

District Art Show



Shelly Lim | Staff
Daria Kropshofer | Writers

This year's Flower Mound High School art show was held January 7th to January 17th, 2020. The art show gives students an opportunity to present their art work and win a prize. Many various types of art work were presented in the school library, such as ceramics, drawings, paintings, and photography, etc. This year over 154 artworks were in the competition and 91 contestants.

There are two levels in this art show. First, the artwork was displayed in the school library from January 7th-17th and the jurors looked at the artwork and picked the winners for the juror's choice. Then the top 50 artists, went to the next stage, which is the district competition. There they compete against other LISD high schoolers.

Students had opportunities to win honorable mentions for each category by the jurors, principal, and the counselors. Therefore, announced on January 14: The jurors, Samantha Cooper and Ingrid Geisler, chose the art piece "Teenage Nuisance" by Emi

Thomas, a senior. The winner for Best of Show is junior, Mia Balderas, with "Summer Time." Lynden Clark won Principal's Choice with her piece "Complementary" and Kiera Mathews, a sophomore, won Counselor's Choice with "Flower Box," which was created out of clay. Clearly, Flower Mound High School represents their creative talent through their artwork.

Junior, Hanna Zhuravlova placed second place for the ceramics section. Her advice for other artists who want to enter a competition is: "Try your best and only do it if you really want to." She believes that participating in a competition like this should be your choice. The choice should be based on your passions.

Before the show, another important thing she recommends doing is to "try new things, maybe you can find your hidden skills because everyone has equal chances."

Contestant Shelly Lim, believes that "different design makes ceramics unique." A distinctive artwork stands out, which makes art more interesting. Interesting artworks usually draw more attention to the piece.

Shelly appreciates the artistic drive

to win. "You get to show off your artwork and compete because the judges can see what a high school student can do," she said. Many people underestimate high schoolers, so this art show reveals what students can really do. "Try your best and you will succeed," she said. Her advice can also be used in various other aspects of life. Believing in yourself gives one the confidence to do your best. Art gives students creative freedom, as she said that "it's a time where I can be creative and relax." In the future she wants to learn more about different types of artwork and educate herself about art.



FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Kathryn Forehand



Q: Did your art change throughout your life?

"Yes definitely, It got better and improved, because [throughout your life] you figure out what you want to make and what you want others to see."

Maxwell Stockdale



Q: Why did you want to participate in the art show/what was your motivation?

"I wanted to show what I've been doing."

Maxwell Stockdale



Q: What inspired/influenced your artwork?

"I take a lot of reference pictures so I use the ones that inspire me."

Lucas Runte



Q: Does your art look different depending on your mood?

"No, it's always kind of the same like a series."

Six Simple Scholarships

Alison Wade | Staff Writer

Association of Texas Leaders for Education Scholarship

- \$1,000
- Graduating senior going to college in Texas fall semester, 3.5 GPA or higher
- Application, essay, 2 letters of recommendation (school staff and community volunteer), transcript
- Due March 15, 2019

Trending Yet's \$1,000 Scholarship

- \$1,000
- High School Senior with a 3.0 GPA
- Submit a video (5 minutes or less)
- Due March 31, 2020

The North Texas State Fair Association Scholarship

- \$2,000 (\$1,000 per semester)
- Graduating Senior in Denton County, accepted to an accredited Junior College or University
- Fill out application, have 2 letters of recommendation (1 from school and 1 your choice), submit 2 wallet size photos
- Due April 15, 2019

