

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

DEAR JUDSON ISD FAMILY:

We talk all the time about the Judson ISD Family. I think about my own roots in Judson ISD and how the experiences I had here have shaped me into the person I am today. Now, we have more than 24,000 students and over 3,800 employees. Yet, when I am out in the community or on a campus, whether it's on the north side of the district or the south side of the district, I still have the feeling that we are one family doing the work to change our community for the better. I still feel the feeling of home no matter which municipality I happen to be in on a given day.

All of us give so much every day to make Judson ISD the best place to learn and grow. That shared sense of purpose creates belonging and community, no matter where you park your vehicle in the mornings. We are in this pursuit together. This is Judson ISD. *One Home. One Family.*

Thank you for everything you do to make it extraordinary for students and staff.

Dr. Rob Fields



SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

OUR LEADERSHIP DEFINITION: FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Paula Johnson

The first Judson ISD Leadership Key competency is about developing a positive culture that values diversity and ensuring everyone feels respected and valued. Building a culture of respect is an integral part of my position as the Chief of Student Advocacy. My role is not just to advocate for our students, but to strengthen the relationships among our district community. This begins by first recognizing and valuing the diversity of the Judson ISD Family. We are the most diverse public school district in San Antonio and Bexar County. It is a pillar of who we are and must be the driving force of the work we do. The fact is, there is no other district like Judson ISD!

Ensuring that everyone feels respected as a member of our community requires each of us to treat one another with dignity and respect. As members of 31 different campus communities, we come from different backgrounds and cultures. Growing together as one big family is what makes us great!

When I think back to my time as a teacher, I found great support from my teammates and neighboring teachers. Many of you can attest to this – we build friendships and families with our school crew. When you need something, want to laugh, or have something to share, we go to our neighbors. Before you know it, you've developed a relationship with the people around you. You've created shared experiences. Those relationships carry you through the school year. It is vital for all of us to continue this practice but on a much larger scale. Relationships and shared experiences lead to respect for our neighbors and every single stakeholder that makes Judson ISD unique, diverse, and great.



For more news and information about Judson ISD visit us on the web at
www.judsonisd.org



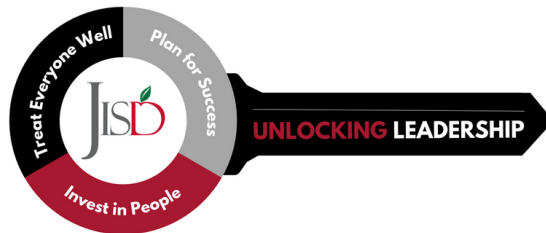
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OUR LEADERSHIP DEFINITION CONTINUED...

We have so much to gain from one another. Everyone brings a unique perspective to share, listen, and understand other people's opinions. The cliché is that we are citizens of the world. We're the proud citizens of Judson ISD where the expectation is that we all lead with one of the most important relationship traits – kindness. Showing respect for each other is as simple as beginning with kindness. We all deserve to learn and work in an inclusive and welcoming environment where we feel safe and are treated with integrity. Building a culture of respect begins with building a community of care.

Dr. Paula Johnson

Paula Johnson, Ph.D.
Chief of Student Advocacy



[Learn more about JISD Leadership Definition.](#)

JUDSON ISD OPEN ENROLLMENT IS OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 20

**Coverages elected during Open Enrollment will be effective
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.**

Mark the date! Open Enrollment is your once-a-year opportunity to elect benefits and make changes to your current coverages. Please remember that enrollment is mandatory—**Benefits are NOT rolling over.**

Go to the [Employee Services Resource Page](#) to find the 2024 Benefit Options Summary to start considering what is best for you and your family.

Also, be sure to watch your email for more information coming soon about onsite enrollment meetings with Licensed Benefits Counselors to help you enroll. If you should need any assistance or technical support, please contact Employee Services at employeeservices@judsonisd.org.



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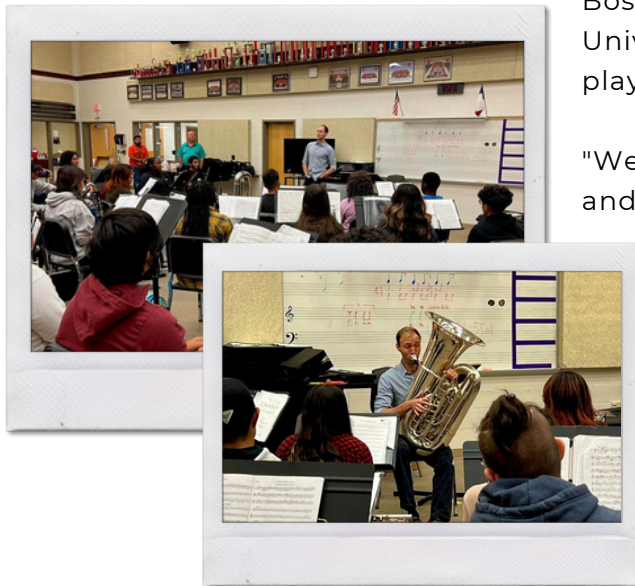
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FRANK JOHN, ROOTED IN JUDSON ISD

Meet Joseph Hopkins Elementary School, Kirby Middle School, and Wagner High School Alumnus Frank John!

