

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

JANUARY 29, 2024

DEAR JUDSON ISD FAMILY:

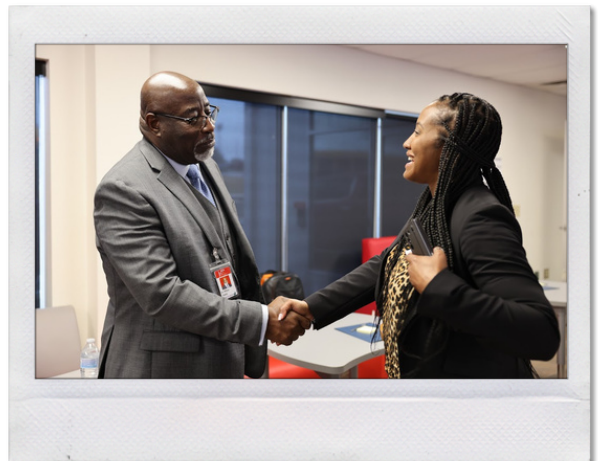
Last week, Judson ISD hosted visitors from other school districts and region service centers at TEA's System of Great Schools Learning Lab to share the work our leaders, teachers and students have done at JISD's innovative campuses. The opportunity to showcase how tailoring our campuses to the needs of our students and families was as inspiring to me as it was to our guests. As one of only 22 school districts participating in the System of Great Schools, we are at the forefront of innovation. Innovation that provides our students with unique and specialized opportunities that prepare them for their futures.

I want to thank our Department of Innovation for organizing the visit and helping us show the incredible opportunities Judson ISD is affording its students. Thank you to the staff at Franz Leadership Academy and Metzger Middle School for opening their campuses to our visitors and giving them a brief look into the incredible teaching and learning happening at Judson ISD.

As always, I am honored to be the superintendent of this amazing district.

Have a great week!

Dr. Rob Fields



JANUARY 29, 2024

SYSTEM OF GREAT SCHOOLS TOUR AT JUDSON ISD

Judson ISD was excited and proud to host a visit from TEA's System of Great Schools to showcase the work of our leaders, teachers and students at JISD's innovative campuses.

Visitors toured Metzger Middle School and Franz Leadership Academy to witness how we are tailoring the needs of our families and students to provide unique learning opportunities that prepare our students for their futures!

We are so proud to be at the forefront of innovative teaching and learning in Texas!



JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

In May 2023, Ms. Laura Stanford joined the Judson ISD Family and she did it at the right time - her favorite event of the year is graduation. "It is exciting to share in the excitement of the graduating seniors. I can't stop smiling as I watch them experience this once-in-a-lifetime event," Stanford said.

So far this school year, one event that comes to mind that has been the most memorable was at Veterans Memorial, where students were preparing dog blankets to donate to the Animal Defense League. "I was amazed when I entered the room to see that it was full of young people, wall to wall, cheerfully engaged in this charitable endeavor for homeless dogs," Stanford said. "I was overwhelmed with pride in these students who took time away from their pursuits to benefit such a cause."

As a board member, she believes the people are what make Judson ISD great. "It is a source of pride for me to associate with so many professional, caring people. From teachers to staff to cabinet members, I see impressive dedication to the needs of the students we serve," Stanford said.



JANUARY 29, 2024

JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Ms. Debra Eaton is a military veteran of 28 years from the United States Army (Ret) who represents District 3. She is a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent of current and former Judson ISD students, so her roots are deep in the district and community. From Convocation, Retirement Dinners, and Wobble N' Gobble, she is a constant and consistent supporter of district events, staff members, and especially our students. Her contagious and vivacious personality is infectious, having a good time at everything she is at with everyone she is with.

We thank Ms. Eaton for her service to our country and to our students. Her dedication to the staff and students is a top priority. Judson ISD is honored to have Ms. Eaton serve on the board.



JUDSON ISD ALUMNUS IS GOING TO THE 2024 SUPER BOWL

Congratulations to Spencer Burford, alumnus of Wagner High School, for helping the San Francisco 49ers secure the NFC Championship!

We wish him all the best as he prepares for the 2024 Super Bowl.



JANUARY 29, 2024

WORTHAM OAKS WELCOMES A SECOND-GENERATION

Holocaust Survivor

In recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, Wortham Oaks Elementary welcomed Varda Ratner, a second-generation Holocaust Survivor, to tell the story of her mom, Ilona Haendel.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, she endured Europe's harsh anti-Jewish discrimination. During the time of the Nazi's initial violence, she used her instinct and charm to save fellow Jews by passing out documents that would protect them under the auspices of the Swiss government.

She would eventually move to Palestine in 1947, where she would meet her future husband, Nathan, and witness the birth of Israel in 1948. She eventually immigrated to the United States in 1959 in Massachusetts, where Varda was born.

