

BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



19th Annual Golden Gala

*Bold Choices:
Framing
Excellence*

2019 GOLDEN GALA AWARDS • MAY 2, 2019

Letter from Superintendent



Dear Teachers of the Year:

This is the 19th year Birdville ISD has celebrated excellence in our classrooms with the Golden Gala. The Gala is one of the highlights of my year, and I hope this evening is a highlight for you as well.

Tonight, we will honor thirty-three of BIRD's finest educators. The campus teachers of the year were chosen by their peers because they represent the very best in education. I consider it a privilege to

be superintendent in a district with such talented and committed educators.

In addition, BIRD will recognize the 2019 first-year teacher of the year. Tonight's honoree was selected by a District committee after being nominated by their campus principal and mentor teacher.

I hope you will join me in thanking tonight's sponsors. It is because of their generous donations that BIRD is able to host this event and recognize the campus teachers of the year in a manner that is so well-deserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Darrell G. Brown, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Master of Ceremonies

Michael Wilson is in his twelfth year as an educator. A proud product of Birdville schools and a graduate of Haltom High School, Michael attended the University of North Texas, earning a B.A. in Communication Studies. In addition to teaching English, he has previously taught Professional Communications, Theatre, and served as the technical director for Haltom Theatre for five years. He is currently working on completing his Master's in Education through Texas Tech University. Michael now lives in Corinth, with his wife and hero, Ann Pape Wilson, and their dog Penny.





*Bold Choices:
Framing Excellence*

**Birdville ISD's Golden Gala
May 2, 2019**

Welcome
Michael Wilson

Dinner

**Introduction of
Board of Trustees**

**Introduction of
Sponsors and Gala Committee**

Framing Excellence
Dr. Darrell G. Brown, Superintendent

**Introduction of
BISD's First-Year Teacher of the Year**

**Presentation of
Teacher of the Year Nominees**

**Announcement of
District's Teachers of the Year**

Closing Remarks



2019 Golden Gala Sponsors

Platinum Star Sponsorship

(\$2,500 or Above)

Birdville Education Foundation
Bob and Susan Griggs
Herff Jones
Northeast Times
PBK Architects
Smiley's Studio, Inc.

Gold Star Sponsorship

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

BRIO Direct
EECU
Five Star Ford
HKS Architects
Men's Wearhouse
Texas Rangers Baseball Club
VLK Architects

Silver Star Sponsorship

(\$500-\$999)

Benna Resnick, AVON
Mary Hidebrandt with Mary Kay
Roadrunner Charters
Smurfit Kappa Bates
Sport Clips
TCP Catering

Bronze Sponsorship

(\$400)

Delgado Orthodontics
Mr. G's Flooring America
IN2 Architecture

Stargazer Sponsorship

(\$300)

City of North Richland Hills
Clayton Youth Enrichment
Fort Worth Community Credit Union
Representative Stephanie Klick
KISS FM/iHeart Media

Business Recognition Packages

Anytime Fitness
Artisan Center Theater
Café Sicilia
Jersey Mike's Subs Watauga
Nothing bundt Cakes
Radisson Fort Worth Fossil Creek
Stockyards Championship Rodeo and Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show
Texas Star Golf Course

Introducing Birdville ISD's First-Year Teacher of the Year



Annabel Hodgson

Fourth Grade
Academy at C.F. Thomas

"Not every day is going to be easy, but it sure is going to be worth it. You may have doubts on your worst days, but 23 smiling faces will make those doubts turn into confirmations for every reason you chose this career."

Education

Tarleton State University, B.I.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Leaders of Learners Member

World Read Aloud Day Committee Member

Night of Holiday Magic Committee Member

Faculty Workout Club Member

Girls on the Run Running Buddy

A large, ornate gold-colored frame with intricate scrollwork and a decorative inner border. Inside the frame, the text "Introducing Birdville ISD's Elementary Nominees" is centered in a dark red, serif font.

Introducing
Birdville ISD's
Elementary
Nominees

Bold Choices: Framing Excellence



Mark Georges

Jack C. Binion Elementary
Fifth Grade Science

“EVERY child matters and EVERY child can be reached, we just have to find out how to do it.”