Frank was not only valedictorian of Wagner HS but also a four-year Tuba All-State Musician. As a sophomore in HS, he was part of the University of Incarnate Word Symphony Orchestra. After high school, Frank attended New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, one of

the premier music schools in the world. After Boston, he continued his studies at the Zurich University of Arts in Switzerland. He's been playing in orchestras across Europe ever since.



"We were very blessed to have had Frank visit us and work with our tuba players in preparation for TMEA auditions coming up." said, Wagner High School Band Director Jose Perez.

"Frank is a wonderful example of what hard work and perseverance can get you. We are very proud of calling Frank a Wagner HS and Judson ISD Alumni!"

Let us know if you are a JISD Alumni.

PARK VILLAGE BULLDOG BASH

Last Thursday, Park Village Blended Learning Academy hosted its annual Bulldog Bash! All campus grade levels as well as some of our JISD departments hosted booths. There were also resources available to help promote academic and emotional success!

There were even community partners there to provide resources to families. And, of course don't forget the food trucks!



The PVBLA enjoyed the community-filled evening full of celebration and partnership!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND JUDSON ISD

HOMEcoming SEASON

Veterans Memorial HS students spent the morning greeting future Patriots at Salinas Elementary!

High-fives and smiles all around as we unite in school spirit for the Homecoming celebration!



SUPERINTENDENT'S SHINING STARS

We are so excited to celebrate the Superintendent's Shining Stars for September!

James Perez from Kirby Middle School

These students, selected by their campuses, show exceptional character and embody the Judson ISD's Leadership Definition. The key components of which are: Treat People Well, Plan for Success, and Invest in Others.



MILLION FATHER MARCH

Once a year, Escondido Elementary designates a special day for the Lion Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, and Male Role Models to show their commitment to education by bringing their student(s) to school and escorting them to their classes.

Thank you to all the men who joined their children in the Million Father March!



JECA STUDENTS MAKING RECYCLING A REALITY

It's easy to talk about change, but it is another thing entirely to work consistently, for years, toward a goal that will change things not only for you but for those who come after you. That is what's happening at Judson Early College Academy with the help of a very focused senior, Caroleena Mancilla, and her classmates on the Ecoscholars Committee.

"Since my sophomore year, I've heard students say, 'Why don't we have recycling? We should have recycling,' but there was never really a way for me to actually put it into action," Mancilla said.

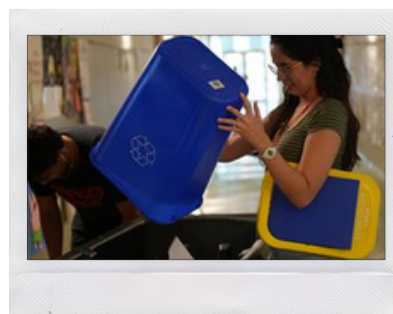
Then, she got a grant. Yes, you have heard about Caroleena before. She was awarded a City of San Antonio's Solid Waste Management Department \$5000 grant for composting and recycling. Now, that grant is being put to use to create change at JECA.



"That's when I was like, wow, I can finally recycle at my school. I can leave my senior year knowing that I did something that is going to impact my school for years to come," Mancilla said, smiling.

If you visit the campus, you will see a recycling dumpster. If you go on a Thursday, you will see the Eco Scholar Committee and other students filling that dumpster with recyclables.

Inside JECA, you will see a recycling bin in every classroom. These were donated by the City of San Antonio's Solid Waste Management Department after Mancilla reached out. You see, recycling on a large scale doesn't happen without meticulous planning.



[Read more how Mancilla and the whole JECA student body is making recycling a reality.](#)

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UTSA FOOTBALL & JEGIVE BACK NIGHT

Who's ready for some UTSA Football? UTSA and Judson ISD have partnered to bring you some fantastic discounts and experiences.

All JISD staff will receive discounted tickets to all UTSA home games.

Join us on October 28 for a designated Judson ISD District Night. A portion of your ticket purchase will be given back to the Judson Education Foundation to fund student scholarships and innovative teaching grants! On top of that, the first 60 tickets will get pre-game field access to watch the Roadrunners run out during team intros!

