

Talons Up!

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JCISD Newsletter

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We're on the Web!

Jc.txed.net

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Message from Superintendent Richard Kolek

"Soaring to Excellence"

I hope everyone is experiencing a great educational opportunity at JCISD. As we move closer to the end of the fall semester, we are beginning to plan for the next school year. This includes personnel and budget preparation, as well as the revision of our District Strategic Plan. The JCISD Board of Trustees has been working overtime to help develop the roadmap that will lead JCISD to become "The District of Choice". As we move forward, we will embrace and focus on our new Vision, Mission, and District Strategic Priorities. *Richard Kolek*

Vision Statement

JCISD will be The District of Choice by inspiring and empowering every student to achieve excellence.

Mission Statement

The Mission of JCISD is to promote citizenship and develop responsible students by providing the knowledge, skills, and life experiences necessary for learners to recognize and capitalize on their full potential.

Strategic Priorities

High Academic Performance and Student Success

School Safety & Climate

Effective Communication with all Stakeholders

Operational Excellence & Financial Stewardship

JCISD Attains "District of Innovation" Status

The Johnson City ISD Board of Trustees approved a District of Innovation Plan (DOI) on August 31st which gives the Board and Administrators flexibility in certain areas to meet the needs of local students. Made possible by HB 1842, which passed during the 84th Legislative Session, the DOI gives local control over such decisions as setting the date of the first day of instruction, teacher certification requirements, the length of probationary contracts, class size and teacher ratio, and the length of the instructional day. In each of these areas the Texas Education Code establishes requirements that blanket the schools in the State – regardless of student enrollment, geographical area and finances which differ greatly from district to district. The DOI Plan includes a rationale for each exemption the District is requesting and the parameters established by a committee for each exemption. A twenty-one member committee which included district and campus-level administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, community members and business representatives drafted the JCISD plan. A thirty-day public review period and a public meeting were held prior to the Board vote.

"This (DOI) gives us the local control to make State statutes fit with what works best for Johnson City," according to JCISD Superintendent Richard Kolek. The term of the plan is five years from the date of implementation which was September 1st, 2017. An annual review by administrators, the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) and the Board of Trustees is required. The plan may be amended, rescinded or renewed by approval from the DEIC and the Board.

Kolek began to advocate for developing a DOI plan upon taking the helm of the District in June with an understanding that more local control could allow the District to make adjustments which could have a significant positive impact on district operations. According to Kolek, "Meeting the needs of students isn't one-size-fits-all".

The complete JCISD District of Innovation Plan is posted on the JCISD website at jc.txed.net.

JCISD—The District of Choice!

Photo Album



Students benefit from hands-on learning in an Elementary classroom



LBJE students in camo because "you won't find them doing drugs!"



Author Jennifer Ziegler discusses her writing career with LBJMS students



Students show their appreciation at the LBJMS Veterans Day Ceremony



LBJHS PE class learning outdoor fitness skills at the Texas Rowing Center



Shaking hands and saying "Thank-you for your service" is part of the LBJHS Ceremony

Elementary School Highlights



- In October LBJE celebrated being drug free with Red Ribbon Week. Each day of the week students dressed in different ways to show reasons that they stay away from drugs. In guidance lessons they learned all about the difference in drugs/medicine and candies. Students learned a great deal from this.
- Teachers have been working to instill compassion and empathy in the students through The Seven Habits of Healthy Kids and Sharing Circles. These activities provide opportunities for students to learn ways to problem solve and think of others in their daily interactions. According to research, many

Fortune 500 Companies have invested millions of dollars into training their staff on social skills; LBJE is starting early! The students even had a lesson in which they learned how powerful words can be, and that once they are said they cannot be taken back. They squeezed toothpaste out of the tube to represent the words coming out of their mouths and then tried to put it back, which—although it was fun to try—didn't work.

- LBJE celebrated Veteran's Day with a parade. Students learned the definition of Veteran and the meaning of Veteran's Day. They learned about the sacrifices our Veterans and their families make for the rest of us to enjoy our freedoms and rights. Each grade level performed a patriotic song. The LBJE Staff would like to thank the Elementary PTO for setting up a beautiful backdrop and providing breakfast for all the guests.
- A special thanks, too, to our LBJE parents—your support of LBJE is a shining example to your children that you value their education! *Amanda Haley*

Middle School Highlights

- On October 20th LBJMS students attended the first Fall Dance of the year held in the Hyatt Gym after school.
- During the week of October 23rd students participated in Red Ribbon Week lessons and activities. The No Place For Hate Club organized different activities for students during lunch and students dressed up to a different theme each day of the week. In addition, Mrs. Perez's Discovery classes decorated all the classroom doors to promote a drug-free lifestyle



- The Lady Eagle 8th Grade Volleyball team had an undefeated season and earned District Champion honors by defeating Lago Vista in the Championship Game.

- The LBJ Fighting Eagle Band, which includes a number of 8th graders, did a great job in the Regional Band Competition held in San Antonio and qualified

for the Area competition at Waco-Midway High School

- On October 27th, Bumper Salazar and Jeffrey Brothers competed in the Jimmy Kingsley Memorial Bowling Competition and earned 1st and 2nd place finishes. Both students qualified to move forward to the Area competition held in Austin where they finished in 1st and 4th place respectively!
- On November 9th, author Jennifer Ziegler visited with students in the EL/MS Library to talk about writing and discuss her books which are set in Johnson City area.
- On Friday, November 10th, LBJ Middle school students participated in a Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony to recognize and pay tribute to our Veterans. *Russell Maedgen*

High School Highlights

- Coach Pocs, Mrs. Stueler and the LBJHS PE class took to the water for a kayaking adventure at the Texas Rowing Center in Austin. Eleven students spent a beautiful fall morning on the river downtown working on outdoor recreation skills.
- Sophomore Willow Grote painted a clear glass Christmas ornament for District 45 Representative Jason Isaacs depicting a pastoral scene representing her family ranch in northwest Blanco Country. The ornament was selected from all entries to represent District 45 and will be displayed on the tree in the Speaker of the House Chambers at the Capitol.
- Senior Cole Cowser finished 11th at the UIL Region IV-3A Cross Country Championships and qualified to run in the State Championship Meet at Round Rock. His time of 17:23 placed him 54th of 150 runners in 3A in the State.



- The Lady Eagle Varsity Volleyball Team ended a record-breaking season with a win in Bi-District against San Antonio Cole followed by a loss to Regional Finalist Vanderbilt-Industrial in the Area Round. The thirty-one wins for the season was the most for any Volleyball team in school history. Congratulations to Coach Heather Wilson, Coach Katie Taylor and all of the Lady Eagles on a great season!

• LBJHS staff and students observed Veteran's Day with their unique Silent Tribute, welcoming two dozen guests for the ceremony and brunch. Included in the ceremony were informational videos of the history of Veteran's Day, two poetry readings, a photo slide show of family and friends who have served in the Military and a Wall of Honor with the names of active- and reserve-duty service men and women, and the names of Veterans – living and deceased. Members of the FFA Officer Team, Fighting Eagle Band and English classes participated in the ceremony and all LBJHS students showed their respect and appreciation for Veterans with the silence broken only by the Pledge and a personal "Thank-You" to each guest at the end. Student Council and National Honor Society members greeted guests and provided a brunch after the ceremony. *Julie Storer*