Education

Texas Wesleyan University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Trinity River Trash Bash Supporter
Roots and Shoots Sponsor
Kids Who Care, Inc. Supporter
Tarrant County Food Bank Supporter
Welman Project Supporter
Binion Destination Imagination Team Sponsor



Lance Schmaltz

Birdville Elementary
Second Grade

“I want what is best for the kids, if I didn’t, then I would definitely change professions.”



Education

University of Texas at Arlington, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

PTA Member
PTA Clothes Connection Supporter



Arely Juarez

Major Cheney Elementary
Third Grade Bilingual

“Let’s teach our students to be fearless. Let’s teach them to be brave when confronted with uncertainty. Brave when they fail. Brave in meeting new people. Brave in seeking opportunities to experience things outside of their understanding.”

Education

University of North Texas, B.S.
North Lake College, A.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

St. Ann Catholic Church Parish Member
Leaders of Learners Member
Site-Based Decision Making Team Member
BISD SLAR Curriculum Writer
Textbook Advisory Committee Member
PTA Member



Leah Stephenson

Foster Village Elementary
Fifth Grade

“Be the teacher that helps them find the right book. Care enough to know the person they are and want to be so that you can recommend books that will ignite their passion to read and make a lasting impact.”

Education

University of the Incarnate Word, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Just 4 U Closet Volunteer
Christmas Provider Supporter
PTA Executive Board Teacher Liaison
TEE Committee Member
Leaders of Learners Member
Battle of the Books Coach
Literacy Night Coordinator
Book Study Coordinator





Linda Marichal

W.T. Francisco Elementary
Fifth Grade

"I strive to create lifelong learners in my classroom through engaging activities that cultivate their natural curiosity as evidenced in my 'Where Will I Go to College?' unit."

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, M.Ed.
University of North Texas, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Church Women's Ministry Supporter
Mission Arlington Supporter
PTA Member
Battle of the Books Coach
Science Lab Manager
Science Vertical Team Lead



Joyce Henk

Green Valley Elementary
Fifth Grade Science

"A teacher should embrace all of the children in the school and love them like they are their own. Believe that every child is yours to help grow along the way. Treat them as though they are yours to help along their educational journey. Encourage them and help discover the gifts and talents in each and every one."

Education

Dallas Baptist University, M.Ed.
Southwest Texas State University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Leukemia Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients Coordinator
Texas A&M Galveston Volunteer Camp Counselor
Feed My Starving Children Volunteer
Site-Based Decision Making Team Member
PTA Member and Volunteer
Clothes Connection Supporter
Battle of the Books Coach





Rindi Trainer

Grace E. Hardeman Elementary
Reading/Writing/Social Studies

"I believe that we need to realize that our students are our future, and they deserve the very best that we have to offer to them. No matter what their abilities are, no matter what their home life is, they matter."

Education

Letourneau University, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Center Point Church Member, Preschool Teacher and Home Team Leader
ASPIRE Teacher
First-Year Teacher Mentor
Textbook Committee Member
Leaders of Learners Member
Battle of the Books Coach



Susan Wright

Holiday Heights Elementary
Librarian

"I tell myself every day that if I have taught or instilled one thing that day, I hope that I have modeled and planted a love of reading in my students."



Education

Harding University, M.Ed.
Harding University, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

TEE Committee Member
Leaders of Learners Member
Team Leader
Site-Based Committee Member
Social Committee Leader
Student Council Sponsor
Reading Vertical Team Leader



Sarah McCarty

Alliene Mullendore Elementary
Third Grade Mathematics

“Education is like putting together a puzzle, there are hundreds of pieces that at first glance look the same, but as you start to fit the pieces together, you notice that they are all uniquely different.”

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Milestone Church Member and Greeter
Neighborhood Community Tutor
Battle of the Books Coach



Miranda Woodall

North Ridge Elementary
Second Grade

“Being a teacher means we get to create tomorrow’s future and inspire our kids to follow their dreams and aspirations.”

Education

Tarleton State University, B.I.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Hillside Community Church Member
Ronald McDonald House Volunteer
Kindness Club Supporter
Ready, Set, Teach Mentor
BISD Curriculum Writer
Leaders of Learners Member
PTA Member





Debra Byczek

W.A. Porter Elementary
Reading Interventionist

“My philosophy is to meet students where they are, build relationships to show them I care, and love them like they are my own.”

