Education Foundation Celebrates 10 Years

Since the inception of the Education Foundation, $171,834 in grants has been distributed to teachers and $27,902 in campus site grants allowing unique classroom strategies to be implemented. The Foundation also provided $10,000 worth of educator scholarships and $57,088 in technology or scholarships for the top graduating seniors.

The grants go towards items that aren’t regularly funded. Items bought through the Education Foundation include, but aren’t limited to, chromebooks for classrooms, poster printers for campuses, hydrorinosics systems for science or agriculture classes, and much more. Since the Education Foundation started, 100 percent of HISD students have been impacted by grant funds.

Within the past year, the Education Foundation has welcomed a new Executive Director, Deb Hanson. Hanson is passionate about the Foundation and is excited to be working on raising funds to benefit the children of Hillsboro. Working closely with Hanson on the initiative is the 2018-2019 Education Foundation Board, a group of volunteers who strongly believe in our school district.

For the Foundation’s 10th year, they are implementing new projects to help raise funds. This year, a D daddy Daughter Princess Ball was held and over 200 tickets were sold. The Foundation would like to thank all of those who helped with the Ball and those who purchased tickets. As their motto this year states, together we can make a difference.

2018-2019 Education Foundation Board

John Versluis - President
Pam Hamilton - VP Programs
Marilyn Hill - Co-VP Marketing
Lauria McDonald - Co-VP Marketing
Art Mann - Co-VP Development
Dr. Greg Steele - Co-VP Development
Robin Martin - VP Finance
Judy Fowler - Secretary
Stephanie Johnson - Ex-Officio
Deb Hanson - Executive Director
Vicki Adams
MisaI Alvarado
Glenda Brown
Katie Cole
Fran Eaton
Dayna Marshall
Edita Monroy
Brooke Seely
Heidi Toque
Peter Zarate III

HHS Student Council Spreads Joy

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”

—St. Augustine

The goal of student councils across the state is to develop leaders and to serve the community. Hillsboro High School Student Council, in particular, works to positively impact their school community, which impacts their town, which impacts our state, which impacts our country, which changes the world.

The interesting difference between an organization like Student Council and other school organizations is that you can’t expect material praise like a trophy. The rewards from this organization in particular span farther and are sometimes felt more than seen.

“My overall favorite part is seeing the Student Council members lead.” Damaris Nuanua, advisor and teacher at Hillsboro High School (HHS), said. “As an advisor, we help students develop leadership skills through delegations and responsibilities, hoping to help them move forward more successfully and confidently.”

As well as being prominent figures in the district and state realm of Student Councils, they also do various events for HHS and Hillsboro. Not only do they organize blood drives, they help plan Homecoming, read to elementary students, help with programs throughout the district such as Red Ribbon Week and National Smile Day, and even help the elderly.

“With the core element surrounding Student Council being service to others, you wouldn’t be surprised when I tell you that helping the elderly at the nursing homes and reading to the elementary students are my favorite activities we do.” Jennifer Pineda-Fernandez, a senior and HHS Student Council President, said.

“Not only do we help like planning Homecoming and being involved in various events but there’s a special kind of joy when you work with the most vulnerable people in our community.”

HHS Student Council is working hard to develop leaders and represent our community well. With being past-president of the district and an advisor for other officer schools, they also hold a title on the Student Council District 6 Board. They plan to run for state office in April. The students also attended their Fall Convention in Temple where they ran two table talks and spoke to approximately 400 students.

IMAGINE Launched at HJHS

Since this school year started, there’s something new about the 8th graders at Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS). Each student now has a Chromebook that they are responsible for and are able to use during school hours and at home. IMAGINE, which stands for Instructional Material Access for Gains in Education, was made possible from a $50,000 grant that Hillsboro ISD was awarded through the Texas Education Agency’s Technology Lending Grant program.

“I am excited about the IMAGINE program because every student now has a device that can add rocket fuel to learning at home and at school.” Cindy Darden, Director of Instructional Technology, said. “This program provides students with technology that supports our Hillsboro ISD Portrait of a Learner characteristics and can even transform how these students create, collaborate, communicate, and critically think. The students like being able to learn with these resources.”

