

My AISD

Volume 4, Issue 2, September 2018

Brannon comes full circle

No one knows more about the history of Seguin High School than Amy Brannon.

Brannon, who is the girls wrestling coach and teaches math at Seguin, was part of the first freshman class at Seguin when the school opened in 2002.

When she finished up her high school career, she was certain that would also be the last time she set foot in the school.

"I always say God has a funny sense of humor," said Brannon, who is in her second year teaching at Seguin. "One, I said I'd never be a teacher and lo and behold I'm a high school teacher. I also said I never wanted to come back to Seguin. As a high school kid you say stuff like that. Now look."

As it turns out, Brannon is back where she belongs at Seguin and making an impact. A standout wrestler in high school and one of the first female athletes at the school to qualify for state, Brannon is now coaching a team that sent two girls to the state wrestling meet last year.

Getting back to Seguin is something Brannon never expected. An AISD product, Brannon went to Bebessee Elementary and Ousley Junior High. When Seguin opened she had the choice of following her two older sisters to Bowie High School or heading with her friends to the brand-new Seguin.

She opted for Seguin and her first go-round at the school wasn't that great.

"Seguin was different

SEE BRANNON, PAGE 3



Amy Brannon was part of the first freshman class at Seguin and is now back teaching at the school.



A message from Dr. Cavazos

It was nice to read that Seguin teacher Amy Brannon referenced #WherePotentialGetsReal in her story about returning to teach at the school she helped open up as a freshman.

She is one of many success stories we have in the district, and it's always great to read about them.

We have ensured that we will continue to have many success stories with our new AISD Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex, which is slated to open in 2020. There was a tremendous turnout at our groundbreaking, and it was wonderful to see so many of our fine arts students and student-athletes so excited about the facilities that will not

only impact their lives but that of future students and our community as well.

This month we also started doing one of my favorite things – surprising our employees of the month. It's great to be able to visit campuses and departments and honor so many outstanding stakeholders in our district. Congratulations to those who excel at providing outstanding customer service in our district, too.

Please remember to take advantage of the opportunities available to you on our intranet. The more you use deals and discounts, the more likely we will be able to add to the list and provide you with more chances to save money.

Commit to personal growth

John Wooden said, “The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.” I love the sentiment and lesson that this quote teaches



THE LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

of a learning organization, we value innovation and growth mindset. These two things naturally challenge us and there will be times when we have to exercise grit and persist in something new, even when its hard. We know our students learn best when exposed to rigorous and innovative learning experiences. This is also true for us as adults. If we are pushing ourselves to be a leader in education as an organization, we too will experience new professional opportunities that will challenge our thinking, stretch our skills and hone our practice.

So as a district, what behaviors are we looking to foster in one another as we each commit to our personal growth? There are five. We want to:

Be adaptable. We strive to adapt our own leadership behavior to the needs of the current situation and recover from or adjust easily to change or challenging circumstances.

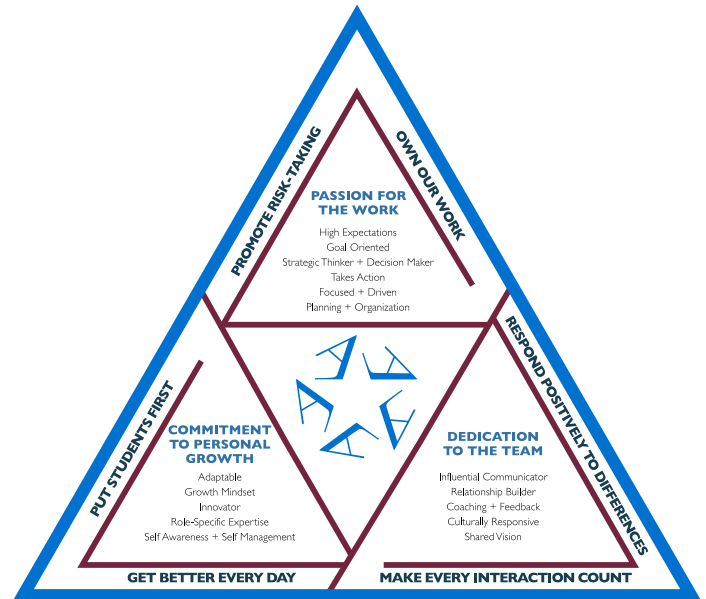
Have a growth mindset. We want to see failures or mistakes as opportunities to grow rather than a terminable setback. We believe in our own abilities, seek feedback and strive to always improve.

