

Guest Teacher Recognition Week

Hays CISD joined thousands of educators across the country during the first week of May in recognizing guest teachers as part of National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week.

We may not be able to celebrate in person this year, but the sentiment is just as sincere! All of our guest teachers are part of Team Hays and we absolutely could not function without their contribution to our schools, staff and especially our students. A sincere thank you to the 531 guest teachers who served in the 19-20 school year, filling more than 21,000 jobs before the suspension of normal operations due to Covid-19. We still have over 30 guest teachers finishing out the school year with distance learning! Thank you to ALL of our guest teachers!!

Elementary Guest Teachers of the Year 2019-2020

Blanco Vista – Claudia Longoria



Blanco Vista Elementary is proud to recognize Claudia Longoria as our Guest Teacher of the Year. We love having Ms. Longoria at our campus, she is reliable and always ready to help when needed. Ms. Longoria is often at our campus and knows our staff, students, and families as well as any of our wonderful teacher. She is a valued part of Blanco Vista's team! We wish we could express our gratitude and appreciation in person but for now, Thank you Ms. Longoria for all you hard work and always being there for us!

Buda Elementary – Grace Taylor-Seay



Buda Elementary is proud to recognize Grace Taylor-Seay as our Guest Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Taylor-Seay has been part of the BES family for a few years, and takes pride in her job. She genuinely cares about our students. She gives 100% to our campus, and student goals. Mrs. Taylor-Seay is deserving of this award for countless reasons, but the biggest reason is because she brings heart to everything she does for our bulldogs. We appreciate her so much and we are grateful for all of her hard work and dedication. Mrs. Taylor-Seay you are, and will always be a BES Bulldog! ♥

Camino Real Elementary – Kendra Reyna



Camino Real Elementary has voted Kendra Reyna as Guest Teacher of the Year for the second year in a row! That says a lot about Kendra. She is popular because she is committed and honest. Kendra made her mark this year when she stepped up to fill in for some positions that came open at Camino Real. She also became the long term guest teacher for a Special Education Resources position. She exudes dedication and flexibility. Along with that she's timely and very pleasant to be around. She loves our students and faculty and WE Love Kendra. Thank You for another GREAT year.

Green Elementary – Robin Underdown



We are proud to announce our Guest Teacher of the Year, Robin Underdown! She was part of our Tom Green faculty in the 17-18 school year. We feel blessed to have her back in our school as a guest teacher. We truly appreciate her prompt response to our needs for long term subs on our campus and how quickly she rose to the challenge! Ms. Underdown's commitment for our students is remarkable and truly shows her dedication to the students' success. Thank you, Robin, for all your support!

Elementary Guest Teachers of the Year 19-20

Carpenter Hill Elementary – Nicki Sulak



From an outstanding group of substitutes, Carpenter Hill has selected Nicki Sulak as our Guest Teacher of the year. Nicki is dependable, efficient and hard working. She is always engaging and assures that students will be learning and on task when she is subbing for their class. It is with confidence that our teachers request Nicki for their class sub. We appreciate Nicki's dedication to education and our campus. Nicki has two daughters that attend CHES. In addition to guest teaching on campus, she volunteers her time as a classroom parent, PTA member and is in charge of our Annual Auction at the Colt Carnival. Nicki is an asset to our campus and we are blessed that she is a member of the Colt family.

Elm Grove Elementary – Susan Lawrence



*Susan has been incredibly dedicated to the students and staff at Elm Grove, so much so that most people don't even realize she's a substitute! There is nothing she wouldn't do to help a student in need, and that goes for all of the students at Elm Grove, not just the ones that she actually works with. She connects with and encourages many students on a daily basis! Throughout the years, Susan has voluntarily taken on some of the biggest challenges, and in turn, has made an incredible impact on the lives of some of the hardest to reach kids! We jokingly call her "Wonder Woman", because there's nothing she can't do! She's saved not just one, but **TWO** of our students from choking! In each one of those unexpected, critical moments, it was Susan that immediately jumped in to perform the Heimlich maneuver on our precious students, ultimately saving their lives! If that doesn't deserve "Guest Teacher of the Year", I don't know what does! She is also an incredibly humble and genuine person who truly is just there for the kids! We are lucky to have her at Elm Grove! Congratulations, Susan! Thank you for all that you do for us and our students! We love you!*

Fuentes Elementary – Tabitha Krauss



We're happy to announce Tabitha Krauss as Guest Teacher of the Year for Susie T. Fuentes Elementary. Tabitha is the epitome of what our campus stands for. She goes above and beyond with her thoughtfulness, always lending hand to help students and staff alike! More often than not she's offered to help during her conference time! She's available to sub in any capacity of our campus, just point her to the area where she's needed and she's there! Her smile is warm and genuine as is her greeting in the beginning and end of the day! FES sincerely thanks Tabitha and her wonderful family for continued support of our campus!