Education

Lamar University, M.Ed.
Texas Wesleyan University, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Friends of the NRH Library Board Member
PTA Member
Gateway NRH Church Member
Social Committee Member
RTI & 504 Collaborative Committees Member
Running Club Supporter
Spelling Bee Judge



Amy Ochandio

Richland Elementary
Kindergarten

“We are not here to teach a lesson. We are here to engage children in learning and to encourage them to see the joy in learning.”

Education

Texas State University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Battle of the Books Supporter
PTA Member
Attendance Committee Member
Site-Based Decision Making Committee Member
Meals on Wheels Supporter
North Texas Humane Society Supporter





Irma Cantu-Rocha

David E. Smith Elementary
Prekindergarten Bilingual

“Let’s teach our children with love. I believe that when we teach with love we are taking the first step to create a more just society, a society with great opportunities to break the chains of loneliness and lack of communication.”

Education

Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas, B.S.
Escuela Normal Superior del Estado de Tamaulipas, B.Ed.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Birdville ISD Curriculum Writer
Family Museum Night Volunteer
School for Parents, Parent-Teacher Facebook Page Coordinator
Spanish Translator and Tutor



Gina Bevers

Smithfield Elementary
Kindergarten

“I believe teaching is about making connections with the students and helping them learn the content. The students can feel successful during the process because they become familiar with the text and are able to discuss or answer the higher-level thinking questions with confidence.”



Education

University of North Texas, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Gateway Church Member
Gateway Church Altar Team Ministry Volunteer
Gateway Church Marriage & Family Ministry Volunteer
Social Committee Member



Dawnya Morrison

Snow Heights Elementary
Math Interventionist

"I am the teacher I have become because of the support I receive from many great people each day."

Education

University of North Texas, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

PTA Member

PTO Member

TEE Member

Ronald McDonald House Charities Supporter

Student Mentor

Capturing Kids' Hearts Champion



Mandi Araya

John D. Spicer Elementary
Kindergarten

"It is our responsibility as educators to prepare our students for life. They are our future and we must give them the tools to conquer the world!"



Education

Tarleton State University, B.I.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

ASPIRE Teacher

Leaders of Learners Member



Ronda King

O.H. Stowe Elementary
First Grade

“Education must encompass not only all the academic subjects and the Fine Arts, but also the feeding of the soul. Every soul needs to be fed proper and positive character education. This will provide our global society with intelligent, productive, responsible, and caring citizens.”

Education

Texas Christian University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Arts Council Northeast Volunteer
UTA Kids & Teens University Painting Teacher
Extended Day After School Teacher
ASPIRE Teacher
Leaders of Learners Member
PTA Member
Haltom High Choir Booster Club Member



Veronica Bustamante

Academy at C.F. Thomas
Reading Interventionist

“Teachers need to show compassion and understanding. Teachers can teach all students the value of friendship, peer modeling, and promote compassion to one another.”

Education

Texas Woman’s University, B.Ed.
Tarrant County College, A.A.



Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Birdville High School Soccer Booster Club Member
Smithfield Middle School PTA Member
Select Club Soccer Team Mom
Keller Soccer League Coach
People Care Volunteer
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Member



Trevor Crawford

Walker Creek Elementary
Third Grade

"I greet every day as an opportunity to not only change the life in front of me, but to change every life that will come in contact with my students."

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, M.Ed.
Baylor University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Antioch Community Church Member, Volunteer Greeter,
Volunteer Camp Counselor, Home Group Worship Leader
Youth Basketball Coach
Youth Baseball Coach
Genius Hour Yo-Yo Club



Ana Garcia

Watauga Elementary
Second Grade Bilingual

"We need to spend the time to get to know them, not only as learners in our classrooms and their academic needs, but on a deeper level. We need to get to know them as people. People who will grow up and be the leaders of our society."

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, M.Ed.
University of Texas at Arlington, B.A.