Be an innovator.

all of us as leaders. It underscores the importance of honestly looking in the mirror in a way that allows you to see the reflection of your strengths as well as the opportunities to improve. Strong leaders know that before you can lead others, you have to first start with yourself.

In the Arlington ISD, we embrace the tenet of getting better everyday. Today, we want to be a little better than we were yesterday. Does this mean that we have to be perfect at what we do all the time? Of course not! As members

LEADERSHIP DEFINITION



Participate in trying new approaches and challenging the status quo.

Seek to have role-specific expertise. Learn the necessary skills to be highly effective in the role where we each serve to support the vision and mission of the district.

Exhibit self-awareness and self-management. Be able to identify and manage our own emotions and professional relationships through empathy and social awareness.

As educators, we all have the unique opportunity to

make an impact in the life of a student. That makes us all leaders. As you reflect on your own leadership, I encourage you to celebrate the strengths you bring to the team and invite you to **commit to your own personal growth.** By making your personal growth a priority, you are not only growing as a person, but also making a positive difference for the team as we serve each other and the learners of Arlington.

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer for the AISD

Architecture firm up for honor for CTC design

VLK Architects architectural design of the Arlington ISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center, as well as three other projects at Texas schools, have been chosen as finalists in the 2018-19 Exhibit of School Architecture competition, which showcases new and renovated Texas schools and celebrates excellence in planning and design of

the learning environment.

The AISD project, along with other campuses in several Dallas/Fort Worth-area districts that received Stars of Distinction in the competition, will be on exhibit during the TASA/TASB Convention in Austin.

Four projects received at least four stars from the six areas of distinction and were chosen as

finalists for the competition's highest level of recognition, the Caudill Class, which is named after Texas architect William Wayne Caudill (1914–1983). Caudill's progressive concepts continue to influence school design. The other finalists are Georgetown ISD (Huckabee), Houston ISD (Kirksey Architecture) and Manor ISD (Stantec).



Arlington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education

OCTOBER DATES

National Bullying Prevention Month
International Walk to School Month
National Physical Therapy Month

Persons with Disabilities History and Awareness Month
Computer Learning Month

Start of Second Six Weeks	Oct. 1
National Custodial Workers Day	Oct. 2
Texas Night Out	Oct. 2
Martin HS Homecoming	Oct. 5
Walk to School Day	Oct. 10
Fire Prevention Week	Oct. 7-13
Columbus Day (Staff Holiday)	Oct. 8
Seguin HS Homecoming	Oct. 12
National School Lunch Week	Oct. 15-19
World Food Day	Oct. 16
Boss' Day	Oct. 16
Dallas Mavericks Begin Magical Run	Oct. 17
Bowie HS Homecoming	Oct. 19
Lamar HS Homecoming	Oct. 19
Elementary Early Dismissal	Oct. 19
Sweetest Day	Oct. 20
National Character Counts Week	Oct. 21-27
National School Bus Safety Week	Oct. 22-26
Red Ribbon Week	Oct. 23-31
National Breadstick Day	Oct. 26
Mother-in-Law-Day	Oct. 28
National Cat Day	Oct. 29
Halloween	Oct. 31

DISCOUNT OF THE MONTH

AISD COSMETOLOGY



**Come Get
Services from the
Cosmetology
Students!**

Services Provided:

Haircut: \$5

Color: \$25+

Shampoo: \$5

Blow-dry: \$10

Curls/Flat Iron: \$10

Manicure: \$5

Facial: \$8

And more!

