

Latest Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for Flour Bluff ISD

The Premier District in Texas! Welcome to Hornet Country!

Friday, April 29, 2022 - Volume 2; Edition 34

Greetings from Superintendent, Velma Soliz-Garcia!

We close out the month of April with many accomplishments in academics and athletics! Our 8th graders - Class of 2026 - returned from a successful trip to the H-E-B Foundation Camp, making this our 65th year attending camp. Many thanks to Principal Brodie Wallace and his faculty and staff, who worked on such a successful schedule for this trip to occur and provided our Hornets an experience they will never forget!

This week we continue to highlight the phenomenal educators in our district as we lead into Teacher Appreciation Week this coming week, May 2-6! We thank our community partners, parents, students, and our Board of Trustees for supporting our teachers throughout the school year, especially this coming week filled with goodies and recognition of our outstanding teachers! Thank you! TOGETHER as a COMMUNITY - WE Are the PREMIER district in Texas!

Be safe & strong! Be committed! Bee a HORNET!



**THANK
YOU
TEACHER**

Together We Can...
INSPIRE.FOSTER.EMPOWER.

We love and appreciate our Administrative Professionals!

It was Administrative Professionals' Day on Wednesday!

Our administrative professionals at FBISD are phenomenal! They perform many tasks that help our district soar. They are the true meaning behind our belief, Together We Can. We want to say a big thank you to our administrative professional team.

Thank You!

FLOUR BLUFF ISD ADMINISTRATION



ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

APRIL 27, 2022

Chairman Charles Zahn with the Port of Corpus Christi visits the Intermediate campus to experience the Oceans Program!

Commissioner Charles Zahn came to visit the Integrated Oceans program last week!

Mr. Zahn toured the Intermediate garden, Katie Doyle's classroom, and the Flour Bluff Wetlands. The Oceans program is looking into a potential partnership with the Port of Corpus Christi in the fall of 2022. We plan on applying for the mobile STEM lab, so our students have an opportunity to experience hands-on learning outside the classroom.

We are building lasting relationships through the efforts and dedication of our Oceans Committee that will help the Oceans Program flourish and succeed for years to come!



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's CAPT Chris Jason visits the Wetlands and helps our Hornets!

Flour Bluff ISD welcomed Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's CAPT Chris Jason, our military liaison Joe Holder, and their PAO office to our wetlands!

The Oceans Program students greeted them and showed them the many things they do in their Oceans class. From kayaking, fishing, netting, and cleanup, our guests joined in and got a first-hand look at what our Hornets are learning about in our marine life and environment.

We want to thank our Military School Liaison, Joe Holder, for making this afternoon possible and to the entire Naval Air Station Corpus Christi for our continued partnership!



Flour Bluff ISD Teacher Appreciation Spotlight!

Chelsea Spreen – 9th year teaching (Junior High Science)

What I love about teaching: "Is seeing the kids grow up and develop and become great members of the Flour Bluff community."



