one sessions, leaders work with a coach to identify growth areas, refine their leadership practices, and strengthen their ability to navigate complex challenges. Each coaching relationship is tailored to the leader's goals, fostering reflection, self-awareness, and continuous improvement.

Pathways to the Pfuture: Superintendent Cohort
The newest initiative, Pathways to the Pfuture, launched in the 2025–2026 school year as a bold step in preparing PfISD's next generation of executive leaders. This prestigious superintendent cohort is designed for those ready to lead at scale, engaging in real-world problem-solving, district-wide projects, and authentic leadership simulations. Participants will shadow sitting superintendents, collaborate with regional thought leaders, and gain firsthand insight into leading a complex school system with vision and purpose.

"This program is more than professional learning, it's a deliberate investment in the future of public education in Pflugerville ISD and across Texas," said Superintendent Dr. Quintin Shepherd. "Just as every student deserves a clear and supported pathway to success, our educators deserve the same. Pathways to the Pfuture ensures that our most promising leaders are equipped to rise and lead with courage, wisdom, and heart."

Investing in People, Strengthening the Future
Together, these leadership pathways form a seamless continuum of professional growth that reflects PfISD's deep commitment to developing talent from within. Whether it's an aspiring teacher, a seasoned administrator, or a future superintendent, each participant contributes to a culture of continuous improvement and shared purpose.

"Leadership is about influence, service, and courage. Through our academies and partnerships, we're helping our people grow those qualities so that our students and our community can continue to thrive," Dr. Shepherd said.

With multiple pathways, strong partnerships, and an unwavering focus on people, Pflugerville ISD continues to model what it means to invest in leadership that lasts, building a brighter, stronger future for every student and every school.

P4 PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: PREPARING FOR PFISD'S FUTURE

Pflugerville ISD is proud to announce the launch of the P4 Principal Leadership Preparation Program, an exciting new partnership with Concordia University Texas designed to cultivate the next generation of PfISD school leaders.

The P4 Program, short for PfISD and Concordia's Principal Preparation Partnership, provides PfISD educators with a customized path to earn a Master's in Educational Leadership, with or without Principal Certification. This innovative collaboration aligns with the district's belief in growing its own leaders by supporting staff members who aspire to step into administrative roles.

"Strong schools start with strong leaders," said Superintendent Dr. Quintin Shepherd. "Through the P4 program, we're creating an intentional pathway for PfISD educators to develop the skills and confidence they need to lead with purpose, empathy, and excellence."

Classes will meet once a week at the PACE campus and include additional online coursework, allowing participants to balance their professional responsibilities while advancing their education. As part of the partnership, PfISD employees receive a $50 per credit hour discount, making the program both accessible and affordable.

Participants will not only earn a degree but also gain real-world leadership experience within the PfISD community, ensuring their learning is both practical and relevant.

Applications for the inaugural P4 cohort are open now, with a deadline of December 5.

This first-of-its-kind program represents more than just another credential; it is an investment in the district's future and in the talented educators who make Pflugerville ISD a place where leadership grows from within.



PfISD BOND 2022

Join us as we celebrate the groundbreaking of the new PfISD Career and Technical Education Center!

CTE Center Ground Breaking

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
4225 E. Wells Branch Pkwy



Learn more about Bond 2022 projects at www.pfisdbond.net













HEALTH AND SAFETY HIGHLIGHT

DISTRICT REPLACES AGING AEDS WITH NEW AVIVE UNITS

As part of the district's ongoing commitment to safety, campuses have recently received new Avive Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to replace older units that were nearing the end of their service life. AEDs are vital, life-saving devices that can provide immediate assistance in the event of a sudden cardiac emergency, and ensuring they are up-to-date is an important part of maintaining safe learning environments.

The new Avive AEDs offer advanced technology, streamlined maintenance, and user-friendly features designed to assist staff and bystanders during critical moments. By upgrading to these modern units, the district is not only staying compliant with safety standards but also enhancing its ability to respond quickly and effectively should an emergency occur.