Civic/Community/Sponsorships

"Love Your Neighbor" Homework Club Volunteer
PTA Member
Leaders of Learners Member
Bilingual Task Force Member
Instructional Team Lead
Cup Stacking Coach



Jerrika Dickerson

West Birdville Elementary
First Grade

"We have got to stoop down and look our students in the eyes; we have got to learn them and let our love for them drive the things we do as educators."

Education

Dallas Baptist University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

PTA Member and Secretary

Fielder Church Children's Ministry Volunteer

Community-Based Educational Center Committee Member

Discovery Church Launch Team Member

NCTQ Teacher Advisory

Community-Based Educational Center Member

Classroom Book Club

**The program is
available online at:
birdvilleschools.net/GoldenGala**



*Bold Choices:
Framing Excellence*

Bold Choices: Framing Excellence



**Introducing
Birdville ISD's
Middle
School
Nominees**



Edith Torres

Haltom Middle School
Seventh Grade ELAR

“... be the inspiration and teach not because it is a job, but because it is a passion.”

Education

Concordia University, M.Ed.
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Tiger Time: Helping Beautify the Community Supporter
Hispanic Heritage Activities Supporter
Student Lock-Ins and Saturday Reading Camps Supporter
School Dance and Activities DJ



Courtney Elliott

North Oaks Middle School
PASS (Proactive Approach
to Student Success)

“One of my biggest goals as an educator is to make certain that every student understands they are of great worth and that they can succeed.”



Education

Northwood University, B.B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Youth Leader
and Assistant Camp Director
Spirit Club Supporter
PTA Member



Karen Sanchez

North Richland Middle School
Seventh Grade Science

*“Little by little we plant the seeds that
will help our students grow!”*

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Leaders of Learners Member

Science Department Chair

CIR Committee Member

2014 and 2018 Bond Planning Committees Member

Science Fair Supporter



Tyler Chambers

North Ridge Middle School
Eighth Grade English/Language Arts

*“Occasionally looking at things through
the eyes of our students can allow us to
see things we couldn’t have seen if viewed
as an adult. This is an amazing job, but
it is very easy to lose sight of what truly
matters.”*



Education

University of North Texas, B.A.A.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

PTA Member, Reflections Chair, Co-Teacher Liaison,

Nominating Committee Member

Ron Clark Committee Member

Debate Club Sponsor

Hope Squad Sponsor

Spelling Bee Co-Sponsor

House Heshima Leader



Cecily Weir

Richland Middle School
Eighth Grade Science

“I believe that once you create a solid relationship with a student, you can impart upon them your high expectations, while convincing them of their own brilliance and in turn, helping them reach their greatest potential.”

Education

Texas Christian University, M.Ed.
Texas Christian University, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Comfort Animal Volunteer
St. Paul Lutheran Church and Choir Member
Cowtown Marathon Supporter
Class Ambassadors Sponsor
Girls on the Run Coach
Response to Intervention Committee Member
NASA Johnson Space Center Trip Coordinator & Founder



Susan Henry

Smithfield Middle School
Eighth Grade Math

“Becoming a teacher is one of the best decisions that I ever made. It is a very special occasion when a former student shares with a past teacher their plans, dreams or appreciation for something they remember about their time with you from years ago.”



Education

Harding University, B.B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

PTA Member
Team Leader
Curriculum Team Leader
Legacy Church of Christ Member and Fellowship Committee Member



Gina Bergman

Watauga Middle School
Seventh Grade ELAR

“They [teachers] should desire above all the success of their students realizing that without them being successful any accolade is hollow.”

Education

Angelo State University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Gateway Church Member and Altar Ministry Volunteer