Dan Dipert Career and Tech Center

2101 Browning Dr. Arlington, TX 76010
(682) 867-9500

**Tuesday - Friday
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

BRANNON FROM PAGE 1

then," she said. "My high school career was a harder one. We had a really eclectic student body. High school wasn't really for me."

That was one of the reasons Brannon opted to graduate early, finishing up her first run in the AISD by graduating sixth in her class in 2005. She went to UTA and then spent six years coaching volleyball and teaching in Everman.

But she told her husband Troy, who is also a teacher, that if a head girls wrestling job opened up in the area she'd apply for it. The one that did just happened to be at Seguin. She was

hesitant to apply at first, but her husband prodded her and she got the job, which also includes her being an assistant track coach.

"My husband jokes when I say the potential gets real tagline that I'm the poster child for that," she said. "I see it a lot. It's cool because it's nice to work somewhere that you also believe in."

Brannon's change in stance about Seguin has come since she left the school as a teenager. She sees familiar faces, too. Her economics teacher in high school Rick Humes is now one of the school's

assistant principals.

He's one of the reasons she decided to get into teaching.

"I feel great when a former student compliments me about my class or my teaching," Humes said. "I feel validated. But with Amy, it goes above and beyond that. For my work to help guide her into this profession and then for her to re-join me at Seguin as a fellow educator, that is the 'gold standard' of career validation. Plus, our Cougar kids win big. She is an awesome teacher and coach. This old man is very happy."

So is Brannon.

"It's home," she said. "You think back to it and everyone says their high school experience was either great or horrible. I looked back on it as a very negative experience. But bringing it back full circle, it was only negative for a few things. I loved wrestling. That's why I came to school. I had some really phenomenal teachers. Being a high school student you don't appreciate it when you're going through it. You just see the dark and heavy. I think I let my perspective get skewed. It's great to see it in a new light."

Breaking ground

Event signals start of construction for Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex

The Arlington ISD broke ground Sept. 13 to kick off construction of its future Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex. Key projects of the 2014 Bond program, the two state-of-the-art facilities are located next door to each other near AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park.

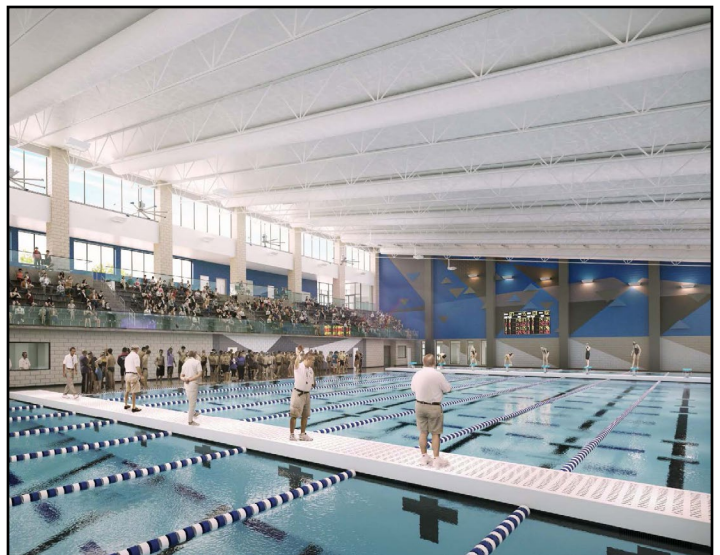
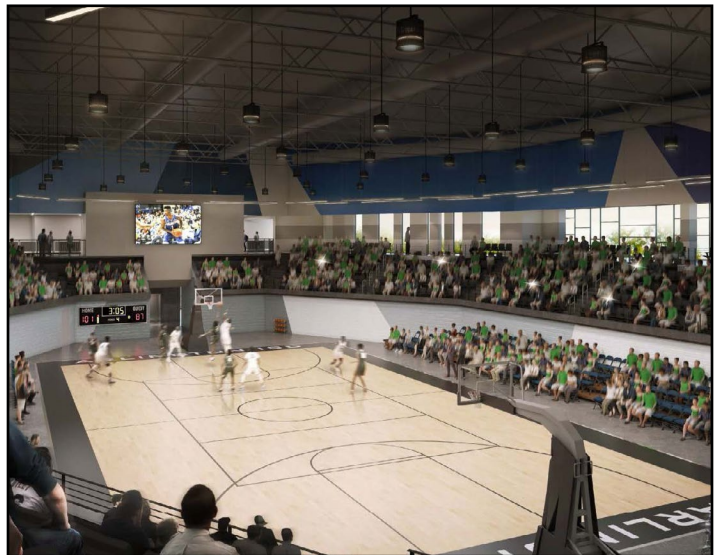
The groundbreaking ceremony featured fine arts student performers and student athletes from all six traditional AISD high schools, along with a choir from Corey and Jones Academies of Fine Arts and Dual Language. Two students also took turns playing a Steinway and Sons grand piano brought out for the special day. Throughout the ceremony, AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, Board of Trustees President Dr. Aaron Reich and representatives from HKS, the project architect, Adolfson and Peterson Construction, the general contractor, and the City of Arlington expressed their excitement for the