This replacement project ensures that every campus continues to be equipped with reliable, ready-to-use AEDs. The investment reflects the district's priority to safeguard students, staff, and visitors through proactive planning and updated emergency resources.

ENHANCED SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION WITH NEW RADIO SYSTEM

Thanks to community support through Bond funding, our district has taken another important step toward improving campus safety and communication. After careful research and planning, the district has purchased a new radio system designed to strengthen communication for our Campus Safety Teams.



These new radios provide clearer service within school buildings and offer the ability to connect across campuses by switching channels—ensuring faster, more reliable communication when it matters most. The Transportation Department is also now equipped with the new system, allowing drivers and staff to stay connected while transporting students, even in areas where previous radio coverage was limited.

In addition, the district has found a way to extend the benefits of this investment even further. With the new system in place, the previous radios were reassigned to the Special Education Department. This will help enhance communication at the campus level for these staff members, creating a safer and more supportive environment for students and staff alike.



CARPENTER ELEMENTARY PRE-K EXPLORES COMMUNITY HELPERS THROUGH PFISD'S 3ES

Carpenter Elementary Pre-K students spent a week meeting community helpers on campus and around the neighborhood, turning an early childhood unit into a series of real-world encounters.

Military mom T'Anna Munoz described eight years of service, offering a child-friendly look at teamwork and leadership. In the cafeteria, manager Laura Lira guided a behind-the-scenes tour—complete with chef hats—showing how meals are prepared and delivered daily. A short walk to the neighborhood fire station brought a hands-on tour of the trucks, equipment, and a water-spray demonstration.

Health and wellness took the spotlight when Chris Busch, a cath lab professional and former military member, showed hospital supplies and discussed heart-healthy habits. James Johnson, a strength coach for the Miami Marlins, led a mini running clinic and explained support roles in professional sports. KVUE meteorologist Hunter Williams discussed forecasting and public safety, and the week concluded with Officer Garcia and K9 Johnny.

Teacher Jenny Rees said the strength of the week was its authenticity.

"During Community Helpers Week, students met real-life helpers including firefighters, a nurse, a police officer, a coach, a meteorologist, and our cafeteria staff," said Rees. "They learned how each job contributes to the community and helps keep everyone safe and healthy."



Top: KVUE meteorologist Hunter Williams
Bottom: James Johnson, strength Coach for Miami Marlins (Parent)



She added: “By meeting these helpers in person, rather than only reading about them, students gained hands-on experiences and were able to ask questions that deepened their understanding of each role.”

Principal Amanda MacAllister says the goal is to spark possibility, not steer career choices.

“When we introduce pathways like the 3Es themed community helpers week that Ms. Rees hosted, it’s not about asking four-year-olds to choose a career; it’s about helping them dream big and see themselves as capable and successful learners,” says MacAllister. “It’s never too early to start helping kids see that what they’re learning connects to their future.”

Following the visits, Rees used class discussions to introduce Pflugerville ISD’s Three E’s—a district initiative that aims for every graduate to leave with a clear next step by 2029.

At the end of the week, students reflected on what they might want to be when they grow up. They illustrated “What I Want To Be” posters and helped categorize their choices into one of the three pathways.

“It’s not about asking four-year-olds to choose a career; it’s about helping them dream big and see themselves as capable and successful learners.”
-Amanda MacAllister, JCES Principal

These Pre-K experiences connected classroom learning to visible roles in the community—first responders, health professionals, nutrition staff, scientists, and coaches—giving students a concrete sense of how learning can lead to helping others.

“My hope is that as our students move through school, these early conversations and experiences build confidence, curiosity, and purpose, helping them stay engaged and motivated as they grow and discover their own unique paths,” says MacAllister.





Top: Ofc. Garcia and K9 Johnny; Bottom Left: Cafeteria manager Ms. Laura Lira and staff; Bottom Right: Catheter Lab Tech Chris Busch (parent)

More Than a Diploma: The Power of the Three E’s

At Pflugerville ISD, every student deserves a future that’s full of purpose. That’s why the **Three E’s Initiative** was launched: a bold commitment that by 2029, 100% of graduates will leave not just with a diploma, but with a clear direction for their next chapter.