American Bible Society Partner

Jewish Voice Ministries International Donor

PTA Member

Leaders of Learners Member

Textbook Adoption Committee Member

Curriculum Writing Team



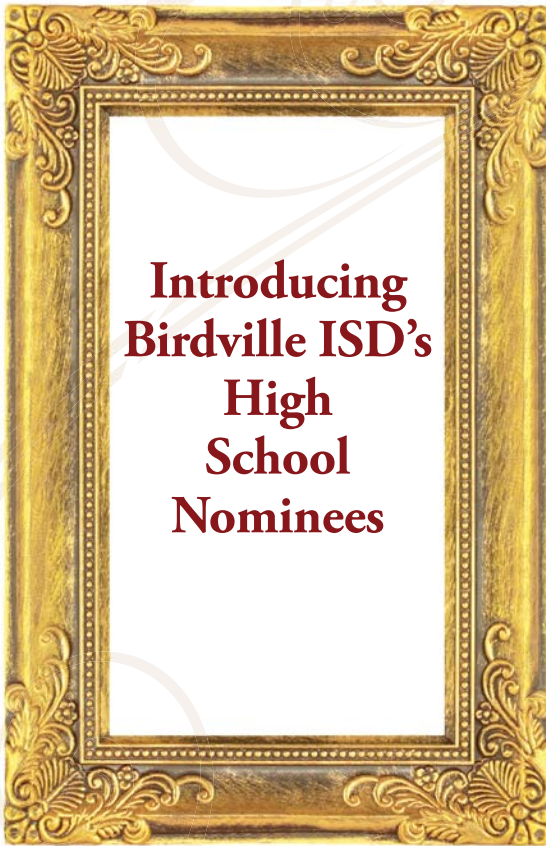
How are the BISD elementary and secondary Teachers of the Year selected?

Each year, BISD campuses select a campus teacher of the year. These 33 honorees complete an application that is submitted to the District. Teacher names and campus information are redacted from each application by the Communications Department, and the “anonymous” application is then submitted to the first-round Selection Committee for consideration/evaluation.

The first-round Committee consists of directors and coordinators from the Teaching and Learning department. They are tasked with selecting the top three applications from each level (elementary, middle and high school).

The second-round Committee consists of the associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction; the associate superintendent for human resources, governance and support services; the executive directors for elementary and secondary education; the director of teaching and learning; a representative from the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce’s BEST Committee, and a representative from an institution of higher education. This Committee ultimately selects the elementary and secondary teachers of the year for BISD.

*Bold Choices:
Framing Excellence*



**Introducing
Birdville ISD's
High
School
Nominees**



Michael Sanders

Birdville Center of Technology
and Advanced Learning
Forensic Science
and Medical Microbiology

"I feel it is most important to stress the idea that the students should guide a teacher's lesson planning, not the other way around."

Education

Texas A&M University, M.S.
Texas A&M University, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Leaders of Learners Member
Superintendent's Communications Council Campus Representative
Jay Hendrickson Memorial Scholarship
Golf Tournament Volunteer
BCTAL Interview Committee Member
Texas Public Safety Association Student Sponsor



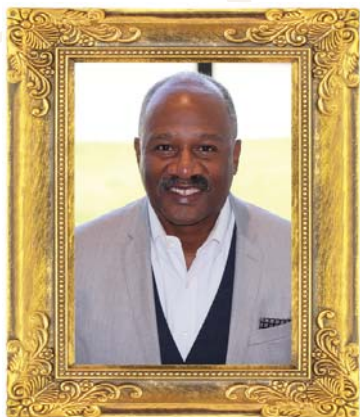
Richard Griffin

Birdville High School
PASS (Proactive Approach
to Students) Social Skills

"Education is a noble profession, a divine calling. It's an experience where 'Loved people love people, and Loved people teach people.'"

Education

Texas Wesleyan University, M.C.
Tarleton State University, M.Ed.
Bishop College, B.A.



Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Summer Institute for Education of Behavior Disorder
Students Supporter
Covenant Church Colleyville Guest Services Volunteer
Birdville Youth Football Association Board Member



Enrique Garza

Haltom High School
PreAP Biology,
Sheltered Biology, Biology

"I try to create experiences of self-reflection because I feel that is what they need to be successful in life. I know that they will move on to experience life and change the world in their own way. But to witness a part of their growing legacy, that is what the role of a teacher should be. That is why I became a teacher."

Education

Sam Houston State University, B.A.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

First Samoan United Church of Christ Member

Science Club Founder/Sponsor

UIL Science Coach

Biology Tutoring Program Founder/Sponsor

Biology PLC Facilitator

Herders Spirit Group Sponsor

Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (T.A.M.E.)