The program will provide Chromebooks for lending to eighth grade students, as well as internet access through WiFi checkout for those who do not have internet at home.
A new class of Hall of Famers were inducted to the Hillsboro High School (HHS) Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 29. This year’s inductees are: Jake Fawcett - HHS Class of 1937, Arthur “Pic” Brown - Peabody Class of 1944, Cynthia Spencer - HHS Class of 1987, Jade Hennig - HHS Class of 2008, Dr. John & Martha Erwin - Community Service Award, and the 1918 HHS Boys Track Team. The Master of Ceremonies was Troy Dungan, former WFAA weatherman and HHS Class of 1954.

Jake Fawcett graduated from HHS in 1937. He played football and received a scholarship to play for Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He was drafted in the National Football League (NFL) to play for the Cleveland Rams in 1942. He moved to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1943. Fawcett left the NFL to join the Navy and was discharged in 1946, which enabled one more year in the NFL with the Los Angeles Rams. After leaving the NFL, Fawcett returned to Hillsboro and became a local businessman. Fawcett passed away in 1990. The honoree’s nephew, Freddie Fawcett, returned to Hillsboro and became a local businessman.

Arthur “Pic” Brown played football, basketball, baseball, and track - earning all-state honors in baseball and football - at Peabody High School. After graduating in 1944, he served five years in the United States Army. After his military service, Brown competed in football and baseball at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), where he earned several honors. Brown was an assistant football coach and backfield coach at PVAMU. He also enjoyed a professional baseball career playing for the Abilene Blue Sox of the West Texas-New Mexico League - a farm system team of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Brown passed away in 1972 and was inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006. His daughter, Sandra Brown-Jennings, spoke on her father’s behalf.

Cynthia Spencer graduated from HHS in 1987, where she played volleyball, basketball, and ran track. Spencer was all-district in volleyball and basketball all four years of high school. The honoree went on to play basketball at Trinity Valley Community College. Laura Pratt, former teammate and the daughter of Spencer’s former coach Marty Grey, introduced Spencer by reading a letter written by her father about her career as one of his players.

Jade Hennig-Bumgarner graduated with a slew of athletic and academic achievements in 2008. After playing two years at Navarro College, Hennig-Bumgarner went on to play for North Carolina State University, where she met her future husband. Upon returning to Hillsboro to assist in the care of her father, Hennig-Bumgarner served at the Hillsboro First United Methodist Church as Youth Director. She also taught 7th grade writing at Hillsboro Junior High School and coached Lady Eagles softball. She is now a 9th grade English and Reading teacher at Central Junior High School in Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD. Hennig-Bumgarner was introduced by her sister, Jaron Hennig-Trout.

The 1918 Hillsboro High School Boys Track Team won state with a team of Vaughn Askew, Wesley Ellington, Earl Frazier, Oscar Frazier, Hugh Lewis, Charlie Schwartz, and James Stewart. The team was coached by Harry McGinnis. Cullen Davis, a member of the HHS Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee, introduced the team and their achievements.
HOMECOMING
2018
Students ‘Petal It Forward’ in the Community

Whether it be your food being paid for by the person in front of you, or just a compliment about your outfit, everyone loves a random act of kindness and the feeling it gives you. That was the goal with Petal It Forward, making someone smile and then passing it on.

Petal It Forward is a national program that licensed florists all around the country can participate in where for one day out of the year, florists give away flowers - two per individual - with the intent that the person keeps one and then spreads the joy by passing on the second flower to a friend, family member, or even a complete stranger.

“My favorite days are the ones where I get to just go out and bless my community at random with some joy,” Natalie Meeks, owner of Natalie’s Floral and Gifts, said.

With “choosing love” being a theme of both Hillsboro Elementary School and Hillsboro Intermediate School this year, Meeks knew they just had to partner up for this lesson. Meeks donated the flowers to students from both campuses. The students traveled around downtown businesses and shared the flowers with a smile.

“As a former teacher, working with kids will always be a passion of mine,” Meeks said. “Any time the kids come into the shop, I always try to teach them something, whether it be about the way a flower grows or the different smalls and textures. What better learning experience for them than to go out and do a random act of kindness and make people smile.”

Three HHS Sports Advance

For both girls and boys sports, Hillsboro High School (HHS) has already seen a successful year.

Cross Country sent the varsity boys team to the state meet this year. In the past, only individual competitors qualified to run in the state races.

“I would like to congratulate these young men on a fantastic year,” Coach Kyle Bodeker said. “They put in extra work all year and it paid off. These young men deserve all the credit for their wonderful accomplishments.”

Bodeker also thanks Coach Massey for helping with the team and all of the Hills administration, coaching staff, and teachers for their help and support.