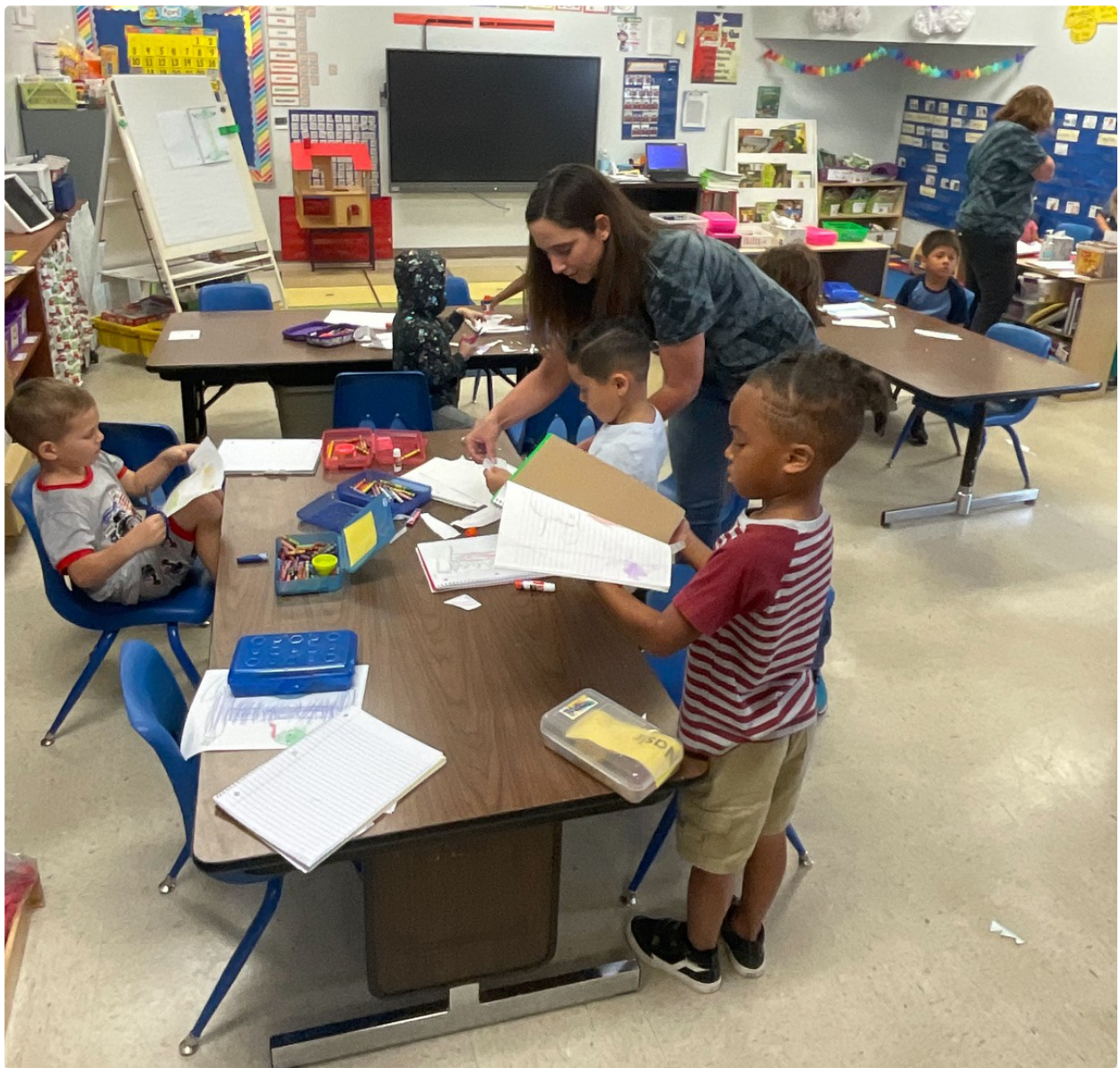
Matthew Papenfuss— 15th year of teaching (Junior High Science)

What I love about teaching: "Is the senior walk at the end of the school year."



Stacy Elwood – 19th year of teaching (ECC)

What I love about teaching: "I enjoy teaching because I like being with the kids and watching them grow and change and just having an impact on them."



Deyra Rodriguez – 12th year of teaching (Primary)

What I love about teaching: "When the kiddos grow up and come back and see me."



Teacher of the Year nominees honored at last night's Board of Trustees meeting!

As we get ready to celebrate our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6th, our Teacher of the Year nominees were recognized last night at our Board of Trustees meeting.

Our Board President, Shirley Thornton, also read a proclamation naming May 2-6th Teacher Appreciation Week at Flour Bluff ISD.

Our Teacher of the Year nominees were nominated by their peers. A committee then met and went over their submissions. Next week, two teachers will be named Teacher of the year during Teacher Appreciation Week.

We are so proud to recognize our Teacher of the Year nominees:

Anne Lowry - ECC

Katie Doyle - Intermediate

Shannon Gusler - Elementary

Alexandria Hutchinson – High School

Nancy Pacheco - Junior High

Karleen Pape – Primary



ECC campus is buzzing about our teachers and their commitment to our little Hornets!

The ECC campus has some of the most amazing teachers who engage their students in authentic, relevant learning and create lifelong learners! Our teachers find ways to expand our little Hornets' minds and imaginations, getting them ready for the learning journey ahead.

Coach Owens explains her expectations for Field Day to ensure a fun
and safe experience for all!



Cade Wright in Mrs. McCoy's class demonstrating how to reuse items!



June Tumlinson showing the doll she created for her project in Mrs. McCoy's class!



Primary & Elementary Campus Teacher Highlight: Erin Steward

Hello, Flour Bluff HORNETS! My name is Erin Steward, aka Mrs. Stew or Coach Stew, and I am in my 15th year of teaching! Fourteen of those incredible years have been right here in the Bluff. My first year of teaching was in my hometown of Texarkana, Texas, where I taught at Wake Village Elementary School as a 1st-grade teacher!