HHS Coordinator/Sponsor



Courtney Hendrix

Richland High School

U.S. History

"Teachers, we must widen our scope. We have to include relationships, life skills, and most importantly, we have to show them what it feels like to be loved and supported. We have to convince them that if they fall, there will be someone to pick them up and show them the way."

Education

Texas A&M University, M.Ed.

Texas A&M University, B.A.



Civic/Community/Sponsorships

U.S. History Team PLC Leader

Milestone Church Member

Volleyball Assistant Coach

Track Assistant Coach



Cliff Moran

Shannon High School
Physics, IPC, Biology

"I feel that when school becomes less of an individual experience and more of a collective one, students will encourage and look out for one another, making the classroom a more positive environment that's ideal for learning."

Education

University of Texas at Arlington, M.Ed.
University of Texas at Arlington, B.S.

Civic/Community/Sponsorships

Gaming Club Sponsor
PTA Member (Shadybrook Elementary)
PTA Volunteer

*Bold Choices:
Framing Excellence*

BISD Salutes Former District Teachers of the Year

1985-86

Joyce Cook

1986-87

Judith Sower

1987-88

Judith
Blanchard

1988-89

Ollie Faye Williams
Greg Hull
Kay Thompson

1989-90

Peggy Nix
Sally Feldman
Margaret Miller

1990-91

Pamela Ann Pittard
Donna Jean Moore
Linda R. Traylor

1991-92

Paula Jane Smith
Dixie Day Yeatts
Connie A. Sanchez

1992-93

Kerri Richmond
Anne Ayers
Stuart Younse

1993-94

Debra K. Blackmon
Kim Fudge
Twylla Cole

1994-95

Cathy Thompson
Chris Urquart
Ann Hale

1995-96

Mark K. Martin
Judy C. Worrell
Terry Hamilton

1996-97

Jackie Marshall
Donna L. Russell
Kathy A. Pruitt

1997-98

Joanne Anderson
Richard Darr
Judith Stricklin

1998-99

Mark Dvorak
Memori Ruesing
Rachel Toombs

1999-2000

Carole L. Brown
Randy Rodgers
Pamela Miller

2000-01

Kathy Luppy
Arlene Stotts
Hank Fulkerson

2001-02

Rhonda James
Lynn Breitinger
Karen Holcombe

2002-03

Selena Kloehr
Mary Huston
Lloyd W. Sizemore

2003-04

Janice Hutton
Kyle Pekurney
Judy Griggers

2004-05

Catherine Kougias
Zachary Webb
Joyce Cook

2005-06

Melissa Minix
David Holland
Karen Seimears

2006-07

Nancy Burleson
Ryan Holzberger
Kim Fudge

2007-08

Stephanie Green
Jessica Elliott
Shaen McKnight

2008-09

Taryn Perkins
Marty Blowers
Karen Kallas

2009-10

Diana Hillhouse
James Smith
Jon Corsi

2010-11

Linda Ristow
Gary Edge
Trudie Byers

2011-12

Maria Rodriguez
Katrina Reeves
Gwen Martin

2012-13

Kerri Benson
Gina Bergman
Patricia Neighbors

2013-14

Kathleen Grupe
Traci Ratliff
Kathy Tutak Mitchell

2014-15

Cassandra Panek
Wesley Poston
Jennifer Lawler

2015-16

Lynn Kiser
Robin Massey-Davis
Joe LaFarge

2016-17

Kristin Autrey
Jennifer L. Cruze

2017-18

Maegan Holycross
Ryan Pabor

2019 Golden Gala Planning Committee

Mark Thomas, Communications Officer
Stephanie Whitlock, Communications Specialist
Michelle DoPorto, District Webmaster
Kim Tweed, Copyeditor & Administrative Assistant
Amanda Garcia, Secretary (Web Services/Budget)
Abigail Juarez Orona, Receptionist

Sharon Battles
Lynn Breitingner
Dennis Clack
Gigi Clack
Robin Massey-Davis
Brenda Ryan
Arlene Stotts



Special Thanks To:

Trevor Kasal
Jeremy Upchurch
Tyler McCoy
Tammy Pope
Tonia Pickett
BISD's Audio/Video Program
BISD's Floral Design Program
Each campus for providing floral arrangements
TCP Catering



Excellence | Integrity | Service