Get your Birds Up and [get your discounted tickets here!](#)

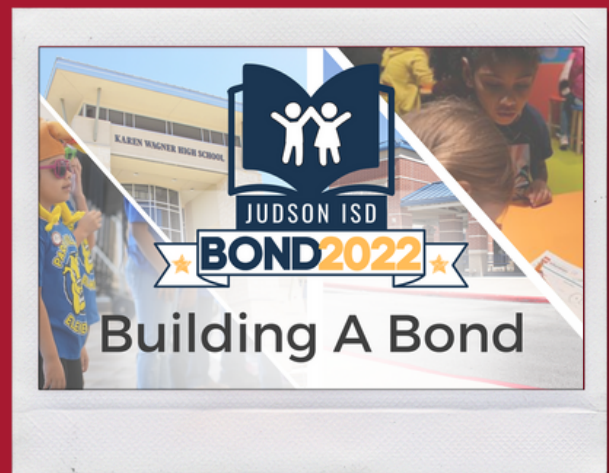


JUDSON ISD BOND 2022 SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The Judson ISD Bond 2022 made some exciting progress. Construction on Middle School #6 is ongoing, Construction continues for Middle School #6, contractors have begun pouring concrete and progress has started on plumbing.

Check out a few of the updates:

- All district building security camera replacements are complete with the exception of ERC.
- Internal firewall configuration is ongoing.
- All campuses have been equipped with a visitor check-in system.
- Phase 1 of Access Control has been completed. Installing new Access Control panels is ongoing.
- Transportation is expecting fifteen 71-passenger buses in December 2023.



Want to check out all the Bond 2022 updates? Visit <https://www.judsonisd.org/bond2022> for more information!

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH:

Principal Monica Rodriguez

FOUND PURPOSE IN GIVING BACK TO HER HISPANIC COMMUNITY

While walking around Hartman Elementary, Principal Monica Rodriguez was in awe of the hustle and bustle of a busy elementary school post-lunch. Among the joyful laughs of children being guided by exceptional educators, she heard the staff and students speaking Spanish among themselves, something seemingly normal that happens on her campus.

Being one of the district's bilingual immersion campuses, acquiring Spanish as a second language is incorporated in all aspects of learning, something Rodriguez (and the staff) take pride in.

"It's a beautiful thing to be bilingual and to promote a campus that teaches the children how to speak Spanish," Rodriguez said. "I'm modeling to them that it is a good thing to have two languages and that it is okay to speak in those two forms. We are going to make sure that children have that gift of language because language opens doors."

The Spanish language is a pillar of pride in the Latino culture. And during National Hispanic Heritage Month, spotlighting prominent Hispanics is crucial to ensuring a basic understanding of the complex Latino culture. That also means highlighting prominent Hispanic leaders within our district, which Rodriguez is one.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, it is vital to spotlight students, programs, and leaders who take pride in their authenticity, and Ms. Rodriguez is a prime example of a proud, Latina, educational leader who finds value in giving back to the Judson ISD Family.

[Read more about Ms. Monica Rodriguez and how she is making a difference at JISD.](#)



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COMMUNITY BREW

Join us at Community Brew to see what's brewing at JISD!

Come grab some coffee and have a conversation with JISD Superintendent, Dr. Rob Fields on Saturday, September 23, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m at the JTECH building, 7990 Pat Booker Rd, 78233.

Hope to see you there!



FOUNDATION FRIDAYS

The Judson Education Foundation (JEF) wants to thank those who have participated in our eGive campaign. To add a touch of excitement to our Fridays, we are introducing Foundation Fridays which we are sure you will love. Every Friday. we invite each and every one of you to proudly wear your JEF 2023 eGive shirt.

Keep an eye out on Foundation Fridays for JEF members on campus, because the first staff member we see proudly wearing their eGive shirt will receive a special surprise!

Thank you for your dedication to our students and support of the Foundation, see you on Fridays! Check out last week's winners!



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND JUDSON ISD

SUMMER GRADUATIONS

The Judson ISD Summer Graduation was held at the Veterans Memorial High School PAC, last Thursday. We are prouder than proud of these graduates. They embody the meaning of perseverance.

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

Veterans Memorial HS Math Department shares their emotions as Inside Out characters for homecoming spirit week! Emotions are a universal language that connects everyone.

"In celebration of homecoming week, today's spirit day was "Dynamic Movie Duos". However, at VMHS, we are more than duos, we are a TEAM!!!!" said, Michelle Thompson VMHS Math Teacher.

READY TO LEARN

Students at Crestview Elementary are shining stars, ready to reach for the sky!

Students work together in groups to elevate their learning in each lesson.



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND JUDSON ISD

- September: Campus Safety Awareness Month, Suicide Prevention Month, Friendship Month, and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Sept 15-Oct 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 21: Regular School Board Meeting
- September 23: National IT Professional Day
- September 26: Human Resources Day
- September 29: National Teacher's Assistant Day
- October: Principals Month, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Bullying Prevention Month
- October 2: School Custodian Appreciation Day

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL STORY?

Is there an event, student, teacher, or community member you want to highlight? The Judson ISD social media platforms and website are a great way to highlight student and district successes!

To request media coverage, please fill out this submission form.

If you have any questions, please contact **Judson ISD's Multimedia Specialist, Briana Estrada**, at **210-945-5411** or **bestrada@judsonisd.org**. Thank you in advance for your participation.

CLICK HERE

FIND US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

The communications department would love to share your stories! After all, a picture is worth over a thousand words! **Click on the images below to go to our pages and give us a follow.**



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