opportunities these buildings will provide Arlington students for generations to come.

The Fine Arts Center will serve the entire district, grades prekindergarten-12, with world-class performance and demonstration venues. It will include a 1,250-seat concert hall, 425-seat theater, classroom space, art and dance studios, instrument repair center, and art gallery.

The Athletics Complex will give the district its first-ever natatorium. The natatorium will house a 50-meter pool with moveable bulkheads, a diving area, warm-up pool and seating for 1,000 spectators. In addition to the natatorium, the athletics complex will house a 1,200-seat arena for competition wrestling, basketball and volleyball. The space will also be used for a new elementary gymnastics program.

The AISD Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex are scheduled to open in the fall of 2020.



The artists renderings show what to expect in 2020 when the Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex opens.

Campus PBIS teams add content expert role

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports department is excited to announce new PBIS updates for the 2018-2019 school year. Campus PBIS content experts are being identified and new professional learning opportunities are being added to further support implementation of PBIS. Campuses are beginning to install Tier 2 systems to better support our students.

Also, the PBIS department was recognized by the state for our work in implementing PBIS in the Arlington ISD.

This year, select PBIS team members are being developed as content experts in order to build capacity on each campus for implementing advanced behavior principles and intervention practices. These identified team members will be equipped to assist campus PBIS teams in school-wide behavioral intervention planning and problem solving. They will use data-driven processes to aid the PBIS team in developing targeted and individual student behavior solutions. The team content experts will also apply research-based behavior principles to support the PBIS team in enhancing campus reinforcement systems for all students.

The PBIS department will also enhance the PBIS and popcorn professional learning opportunities for implementing PBIS in the classroom. New topics for the 2018-2019 school year include: PBIS and family engagement, classroom community circles, verbal de-escalation, and creating a positive classroom culture. Sessions are one or two hours long each. Sessions are scheduled for



The AISD PBIS team of Cheryl Boyland, Angela Hernandez, Lili McEntire, Eric Zeissig and Jerod Reeves holds the award presented by the Texas Behavior Support Network in June.

Nov. 5, Feb. 4 and March 4 at the Professional Development Center.

More campus teams are increasing their fidelity of implementation of PBIS systems than in previous years. Because of these Tier 1 implementation efforts, several campuses are now in position to install and implement Tier 2 PBIS systems of support for the 2018-2019 school year. In this process, campuses commit to advanced training in systems, interventions and evaluation procedures. These campuses analyze their school-wide data to determine student needs. In addition, they are adding in-depth training on systems implementation and interventions, such as effective check-in/check-out

procedures and small group guidance.

