

Superintendent Monica Simmons'

February Newsletter

February 1, 2024

Dear Jacket Community,

As we begin a new month, I wanted to take the opportunity to send my heartfelt wishes for a prosperous and joyful 2024 to each and every one of you. Your support and dedication to our school community are greatly appreciated.

Our passionate and dedicated staff members are filled with energy and enthusiasm as they create and share exciting learning opportunities for our students. Together, we remain focused on the tasks ahead of us this semester.

Our commitment is to establish an inclusive and supportive environment that promotes learning, collaboration, and achievement for all learners. I am truly grateful to our exceptional staff members and our supportive community. Together, we are "Preparing students today for success tomorrow."

This semester holds promising opportunities for our school community, and we eagerly anticipate the journey ahead. We will continue working towards achieving our goals and priorities as outlined on our district scorecard.

In addition, the board has identified some initial projects to be placed on a bond for the May 2024 election. These projects include, but are not limited to, building a new elementary campus, remodeling the girls' locker room, installing vestibules on all campuses, and a few additional projects. We will keep the community updated as we compile bond information and prepare to share it with you. Exciting times are ahead in Elysian Fields ISD, where anything is possible when you DREAM BIG!

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being part of our wonderful school community. Despite having to pause school for inclement weather and road conditions for a few days, we are still working diligently to ensure that our students have the best educational environment possible. Altering our normal operations can cause minor challenges with transportation, drop-off, and pick-up. As always, your kindness and cooperation help us continuously improve.



Elysian Fields ISD Receives First Rating in Texas' School FIRST Accountability System

Elysian Fields Independent School District (EFISD) has been awarded a "Superior" rating in Texas' School FIRST accountability system. This prestigious rating demonstrates EFISD's exceptional financial management practices and effective allocation of resources.

The School FIRST accountability system, now in its 21st year, was developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. Its primary goal is to ensure that public schools in Texas demonstrate quality performance in managing their financial resources, which is particularly challenging given the complexity of the Texas school finance system.

EFISD's "Superior Achievement" rating is the highest rating possible under this system and showcases the district's commitment to excellence in financial management and reporting. It reflects EFISD's accountability not only for student learning but also for achieving these results in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

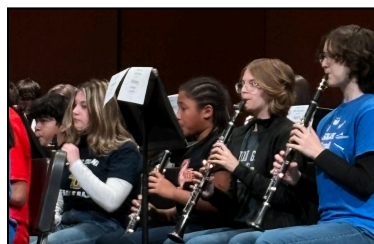
The Texas Education Agency assigns one of four financial ratings to school districts in the state. "Superior Achievement" (A) represents the highest rating, followed by "Above Standard Achievement" (B), "Standard Achievement" (C), and "Substandard Achievement" (F). Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of "Suspended-Data Quality."

Congratulations to EFISD for this outstanding achievement in financial accountability!

With Jacket Pride,

Monica Simmons
EFISD Superintendent

Shout Outs

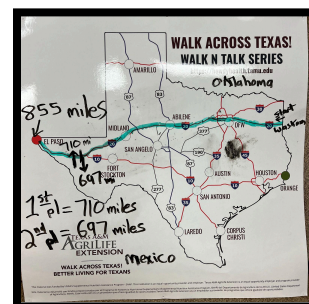


All-Region concert on January 12. **Ja'Von Manning** earned the chance to perform with the best middle school musicians in our region. He rehearsed all day and the ensemble performed that evening.



Congrats to our first EF Elementary Positive Office Referral recipients of the new year! **Alex Doss-Arnold** and **Korbyn Spear**, you are Jackets who LEAD!

"Walk Across Texas" was a huge success. The 5th Grade class won first place with a total of 710 combined miles over the 8 week program, and 4th grade was right on their heels with 697 miles together. The reward for most miles went to the 5th grade and was a Coke-Float party. Individuals with the most miles completed were also given \$25 gift certificates to Chick Fil A.



4th Grade

Melody Calhoun - 13.25 miles

Case Hopkins - 23.5 miles

5th Grade

Reese Wilson & Joleigh Caskey - 17.75 miles

Brady Martin & Jase Maquoirk - 23.25 miles

Athletic Honors



Cara Sims was named to the THSCA Super Elite Team, and Jax Parker received 1st Team Academic All-State recognition from THSCA.



The elementary hosted the district UIL meet on Friday, January 26. We are so proud of all our scholars who participated in the competition!



December **Students of the Month**
High School



Sage Stoute and
Taylor Youngblood

January **Students of the Month**
High School



Kloe Golladay and
Kyndal Youngblood

February **Students of the Month**

Elementary School



Sam Pepper



& Hadley Cole

High School



Elizabeth Hutson and Brody Parker

Hands-On Learning



Fourth grade students made ice cream in the science lab and had lots of fun!