In 1991, she moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she worked as a teacher and spoke to area schools through the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum's Educational Outreach Program. Her daughter, Varda, continues her legacy, telling her mother's story to schools around the city so students and adults alike can never forget about the events of the Holocaust.

[View the full photo album.](#)



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

JANUARY 29, 2024

SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, January 26, marked the kickoff of the 2024 Superintendent Student Advisory Council meetings!

Our student leaders gathered for their monthly session with Dr. Fields.

They talked about plans for the new year, updated calendars, and brainstormed ideas for improved internal communications.

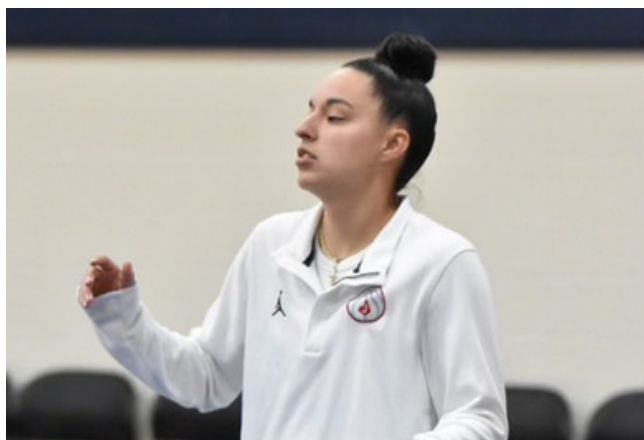


IT'S A FULL CIRCLE MOMENT FOR JUDSON HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH RAMIREZ

In Disney's Cars, Doc Hudson was a classic 1951 Hudson Hornet who was Lightning McQueen's mentor. Doc was known as the Fabulous Hudson Hornet in his illustrious career, winning Piston Cups and holding the record for most wins in a single season. Lightning McQueen looked up to Doc. He wanted to be Doc. He was aware of what Doc brought to the sport and his life.

A similar metaphor can be used with Judson ISD's newest basketball coach, Amber Ramirez. Ramirez was a star athlete under Camacho when she played at Wagner High School. Now, she is coaching alongside her Doc, Coach Christina Camacho, as her assistant coach at Judson High School.

[Read more about Coach Ramirez and why she returned home to work alongside her mentor.](#)



JANUARY 29, 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND JUDSON ISD

VMHS COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB

Congrats to the VMHS Computer Science Club on their success at the Johnson HS UIL Academic Meet! Jacob Campos clinched 1st place in the Veterans Division, missing a perfect score by one question. Ashton Shurtleff took 2nd, and Jarod Campos placed 4th in the Novice Division.

The team ranked 5th in the Team Coding competition. Well done to all participants!



SUPERINTENDENT'S SHINING STARS

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

Rohan Koltowski from Hartman Elementary

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.



LEARNING ADVOCACY AT MASTERS

Judson ISD Board Trustee Mrs. Jennifer Rodriguez visited Masters Elementary!

She talked about student advocacy and good citizenship, which tied into the students recent social studies lesson regarding elected officials and citizenship.



JANUARY 29, 2024

JEF INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING AT MONTE CARLO

Join us for a great cause – and a great time! The Judson Education Foundation provides student scholarships and teacher grants to Judson ISD.

This year we proudly funded over \$94,000 in student scholarships and innovative teacher grants.

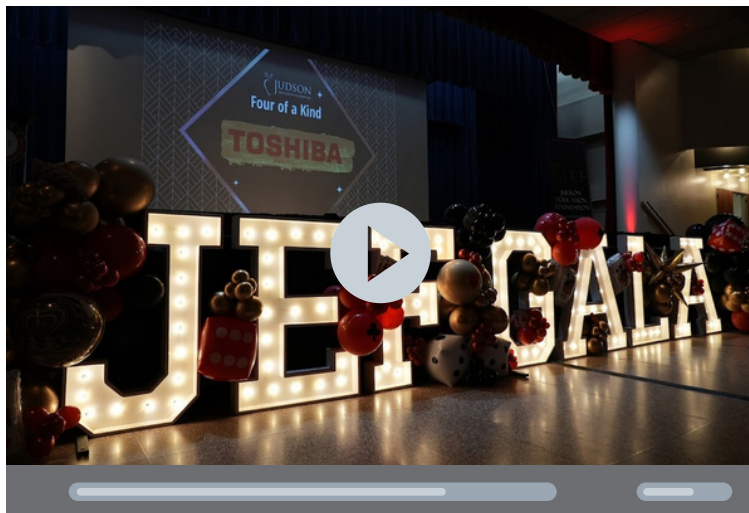


Purchase your tickets here!

All proceeds benefit students and staff of Judson ISD, every dollar of donation matters.

Feel free to contact Executive Director Lexie Greathouse at (210) 956-5414 if you have any questions about tickets or sponsorships.