These and other efforts by the PBIS teams and district PBIS department were recognized by the Texas Education Agency-sponsored Texas Behavior Support Network during the 2018 Texas Behavior Support State Conference June 26-28 in Houston. The district PBIS department was presented an award for, "dedication to the implementation of PBIS, your commitment to the success of your students, and your presentation at the Texas Behavior Support State Conference."

Angela Hernandez, Cheryl Boyland, Eric Zeissig, Jerod Reeves and Lili McEntire accepted the award on behalf of the district.

Discounts available for AISD employees

If you feel like getting pampered, this is the month for you. You can go to the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center and get a [haircut or manicure](#) for as little as \$5 while helping an AISD student in the process.

If you want to try something else, the district is also the business of the month for the [Ogle School in Arlington](#). That means you can get a free

shampoo and haircut or a signature skin treatment just by following the information on the link.

If you know how to navigate the intranet and get to the employee perks and discounts page, you can find that and much more. In the last month we've added those discounts to the page as well as others from several [rental car companies](#). Make sure and check the page frequently as it's

updated throughout the year. If you know of other discounts please email Anthony Andro at aandro@aisd.net.

Remember we are also always looking for great stories about employees in the district like Amy Brannon. If you know of someone who has an interesting story outside the classroom or office, please let us know by sending an email to aandro@aisd.net.

Tina Baze, Specialist
Risk Management
Arlington ISD
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy.
Arlington, TX 76013
Office: 682-867-7649
Fax: 682-867-4682

***** Accident ***
What to do next?**

Contact supervisor. If an emergency response professional is needed call 911.

Contact the risk management office at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers' comp packet.](#)

Completed packet should be sent to the risk management office in the administration building.

The only impossible journey is the one you never begin.

Anthony Robbins

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2018

Start the School Year with Safety

Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls are the most common type of accident that occur on school campuses. Many of these injuries can be prevented by taking steps to ensure a safe working environment. At the beginning of the school year, take time to focus on how the classrooms and workspaces are organized, with the goal to prevent these injuries. Below are some tips to help you steer clear of this common problem:

- Keep stairways and hallways clear at all times.
- Ensure exit signs are functioning and that entrances and exits are not blocked.
- Clearly mark passages that are not exits with signs that say "NO EXIT."
- Post directional signs and designate sides of the hallways for foot traffic.
- Report spills and other hazards quickly.
- Put down floor mats to keep the soles of shoes dry.
- Keep an extra eye on areas that can clutter easily, such as storage rooms and theater stages.



Fire Prevention and Safety

The beginning of the year is a great time to ensure that you have the proper fire equipment, procedures and protocols. Campus officials should perform regular fire surveys. Teachers, administrators, students and other staff members can reduce the chance of fires by adhering to recommended guidelines, which include compliance with fire codes and promoting fire safety awareness among staff.

- Fire extinguishers should be clearly marked and readily accessible. Avoid placing tables, chairs and other equipment in front of them that could create a delay in the event of an emergency.
- Train staff on the proper use of fire extinguishers.
- Ensure exit signs are illuminated and backup power systems tested. Everyone should be practicing exit drills on a regular basis.
- Combustible and flammable materials are a part of everyday life on campus. Practice proper storage and use to prevent fires and explosions.
- Students and staff should understand which items can create unwanted hazards, such as matches, lighters and candles. These things have no place on campus and should be left at home.
- Avoid using electrical closets as storage areas for custodial and maintenance materials. These closets contain electrical panels that have the potential for flash arcs and shock hazards. Three feet of clearance in these areas is always recommended. Be alert to ways in which the workplace can be safer.