Impact on the Community Scholarship

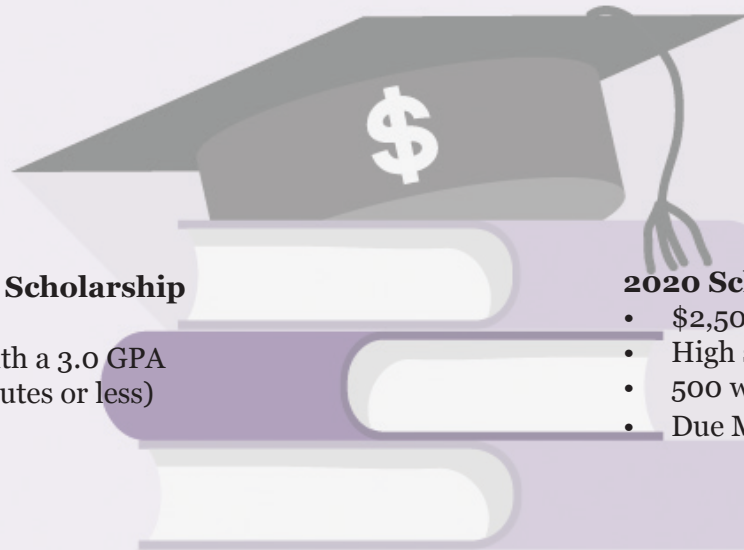
- \$1,000
- High school students accepted or enrolled in a graduate program
- Transcript, resume, 700-1,000 word essay
- Due June 30, 2020

2020 Scholarship Essay Contest

- \$2,500, \$1,500, or \$500
- High school students
- 500 word essay, transcript, photo
- Due May 1, 2020

2019-2020 Pursuing a Positive Impact Scholarships

- \$3,000
- Seniors planning to go to college, GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 1,000 word essay, resume, and transcript
- Due May 31, 2020



Homeless Teens in Flower Mound: *And How To Help Them*

Scott Convery | Editor-in-Chief

While speaking in generalizations almost ensures exceptions, with some certainty one can assume that an average student at Flower Mound has no experience with homelessness. In fact, the idea of being without shelter or care in any respect seems so foreign, and yet, even in a community like this, there are teens who leave school each day without a clue where they will sleep tonight. Journey to Dream, a local homeless shelter for teens, aims to put an end to that.

Nesa Grider, the CEO of Journey to Dream took the time to illuminate aspects of this seldom-acknowledged problem and promote the aid which her organization can provide.

“For more than 15 years, Journey to Dream has helped transform impact and save the lives of at-risk, victimized, runaway, and homeless teens across North Texas. We offer housing and a full service of supportive programs services to teens in need 14-19 years of age – currently reaching, impacting, and interacting with over 15,000 North Texas teens every year.” Grider explained.

But Journey to Dream, to Grider, isn't simply a place of residence for teens without a home, rather, it aims to send its residents out the door with a greater education and a healthier lifestyle. With the capacity to house up to 14 young people and support many more, Journey to Dream is providing the residents of the shelter with support programs and counseling, working to create something more than just a place to rest one's head.

“Journey to Dream (JTD), along with our resident care shelter, Kyle's Place implemented programs that serve homeless youth by meeting their immediate needs, providing residential services, conducting the intervention, prevention, and outreach efforts to move youth out of dire situations and homelessness... Additionally, JTD offers programs on substance abuse, depression, cutting, bullying, teen pregnancy and homelessness the life skills and experience necessary to take concrete steps toward becoming a self-sufficient, self-fulfilled, productive member of society.”

But the problem at hand hits closer to home than one might imagine; in LISD alone, this year there were reported to be 676 homeless students, and as Grider added,

“these are only the reported numbers, we have no idea the unreported stats.”

Grider raises an important point. Many who are homeless either make it a point to hide that fact, or may not even be aware of it themselves, believing their situation to only be brief or the result of temporary circumstances. While the distribution of

these homeless students is surely different across all the district's schools, students who attended Flower Mound have stayed at and received the care of Journey to Dream; this is not a problem that stays outside the bubble.