[In case you missed it, check out last year's gala recap.](#)



JANUARY 29, 2024

JEF IS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS BY AWARDING A \$25,000 GRANT!

The Judson ISD Education Foundation is celebrating 25 years of giving; we are excited to announce a special grant opportunity to support and recognize outstanding educational initiatives in Judson ISD!

Grant Details:

- **Amount:** \$25,000
- **Application Period:** 25 days: January 10 to February 3 at midnight
- **Submission Requirement:** A two-and-a-half-minute or less video presentation

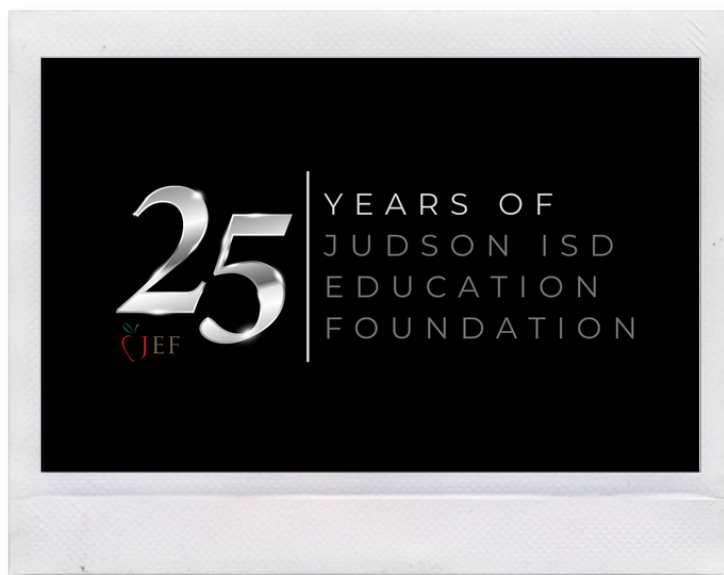
More information and submission links for grants can be found here.

This grant aims to empower and elevate innovative projects that enhance education in our district. We encourage all district employees to consider applying and showcasing the incredible work you are doing to make a lasting impact on our students' lives.

SILVER GRANT WORKSHOPS

We are excited to extend an invitation to our upcoming Silver Grant Workshop, designed to provide valuable insights and guidance for those interested in applying for JEF's 25th Anniversary \$25,000 Grant.

Two online workshops will be available this Wednesday, January 31st; one at 8:15 am and one at 3:30 pm. Please use the links below to join each meeting.



[Join the morning workshop at 8:15am](#)

[Join the afternoon workshop at 3:30pm](#)

This workshop is a fantastic opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the application process, receive personalized guidance, and connect with fellow educators who share a passion for innovative education.

If you are unable to attend but have questions, feel free to reach out to Lexi Greathouse at agreathouse@judsonisd.org or 210-945-5414.

JANUARY 29, 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND JUDSON ISD

BRAIN POWER!

On Friday, January 19th, the annual JISD Academic Decathlon Battle of the Brains was held at the J-Tech facility. Students from JECA, VMHS, WHS and JHS competed at the event.

Since the beginning of the school year, students have been studying the theme, "Technology and Humanity" across the seven core disciplines of social science, science, economics, art, literature, music and math. [Read more to find out who won!](#)



MATH & SCIENCE NIGHT

Paschall Elementary is wild about their Math and Science Night!

The Paschall ES faculty and staff organized a fun night of learning for all their students! We love our Tigers!

SUPERINTENDENT'S SHINING STARS

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

Noah Jauregui from Judson 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.



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JANUARY KEY CONTRIBUTOR FROM METZGER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dulce Juarez

Dulce Juarez is a 7th-grade teacher at Metzger Middle School and is the January JISD Key Contributor!

When you step into Juarez's 7th grade class, you would have no idea that she's relatively new to the teaching profession, although, you might have a hard time distinguishing her from her students! While she looks almost like one of the students, she has an incredible presence in her classroom. You can see immediately that she builds relationships with her students, creating a caring, fun and effective learning environment for every student.

As a lead teacher, Juarez invests in the team by always being available to assist her peers with planning and content while also supporting them emotionally. She models lifelong learning for her peers and students and is always willing to try new strategies to enhance teaching and learning on the Metzger campus.

Juarez exemplifies the Judson ISD Leadership Definition every day by treating everyone well, investing in people and planning for success.

Judson ISD individuals and community members are invited to nominate a JISD employee by filling out and submitting the Nomination Form.

Nominate someone today!



JANUARY 29, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND JUDSON ISD

January: Board Appreciation Month

February: Career & Technical Education and Black History Month

- February 5-9: National School Counseling Week
- February 12: Teacher Planning/Prep Day/ Student Holiday*
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 19: President's Day

March: Women's History Month and National Social Work Month

- March 1: Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day
- March 3-9: National School Social Worker Week
- March 11-15: Spring Break Holiday
- March 29: Good Friday Holiday

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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