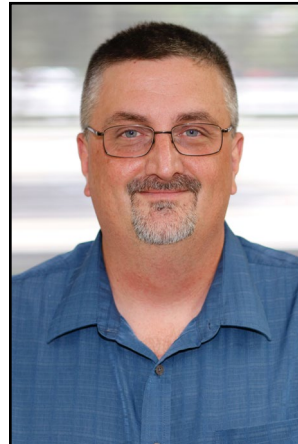
**Remember, practice safety.
Don't learn by accident.**

ACCESSIBILITY
TANGIBLES
RELIABILITY
RESPONSIVENESS
EMPATHY



Accessibility
Cindy Corbitt
Burgin Elementary

What they said: She has taken me under her wing this year as the dean of Burgin Elementary. This is my first year as an instructional coach and she has gone above and beyond showing teachers how to gather resources, accessing data and assisting in general.



Tangibles
Jim Holland
Technology Integration and Innovation

What they said: He is the quintessential trainer. There is nothing he won't learn, work on, master and then deliver an outstanding lesson on. I believe that because he makes the lessons meaningful, integrating the use of technology and preparing future-ready learners, it really resonates.



Reliability
Belen DeLeon
Beckham Elementary

What they said: Our school is always noticed for its appearance and cleanliness. Anyone who walks into Beckham mentions just how beautiful our school looks. Belen is the reason our school is perfection. She is the most reliable custodian we have ever seen.



Responsiveness
Beth Hawkins
Young Junior High

What they said: She took it upon herself to go the extra mile for one of her students, who she only had one year. I don't know how to nominate a teacher for teacher of the month, year or century, but she deserves so much more than either my daughter or I can give her. This teacher literally took her under her wing.



Empathy
Becky Hebron
West Elementary

What they said: She is the epitome of calm and kindness to every person who comes to West Elementary. She answers phones with a friendly voice and when parents come into our office, no matter what kind of day they've had, she will always put them at ease and make them feel heard.

A customer forms an impression of service received over time depending on a range of experiences. Have you recently experienced exemplary service from anyone in the AISD? If so, affirm their practice by sending a shout out to bit.ly/AISDSERVE, and we'll recognize them! Be sure to let us know which component of the framework was exemplified (accessibility, tangibles, reliability, responsiveness or empathy).

SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



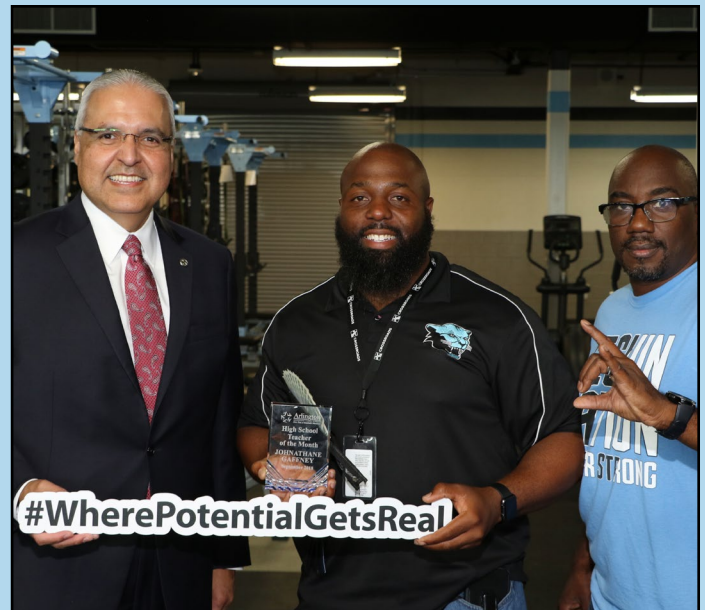
Ana Pinson
Ditto Elementary
Elementary Teacher of the Month



David Jackson
Plant Services
Department Employee of the Month



Andi Jenkins
Nichols Junior High
Junior High Teacher of the Month



Johnathane Gaffney
Seguin High School
High School Teacher of the Month