Pflugerville MS

SHOUTOUTS

Jessica Brown – Teacher (via Student, Chriselly M.)
"Ms. Brown is the best and most kind teacher I know. She is funny and explains all her lessons in a way that helps me understand a lot, which is why I am so grateful to be in her class."

Janie Rodriguez – Highland Park ES (via Susana Berry)
"She is the best with her Kinder students!"

Charla Schneider – Murchison ES (via Emily Alvers)
"Our son is absolutely LOVING his time in social studies and ELA this year, thanks to Ms. Schneider. The first week of school my child said, 'I really like that Ms. Schneider asks us WHY!' Each week has brought fun new opportunities to think critically, work cooperatively, and exercise creativity while learning about history and literature. She's caring, communicative, and engaging—thank you for making learning fun!"



AMANDA MACALLISTER CARPENTER ES

"Mrs. MacAllister went above and beyond to make sure our child was welcomed when joining the campus. She is so kind and understanding—PFISD is lucky to have her!"

- Amber Harris

Kyle Saunders – Wieland ES (via *Kim Vo*)
"Mr. Saunders is the best music teacher! He does such a great job with performances and goes above and beyond to help families in need. He's a great teacher and person!"

Margie Lewis – Delco ES (via *Cheryl Perkins*)
"There are not enough words to express my gratitude for Ms. Lewis. She has been my grandson's teacher for 3 years, and the growth in him is remarkable. She loves her students deeply and is truly dedicated to special education. Thank you for everything!"

Alexis (Kewish) Templeton – Murchison ES (via Emily Alvers)
"We are so grateful to have Ms. Templeton at our school this year! She brings such a positive attitude and enthusiasm for science and math. Her energy is uplifting, and she constantly encourages her students. Thank you for keeping it positive, light, and fun while teaching such important subjects!"

Guadalupe De La Cruz & Melissa Sifuentes – Riojas ES (via Gloria Rivera)
"These two are the dynamic duo for third grade dual language! My daughter comes home excited to practice what she learned. They are excellent communicators and make school and learning fun!"

Angie Heitman – Hidden Lake ES (via Amy)
"She cares about all of the students and her community. She brings such positivity and warmth to the school environment and we appreciate her so much!"

Julie Schwarz – Family Engagement (via Amy Brown)
"Julie is an incredible human being, supporting parents and providing opportunities to build community. She always shows up with compassion and helps families feel seen and supported. We are so lucky to have her!"



SHOUTOUTS

Rumble in the Ville

Lindsey Raisor – Hidden Lake ES (via Sruthi Sandesari)
"Watching my child grow, learn, and come home excited to share what they did in class is a testament to your care and commitment. You're building confidence, kindness, and a love for learning. We're so grateful for everything you do!"

CELEBRATE OUR PFISD STAFF WITH A SHOUTOUT!

Julie Schwarz – Family Engagement Specialist (via Anita Husen)
"Ms. Schwarz made mid-year enrollment smooth with her clear communication and timely responses. She truly made the transition feel effortless, and we're so grateful for her support!"

Amy Freyler – Mott ES (via Anita Husen)
"Ms. Amy's clear and timely communication makes parents feel like they're in the classroom! She gives weekly updates and daily photos, keeping everyone informed and connected. Thank you for going above and beyond!"

Stephanie Negrete – Murchison ES (via Anita Husen)
"Though my son was only in Ms. Negrete's class for a few weeks, she cared for him with warmth and kindness. Her class provided structure and love, helping him build confidence and discipline. We're so thankful for her!"

Monique Love – Rowe Lane ES (via Jessica Sheridan)
"Ms. Love is a WONDERFUL teacher! She connects so well with students, communicates with parents, and goes above and beyond for her students. My child has excelled in such a short time!"