Negley Elementary – Elva Opiela



Elva Opiela is truly deserving to be the NES sub of the year. She cares about our students and teachers and goes above and beyond to show it. She has ended out of town trips early to come back for emergency sub jobs. She has cancelled plans to be available for our teachers when they request her. She gets to campus early and stays late to make sure the classroom is in terrific shape for the teachers return. Elva is a true blessing to have at NES!

Hemphill Elementary – Patricia Cestoni Henriquez



We are pleased to announce Ms. Patricia Cestoni-Henriquez as our Guest Teacher of the Year. Ms. Cestoni-Henriquez loves our campus and her dedication, flexibility and dependability show it. She has built positive relationships with students & staff. Everyone loves having her in their classrooms. She is always willing to help out where needed and we know we can count on her. Thank you Ms. Cestoni-Henriquez, we appreciate your hard work and are tremendously grateful to have you!

Elementary Guest Teachers of the Year 19-20

Kyle Elementary – Kyle Nations



We are honored to announce Kyle Nations as Kyle Elementary's Guest teacher of the Year. Kyle has built positive relationships with the staff, parents and students. She is dependable, encouraging and teaches as if each class is her own. She is truly an asset to have on our campus. We are so happy to have her as part of our Panther family.

Pfluger Elementary – Emma Hernandez



We are honored to have Emma Hernandez as the Pfluger Elementary Guest Teacher of the Year. This is the second year that Emma has won this award. That is a testament to her dependability dedication. Emma has been critical for the success of our school this year. She was essential to getting our new PK classes settled and ready for learning. I am not sure what we would have done without her. She has built great relationships with our teachers and students. She is always professional and willing to help. Emma, thank you for your dedication to our children and for supporting Pfluger.

Science Hall Elementary – Renee Sample



Science Hall Elementary is proud to recognize, Guest Teacher of the Year, Ms. Renee Sample. Ms. Sample goes above and beyond her duty to be an example to our students. Teachers are grateful to be able to rely on her. We can always count on her to arrive on time and be ready to start the day early with our students. She always goes above and beyond to assist in any areas where she is needed. Thank you, Ms. Sample for the countless hours that you assisted at Science Hall Elementary. We appreciate your hard work.

Tobias Elementary – Angelica Saldana Faddis



We are pleased to recognize Angelica Faddis as our Guest Teacher of the Year! Not only is Angelica a reliable and sought after guest teacher, she's also an active Tobias parent. Angelica is so good at working with students who can be challenging or need more structure. She always follows the guidelines set out by the teacher for whom she is teaching, and is able to maintain a supportive and well managed environment for the students in the teacher's absence. Our staff often requests her and enjoy having her in our classrooms. She is a much loved member of our school community. Congratulations Angelica!

Uhland Elementary – Claudia Ponce



We are honored to have Claudia Ponce as our Guest Teacher of the Year. She is professional, reliable and hardworking. Ms. Ponce has built great relationships with our students and staff. She is always willing to help out when needed and her dedication to our students is amazing. We are lucky to have her and she is an asset to our Roo family. Congratulations!

Middle School Guest Teachers of the Year 2019-2020



Barton Middle School – Kathie Gilson

Kathie Gilson, former Hays High School Math Department Chair is a blessing for Barton. She is willing to come up even at the spur of the moment and help. The math department especially appreciates her ability to both manage the classroom and teach new material. Students are expected to work and she ensures they are doing their work correctly. Kathy Gilson provides Barton a chance for teachers to be out when they must and our kids do not miss a day of instruction. Thank you!



Chapa Middle School – Alfonso Mendoza

Alfonso was an excellent teacher at CMS. He came in and went above and beyond the call of duty. He came in early and stayed late. He had great relationships not only with teachers but with our students. He became part of the familia and we will miss him. He is also does guest appearances for Los Sparknotes! He will always be part of Team Chapa!