Believe it or not, my degree is not in Elementary Education but rather in Psychology. I graduated college with plans to become a Social Worker, but after working as a para for Texarkana ISD's Behavioral Adjustment Unit, I quickly knew I had missed my calling. I was MADE to be a teacher, just like my mom. I knew it when I had the opportunity to work with underprivileged kids in a VERY low socioeconomic area of Texarkana. I received my teaching certificate, and the rest is history.

Teaching is a calling, and it's my calling! I know that I make a difference every day, even though some days are harder than others. Every day I wake up and try to live by three goals:

1. Smile and greet everyone with a friendly hello!

2. Hug my friends and as many students as I can.
3. And during a moment of silence, ask God to help me be the best person that I can be that day.

I'm far from perfect and am constantly learning from my fellow peers. I'm grateful that I get to share my love of teaching with so many wonderful friends who have taught me so much. Through good times and bad, we can lean on each other. When I feel like I've reached a breaking point, I will overhear a tiny voice in the back whisper, "I love when Mrs. Stew teaches social studies, it's now my favorite subject.", and it helps remind me of what I was put on this earth to do.....TEACH!!!!!! I know each child placed in my class was put there by God with a specific purpose. What I've come to realize over the years is that my purpose is THEM!



Primary & Elementary Campus Teacher Highlight: Jaime Woodard

Mrs. Woodard is a 3rd grade teacher who is in her first year teaching in FBISD. She is such an amazing edition and she has started our inaugural Oceans Club!

Here is a little more about Jaime: I have been an educator for 12 years, and have had such an incredible opportunity to work with so many wonderful colleagues and students. I have been married to my wonderful husband for almost 13 years. We have two kiddos, Cade and Aubry, and two mastiff pups, Delilah and Maggie. My time spent away from school you can find me outside doing the things I love with my family; fishing, kayaking, supporting my kids in their activities, watching baseball, and just soaking up the sunshine.



Primary & Elementary Campus Teacher Highlight: Brigitte Fordyce

Mrs. Fordyce is a 4th grade teacher and she has been the department lead many years, and also hosted many clubs and extracurricular events.

Here is a little more about Brigitte: Hello, my name is Brigitte Fordyce and this is my 28th year teaching and my 25th at Flour Bluff Elementary. All 3 of my children (Alyssa, Nick, and Linsey) have attended Flour Bluff schools since Kindergarten and graduated from Flour Bluff. I have 2 grand-

daughters, Briella and Braelee, that attend Flour Bluff Elementary. We are truly a Flour Bluff Hornet family.

My husband, Lane, and I have been married now for 36 years. We have a 2 year old rescue dog named Wrigley...yes, we are Chicago Cub fans and Chicago Bears fans!!

We love to travel all over the USA and walking and exploring trails, nature, and the beach.



Primary & Elementary Campus Teacher Highlight: Margaret Barnece

Mrs. Barnece is the 3rd Grade Gifted and Talented teacher for Math, Science and Social Studies. She previously taught Math and Science at the Intermediate.

A little more about Margaret: This is my 25th of teaching. I've taught grades 3-6, and I love what I do. I've been married for 31 years and have two Hornet daughters. The youngest will graduate in May.



Primary & Elementary Campus Teacher Highlight: Yvonne Martinez

Mrs. Martinez is the new music teacher at the Primary school. She sees all of the Primary students at least once a week and has been a wonderful addition to the Primary campus.

Here is more about Yvonne: My name is Mrs. Yvonne Martinez. I went to college at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi to be a music teacher, and I have been teaching music for six years. Music was my favorite class when I was a little girl and I knew I always wanted to teach children how to play and love music like I do! I enjoy seeing the students experience music in different forms like singing, dancing, and playing instruments. I continue to teach because I want the students to have memories of music that will encourage them to sing, dance, or play at every grade level they go to.

My husband is also an FBISD teacher and we have two cats and two dogs.



Intermediate Science teacher Janice Ainbinder empowers her students to succeed!

Congratulations to our Regional Science Fair winners. Zoe Gain (pictured on the left) received 2nd place in the 5th grade Life Science Category (Dissolved Oxygen vs. Temperature), Taylor Moody (pictured in the middle) received an Honorable Mention in the 5thh Grade Life Science Category (Do Electronic Devices Affect Sleep Habits). Gabor Ferguson (pictured on the right) received 1st place in the 5th Grade Physical Science Category (Fluid Dynamic Gas).