KARINA SAQUICHE HENDRICKSON HS '13

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Karina Saquiche (Cortina), a 2013 Hendrickson High School graduate, is making a lasting impact in the classroom and her community.

After earning her degree in elementary education from Western Governors University, she returned to her roots as a Kindergarten teacher at Copperfield Elementary—the same school she once attended.

From student to educator, Karina's full-circle journey reflects her passion for teaching and her dedication to creating the same supportive environment that once inspired her.

Click here to share your story and inspire the next generation of our PfISD Pfamily!





PFISD CELEBRATES DISABILITY AND INCLUSION AWARENESS MONTH

October was a month of learning, advocacy, and celebration across the community as Pflugerville ISD recognized Disability and Inclusion Awareness Month.

Mayor Victor Gonzales presented an official proclamation to PfISD Director of Special Education Somer Niemann and City of Pflugerville Director of Emergency Services Joseph Chacon, declaring October as Disability and Inclusion Awareness Month in the City of Pflugerville. The proclamation emphasized the city's and district's shared commitment to creating a community where individuals of all abilities can thrive through equitable access to education, employment, recreation, and civic engagement.

On October 28, PfISD hosted a Special Education Parent Connection Night, drawing 83 participants for an evening of connection and collaboration. Families engaged with 11 community agencies and nine presenters, gaining valuable insight into local services and supports. The district plans to host its next Parent Connection Night in April 2026.

In addition, this month's In Pfocus podcast spotlighted PfISD's Special Education Services, featuring conversations with Special Education staff about the supports, programs, and partnerships that empower students of all abilities to reach their full potential.

Through events, recognition, and community collaboration, Pflugerville ISD continues to affirm its dedication to building an inclusive environment where every student, family, and staff member feels valued and supported.



Top: Mayor Victor Gonzales presents proclamation. Bottom: PfISD staff Kim Cruz, Janelle Saldana, and Leslie McLean at Special Education Parent Connection Night.

IN Pfocus Podcast

Hear from Somer Niemann and Julie Schwarz on this month's episode of In Pfocus.

A+ Federal Credit Union



Invested in helping empower the youth in our community to live their A+ lives.

Proud to support Pflugerville ISD students and their families with special financial education and programs.

Membership required. Insured by NCUA.

2026-2027 NOW OPEN!

HELP YOUR STUDENT ACCESS FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL

Get Started

- Visit fafsa.gov to begin your application.
- Gather required documents.
- Create your Financial Aid account.
- Check if your student needs a CSS Profile.



FAFSA Workshops

Get personalized help completing the FAFSA!

Attend your campus workshop—contact your Career/College Advisor (CCA) for details.

Campus Contacts:

- Connally HS – Stephanie.Lopez1@pfisd.net
- Hendrickson HS – Leigh.Spradlin@pfisd.net
- Pflugerville HS – Nicholas.Howell@pfisd.net
- Weiss HS – Haley.Honey@pfisd.net
- PACE – Kimberly.Sanchez@pfisd.net

THE PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR TEXAS COLLEGES IS JANUARY 15.

Learn more with the FAFSA Walk-through Video



The Pfoundation

Pflugerville Education Foundation

Support Pflugerville ISD Schools with these upcoming Education Foundation events:

November 14
State of the District
Purchase Tickets >

November 24
Putt for a Cause - Popstroke
Location: Popstroke: 13000 Harris Ridge Blvd, Austin, TX 78753
Time: All Day event
20% of all golf revenue goes to PEF

December 2
Giving Tuesday
Giving Tuesday is an annual global movement of generosity that occurs on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, encouraging people to give back.
Donate >

December 8
Kendra Scott In-Store Holiday Event
Location: Kendra Scott Domain: 11506 Century Oaks Terrace Suite 104, Austin
Time: 6-9 p.m.
OR Shop online at www.kendrascott.com on December 8 & 9 and use code "GIVEBACK-KOJMP"
20% of proceeds go to PEF - Flyer

Visit thepfoundation.org to learn more about the Pflugerville Education Foundation.