Dahlstrom Middle School – Diane Veihman

Diane Veihman has been a huge asset for us all at DMS. Mrs. Veihman has subbed at DMS for several years, always committing herself with 110% effort. Many of our teachers have requested Mrs. Veihman to sub for their classes because they know the children will continue to learn and feel comfortable in their absence. Mrs. Veihman is professional, committed and loyal. Our FOCUS team has really appreciated Mrs. Veihman's hard work, consistency and ability to connect and grow relationships with students. We are very proud to recognize Mrs. Veihman as our 2019-2020 Guest Teacher of the Year!

Wallace Middle School – Katie Sprute



Wallace would like to announce our Guest Teacher of the year 2019-2020 is our very own, Katie Sprute!!!! Yes, yes! She started our year together as Sable's substitute and quickly warmed her way in to our kids and their parents hearts! She commands a very caring classroom and goes above and beyond in all she does. She is a true team member. So much so, she came back as our ELA tutor this spring and is now serving in the role of another Long-term sub for Mrs. Davis! Is there anything she can't do? Please join me in congratulating her on this great award. Ms Sprute, Wallace is so very proud of you and so am I!

Simon Middle School – Benji White



Mr. White was a dynamic guest teacher that always has a smile on his face. He was always on time, willing to cover whatever class was needed, and built excellent relationships with our students. Mr. White often gave up his lunch to eat lunch with our new comer students. Simon Middle School appreciates Mr. White's service to our community.

McCormick Middle School – Marcos Deleon



McCormick Middle School is pleased to recognize Marcos Deleon as our 2019-2020 Guest Teacher of the Year!! He has been an amazing guest teacher and is well deserving of this recognition. He is very positive, dependable and is always willing to help out at a moment's notice. On several occasions, Mr. Deleon signed up for a particular job and he would arrive to office just to find out that he would be pulled from his original assignment to go to another and he has always been very flexible about the change and does it with a smile!! Thank you so much for being available for our students and teachers this year! He has become an amazing asset to the MMS Tiger Family!!

High School Guest Teachers of the Year 2019-2020

Live Oak Academy – Joel Matthews



We have lost count of the number of times Mr. Joel Matthews has been Live Oak Academy's Guest Teacher of the Year. But anyone who meets him knows why he continues to receive this distinction. It is said attitude is everything, and he has a wonderful attitude. Mr. Matthews truly seems happy to be at our campus. Many students know him from other campuses and he to remember them in return. He is patient, respectful, helpful, punctual, and reliable. His commitment to students and colleagues, his professionalism, and his kindness all add up to a wonderful man.

Impact Center – Cherise Jackson



The Impact Center is proud to announce Cherise Jackson as our Guest Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Jackson has built relationships with our students and staff and she has become a valuable member of our Impact family. Her background and experience allows her to empathize with our students. Her patience allows her to manage discipline with care and understanding. Her knowledge helps our students grasp what we are trying to teach them. We are so thankful to have her on our team! Congratulations, Ms. Jackson!

Hays High School – Julie Noon



Julie Noon has been very flexible in taking any job that has been thrown at her. From being reassigned from an office job and put in a classroom and giving up her conferences without a complaint. She is very trustworthy, dependable and gets the job done. She leaves the classroom very organized and the teacher is able to come back into the classroom and pick up where she left off with no problems. HHS is very proud to have Julie Noon represent HHS as the Guest Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020.

Johnson High School – Michael Moore



Mr. Michael Moore has the honor of being the inaugural Guest Teacher of the Year for JHS! Mr. Moore is so appreciated by the JHS Staff. He's not only a JAG Parent but an outstanding Guest Teacher! He has done such a great job in classrooms. He follows lesson plans while maintaining a comfortable environment for students. He leaves detailed notes for the teachers and genuinely cares about each class and education in general. He has always been very professional, kind & attentive to both staff & students. His flexibility has been so appreciated when schedule changes happen. Congratulations Mr. Moore!

Lehman High School – Chantal Williams



Lehman has chosen Chantel Mays Williams as the Guest Teacher of the Year because of her amazing, joyous, and spiritual personality! Mrs. Williams always has a smile on her face! The staff and students all love having her on campus. Mrs. Williams works individually with our students helping them with their academics, creating trusting relationships with them and mentoring them. The teachers love having her in their classrooms because they know learning will continue to happen even when they can't be there. Mrs. Williams has been a true blessing to our LOBO family!!! Thank you Mrs. Williams for all that you do for our students!!!!