Volleyball made it to the playoffs for the first time in 30 years. The varsity team went into the playoffs with four wins and six losses from district games.

“The Lady Eagles had an amazing breakthrough season in 2018,” Coach Breanne Snyder said. “I am so proud of how hard they have worked and the leadership that had developed over the season, I hope we continue to use our heart and hard work to inspire our younger athletes who will be here in the future.”

Football has competed in the playoffs for the past three years. The last consecutive playoff run was from 2000-2002. The varsity team advanced to the playoffs with two wins and two losses from district play.

“This football season has been a fun one with big wins over area rivals such as West in the home opener and Whitney on Homecoming,” Joey Moss, head football coach, said. “It’s always nice to see the successes throughout the season continue to build.”

Congratulations to these young athletes!

Hillsboro High School Gets New CTE Program

Introducing a new program into their Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Hillsboro High School (HHS) has started a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) course. Upon graduation and completion of state testing, students enrolled in the course will be able to continue their education or use their certificate to go work in nursing homes, clinics, hospitals, or home health care.

“There is always a demand for health care workers and I am very excited to have this program to help the students achieve their goal and in turn help the community.” Michael Chirhart, CNA CTE instructor and science teacher at HHS, said. “Whether it’s working as a CNA or continuing their education and becoming a nurse, our students will be prepared to go forward and represent Hillsboro well.”

Not only have students been learning about all different branches of the medical field in class, they have been practicing with equipment.

“The students have a mannequin named Sam - and a real hospital bed in the classroom.” The CNA program will allow me to get a job in the medical field right after graduation”, Mary Pratt, CNA student, said. “Even if I don’t go into nursing, I am glad to have the experience to take care of my parents when I’m older.”

HISD Welcomes New Administrators

Patrick Harvell

Rais ed in Wylie, Texas, Patrick Harvell, the principal of Hillsboro Jr. High, had some impactful coaches that led him in the direction of education.

“When I was in high school there were some coaches that had a big influence on my life,” Harvell said. “I pretty much knew from the time that I graduated high school that I was going into coaching and becoming an educator.”

Harvell is excited to be able to build relationships here and help students find something that will make a lasting impression on them which is what led him to become an educator.

“I have a great passion for extracurricular activities,” Harvell said. “I think it is part of what molds and shapes a student’s character.”

Previously, Harvell was an athletic director at Mildred High School before moving into an assistant principal position at Corsicana High School, and Principal at Waxahachie Life High School.

“One of Mr. Harvell’s strengths is the way he builds relationships with students and staff,” Superintendent Vicki Adams said. “As well as having a variety of sound administrative experiences, I felt that he would make a great addition to our district.”

Harvell also thanks Coach Massey for helping with the team and all of the Hills administration, coaching staff, and teachers for their help and support.

“After working in many different size schools, from 2A-6A, I knew that the 3A-4A size was where I wanted to be,” Meadors said.

Previously, Meadors had been a coach and teacher. She decided to go into administration when she saw she could impact change.

“Meadors has experience at this level from previously being at Venus ISD,” Keith Hannah, HHS Principal, said. “Venus is similar in size to HHS and has similar demographics which we felt would be valuable. She has lasting coordination experience and is familiar with various programs and resources that we use here. We thought that the transition would be great for her, other administrators, teachers, students, and the community.”

Meadors didn’t know much about Hillsboro, but she jumped in ready to help where needed, hoping to spread some Eagle pride.

“Since moving to Hillsboro, I have learned that we have great students and supportive parents - the two things that help a school be successful,” Meadors said.

Tina Meadors

Hillsboro High School
Assistant Principal

By: Regan Savage

Growing up in a school the size of Hillsboro means everyone knows everyone, and that’s exactly what led Meadors to Hillsboro High School.

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Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD) was awarded $10,000 from America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The program helps farmers impact their communities by supporting local school districts. In order to be eligible for the grant, a farmer must nominate the district for the grant, which will be used to help enhance education in areas of science and/or math. HISD has been awarded four Monsanto Fund Grants for a total of $85,000.

HISD will use this grant, titled Blueprint to the Future, to go toward buying computers to run Computer-Aided Design (CAD) programs for the students enrolled in Ag Equipment Design and Welding classes at Hillsboro High School (HHS). Through the CAD program, students will be able to create drawings and realistic renderings that can be used as plans to build products such as trailers, gates, and more. Students will be able to gain industry certifications and have hands-on professional experience. Having these opportunities will allow students to be college or career ready after graduation.
FALL FESTIVAL