Ms. Janice Ainbinder is the Proud teacher of all 3 of our Science Fair winners. Ms. Ainbinder has been teaching science for 26 years, with the past 14 years at Flour Bluff, and has been a Texas Master Naturalist since 2016 and a co-sponsor of our Junior Master Naturalist program. Janice states, "Teaching science is something I love to do, and I would spend all my time outdoors if I could. Flour Bluff is a wonderful place to work, and I feel incredibly lucky to teach science to such an excellent group of kids." Thank you, Ms. Ainbinder, for everything you to create a wonderful environment for



Intermediate teacher Tracey Majek helps to grow her students' knowledge and foster great relationships in her class

Students In Mrs. Tracey Majek's classes have fun learning about life cycles, learned behaviors, and inherited traits of plants and animals. Mrs. Majek has been teaching for 25 years, with the past 19 years at Flour Bluff.

Students enjoy the way Mrs. Majek teaches; student Wesley Jolley states, "We do fun stuff in Mrs. Majek's class; we ask questions, and she always helps us when we are confused about something we are studying." Thank you, Mrs. Majek, for ALL you do for your students; it is genuinely appreciated. GO HORNETS!!!



Students are buzzing with excitement as they head back to HEB Camp!

Flour Bluff's 8th-grade class attended HEB camp this week in Leakey, TX! This year marks 65 years of attending this incredible camp that is loved by all. Our staff and students left on Monday morning, excited to get back to the outdoors after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. Staff and students returned Thursday afternoon full of memories that are sure to last them a lifetime! Thank you to our staff that helped make this trip a success!





FBHS Education and Training interns earn their paraprofessional certification!

Congratulations to Faith Senne, Karah Swails, and Cristian Lara. These three students have completed the Education and Training Pathway and obtained a Paraprofessional Certification.

Paraprofessionals employed by Texas School District must be highly qualified. They must have 47 college hours or attend training and pass the Treasuring Our Paraprofessional Certification Test.

This week these seniors successfully passed their test and received their certification from the Educational Service Center Region 2. Way to go, Faith, Karah, and Cristian! Thank you, Mrs. Coree Perez, Education and Training Teacher, for helping these students reach their goals.



Hornet Learning Academy and the Student Development and Guidance Center Teacher Tributes:

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to our amazing teachers! The Best of the Best!


Randy Hutchins, a true champion for kids, works miracles with students who may have given up without his relentless care and support. He like many educators put all of his students first. Randy is a gifted leader, educator and an amazing role model for kids!

Brian Gabrysch, a technology genius, serves our students with the utmost care and respect making sure they have the tools they need to be successful in science and all other areas in Edgenuity. His witty personality creates an enjoyable classroom culture for all students. Brian delivers daily with a teacher heart and serves as a professional role model for all students.

Valente Mena, a math wizard with worldly knowledge and US Army Veteran, models a mean algebraic problem with the utmost enthusiasm for the job! Valente shows passion and care each day as he delivers math lessons to diverse grade levels. He challenges his students, always with a helpful hand. Math is relevant in Mr. Mena's class. Mr. Mena never met a white board marker he didn't like! His passion for educating kids is unwavering!

Judy Sissom, can deliver not only English lessons but pinch hits in math! Judy shows so much kindness to her students. She is truly a calming presence in every class she teaches. Judy models a strong work ethic, professionalism and a sense of team each and every day, She serves as a mentor and role model to all of our kids! She is a HORNET!

Matthew Bell, history buff and study skill extraordinaire, teaches his students to use practical study skills to master the most complicated history lesson Edgenuity delivers. Mr. Bell sets the bar high for his students while giving them care and understanding along the way. He is a no nonsense, no excuse teacher who encourages his students to be the best they can be and helps them every step of the way!




Rusty Fickes, a legend among many, master of multiple content areas, teaches with firm and fairness and a commitment to help each and every student succeed. Rusty approaches each day with the gift of motivating kids to be kind to each other and to make good choices. He starts each day awarding a clean slate to his students without reservation. Mr. Fickes teaches with pride and professionalism and serves as a role model for all of his students.

Sam Quintana, coach, mentor, and exceptionally dedicated educator, symbolizes Class Pride Heart in teaching, mentoring and coaching students. Coach Quintana motivates and engages students no matter whether he is teaching a ping pong lesson or helping a student with their Spanish homework. Coach Quintana encourages sportsmanship and is an exceptional role model for our students.