Biology students used cookies and twizzlers to illustrate their knowledge of the different stages of mitosis before getting to enjoy their creations! Honors biology students also used templates to create different virus “snowflakes,” giving them a visualization of how the variety of viruses can be structured differently.



High school art students are learning about the art of ceramics. Their first creation is a Maker's Mark, or a stamp. This stamp will be used on their upcoming project - creating their own mug - and will be used to stamp their initials into the bottom of their piece, letting the world know that they are the artist that built it. Stay tuned for further updates as they continue their exploration in this media.



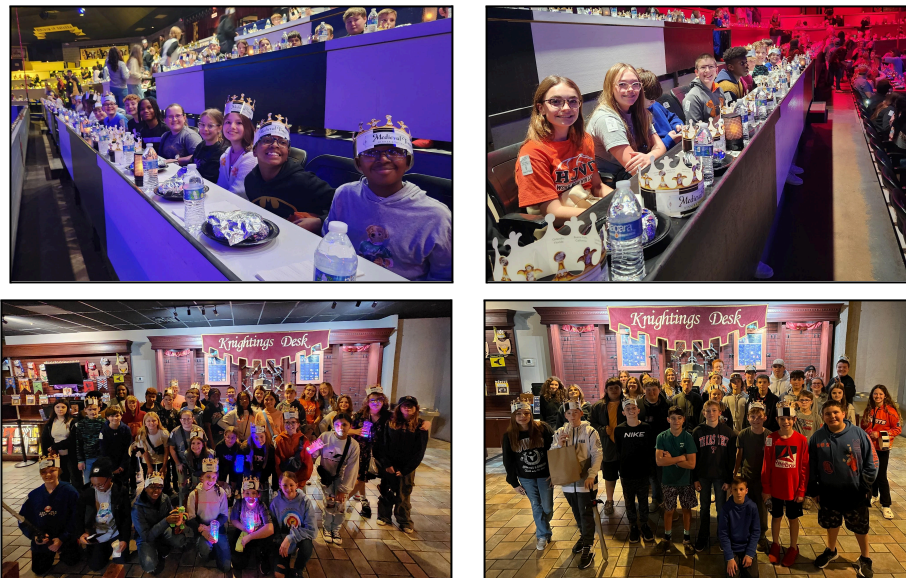
Fourth grade learned about coil pots and created their own unique vases, cups and bowls using the coiling technique! Fifth grade studied pinch pots and used this technique to create a variety of bowls, cups, and vases!



The UIL science team did an experiment to gain better knowledge over chemical reactions. They mixed together different solutions to make edible water bottle spheres and used Dr. Pepper and 7-Up to make editable coke spheres.

Out and About

Several EFMS students earned a field trip to Medieval Times in Dallas by raising \$250 or more to help EFMS set a new Read-A-Thon record of \$20,000! The trip took place on Friday, January 26.





Students and staff from all three school campuses, local churches, and community members worked together to provide donations for high school GT students to deliver to Camp V, a military and Veteran resource center in Tyler.

After delivering the much needed and appreciated items, students were treated to lunch at the mall, where they enjoyed visiting some precious pups at the pet store.



The eighth grade students took a field trip to Dallas to visit the Holocaust Museum.



Silent Reward



Selected by students to go the day without talking, Ms. Abercrombie obliged their request to reward middle school students for a successful read-a-thon.

Campus Collaboration



A few pictures from the Pk/Kinder collab with our HS art students! How cool it was to see these babies use their imagination to create their “creatures!” After using pictures provided by elementary school students to produce each critter, high school art students delivered their special gifts to the little ones. The band accompanied art students and provided holiday music to create an extra special event for everyone involved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 1 - Elementary 3rd & 5th Grade Goal Setting and Spring Meet the Jackets at 6
- February 2 - Elementary 4th Grade Goal Setting
- February 5 - Grade 8 ELA Stand Alone Field Test
- February 6 - “Just Say Yes” Speaker Grant Price to meet with High School & Middle School students
- February 7 - Middle School SBDMC Meeting at 4
- February 9 - End of 4th Six Weeks
- February 12 - Begin 5th Six Weeks and Board Meeting at 6 and Off-Site Evacuation Drill
- February 13 - Elementary STAAR Tutoring Begins
- February 14 - Report Cards issued
- February 15 - Elementary Awards Assembly
- February 16 - Middle School Book Fair begins
- February 19 - No School (President’s Day)
- February 22 - Elementary Math Night at 5 and Middle School Book Fair ends
- February 23 - School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and Elementary Principal’s Pick Lunch
- February 24 - EFISD Archery Tournament
- February 27 - High School ACT Testing