Adrian Hynson, exudes pride, heart and commitment while teaching and coaching. Coach Hynson's go with the flow spirit affords him the opportunity to mentor students at multiple campuses throughout the district. Coach Hynson motivates students to work hard and finish strong no matter what challenges they face. Adrian has a Hornet mindset and models leadership and professionalism in the classroom, on the court, and on the field.

Jesse Buttler, the picture of patience, makes teaching junior high PE look easy! Coach Buttler engages his students modeling sportsmanship, kindness and the importance of always doing what is right by others. Coach Buttler motivates with encouragement and coaches kids to be good people. Coach Buttler's positive outlook and attitude is contagious!





Curriculum Supervisor Spotlight: Jennifer Norman

Jennifer Norman is our Pre-K-4th grade math curriculum supervisor. Education has been her calling for over 20 years. She has taught Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade in Florida, Louisiana, Washington State, Maine, and Texas. Mrs. Norman has been blessed to be a Hornet for the last six years. The teachers and students she works with are her "why," and she enjoys being able to help them in their educational journey. Mrs. Norman exponentially enhances the C & I department through her extensive educational background and expertise in early childhood education. She is a natural leader with off-the-charts knowledge in all content areas, specifically math and science. She is a significant contributor to the Integrated Oceans, Math & Science, and Instructional Materials committees. Thank you, Mrs. Norman, for all you do for Hornet Nation!



Curriculum Supervisor Spotlight: Ashley Debler

Ashley Debler is the loudest, proudest member of the fightin' Texas Aggie class of 2008. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies EC-4 from Texas A&M University-College Station. She holds a master's degree in Educational Administration from Lamar University.

Mrs. Debler has been in education for 14 years, and 11 of those years have been with Flour Bluff ISD. She has taught 8 years in 3rd grade and 4 years as a special education teacher. Mrs. Debler is currently the PreK- 4th grade ELAR Curriculum Supervisor, and she is essential to the curriculum department.

She goes above and beyond every day for the students and staff of Flour Bluff ISD. Thank you, Mrs. Debler, for your commitment, hard work, and leadership!



CHANGE OUR WORLD BY HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

Greenheart Exchange, the well-respected, nonprofit student exchange organization, seeks volunteer Host Families to host international exchange students for the upcoming 2022 high school fall semester or 2022-23 high school year. Students hosted on Padre Island or on Flour Bluff will attend Flour Bluff high school in August. Each year, Greenheart Exchange provides over 800 exchange students from over 60 countries the opportunity to study in local public high schools for a five-month semester or a ten-month Academic High School Year. "Host families make all of the difference," said Connie Dean, Executive Regional Director of High School Programs. "They influence a young adult's life, changing world views and making dreams come true. When the family is so willing to give, they have just as many rewarding and enriching experiences as the student."

Volunteer host families come from varied economic, religious and racial backgrounds and include working parents, empty nesters, singles and single parents. They are to provide: Open communication, Encouragement, Patience and Sound Advice, a separate bed (which can be in a shared room with a host sibling of similar age and same gender), a quiet place to study, three daily meals, transportation to school and school-sponsored events (students are not permitted to drive while on the program) and a welcoming home that includes the student as a member of your family! Students are fully vaccinated, have their own accident and health insurance and bring their own spending money.

Students are encouraged to participate in school-sponsored activities, community service and environmental programs.

Area Coordinator John Lembo, who lives on Padre Island, will provide regular communication and support to both host families and students. For more information, please contact John Lembo at 361-704-4920 or email him at padreisland.greenheart@outlook.com and visit the web at <https://www.hostwithgreenheart.org>
<https://greenheartexchange.org/host/host-an-exchange-student/apply/>



[Click Here for More Athletic News](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6: School Lunch Hero Day

May 9-13: National School Nurse Week

May 11: National School Nurse Day

May 11: Texas Public School Paraprofessional Day

May 15: National Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 16-20: National Educational Bosses Week

FBHS Graduation: Class of 2022

Date: Thu May 26, 2022 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: American Bank Center, 1901 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

SOCIAL MEDIA



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FLOUR BLUFF ISD

[FLOURBLUFFSCHOOLS.NET](https://flourbluffschoools.net)

FBISD Calendar of Events

Special Board Meeting

When

Thursday, May 5th, 6pm

Where

Administrative Building, Board Room

More information

2505 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418

Regular Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Thursday, May 19th, 6pm

Where

Administration Building, Board Room

More information

2505 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418




CONTACT INFO


 Facebook

 @FlourBluffISD

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need clarification on any items presented in the weekly publication of the Latest Buzz.

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