Grider concluded her interview by speaking about her most impactful experience helping a teen with her program, detailing, “Jennifer, the eldest of three, had a painful, troubled childhood... By 15, Jennifer was sleeping at a small-town bus station or “sofa surfing” with anyone that would take her in. Forced into survival sex and going days without eating, she sadly believed anything was better than the violence she endured at home. Knowing about Journey to Dream's Kyle's Place, Jennifer's counselor reached out. Jennifer felt the warmth the minute she walked through the doors of Kyle's Place. It didn't feel like a shelter. Kids were laughing, and she could smell dinner cooking in the kitchen. The staff took Jennifer shopping so she could buy clothes and shoes she felt good in. She was still uncertain and shaken from the trauma of living on the street, but something felt different. She felt cared for the first time in a long time, maybe ever.”

Journey to Dream is always accepting donations, but the items they require the most are paper products, snacks, and gift cards. The first step to combating the epidemic of teen homelessness is to realize that the true victims may sit just a desk away.

Future Jaguar Olympians

Junna Chang | Staff Writer

As Flower Mound High School prepares students for their promising futures, a few Jag athletes have taken a step forward to a national level in order to ensure their interests for the future. These determined athletes have chosen to participate in an intensive program called the Olympic Development program.

The purpose of the Olympic Development program is to form the National Team's at various age groups for young women and men. There are three different age groups: 17 years old and under are placed in the youth team, 15 years old and under are assigned to the Cadet team, and 13 years old and under are put in the development team. Since the program is held at a national level, it sections the United States into different zones (Texas is part of the southwest zone), and these zones will hold tryouts to select teams who are qualified enough to compete at a National Championship.

For this reason, the qualification process is not simple. First, the athletes are required to come to one of the three camps offered

through their specified zone. A member of the National Team staff will come to the camp to help run and evaluate the athletes. During the evaluation, each age group will have two teams that go on to a Regional Championship. Next, once the teams are selected, all of the Non-California zones will compete in a Regional Championship. From this tournament, they will narrow the group to



one team of 14 to compete for that zone at a National Championship tournament. After the regional championship, the team will compete in a National Championship tournament. All zone teams from across the nation will compete at this tournament, then the National Team staff will select athletes based on their performance for a National Team Selection Camp. At the camp, the selected ath-

letes will compete and practice over the course of a long weekend in front of the National Team coaches. From the National Team Selection Camp (NTSC), athletes will go through a selection process in order to be placed on the National Team for their respective age group. From there, the national competitors will then have a training session in the summer and compete in a tournament overseas, representing the United States of America.

In regard to Flower Mound athletes, junior Addison McGowan is currently a water polo player participating in the program.

"I already played in Utah for regional championships, and now I am going to California over the spring break for national championships," she said. "Each championship comes with two inten-

sive practices."

Her goal is to eventually make the national team. Another junior athlete, Austin Kaja, competes in the program as a water polo athlete as well. His goal is to partake in a bigger role for his high school team while having fun and improving his skills.

"What is the greatest obstacle you've had to overcome?"



Addison McGowan (Junior)

"I had to overcome playing with teammates I have never played with before so adapting to new players was difficult."



Austin Kaja (Junior)

"The program takes a lot of time away from school. I can't take higher level classes because I need to practice water polo. There's a lot of competition because the Texas zone is big; a lot of people to compete against."

Quarterly Politics

in review

written and assembled by

Scott Convery
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Editor-in-Chief
Staff Writer

Coronavirus Outbreak



The Covid-19 virus, more commonly known as the coronavirus has begun to expand on a global scale. The outbreak which was originally attributed to Wuhan, China, has now had independent and nonindependent outbreaks across the globe, from Italy to South Korea. While the dangers of the virus stray little from that of the common flu, the virus has already taken over 3,000 lives globally.

Leading medical professionals promise that the death toll of the virus

is mainly in part to other circumstances. Old age, already poor health, or a general lack of medical resources can explain some patient's heightened susceptibility, but the general fear has swelled nonetheless. In addition to the dangers to global health, the coronavirus has wreaked havoc on the global economy on a large and small scale. After the Centers for Disease Control announced in late February a victim of the virus in Sacramento, California, the stock market reacted violently,

with the Dow Jones index plummeting nearly 1200 points. The stock market isn't the only economic factor reacting to the virus fears, as local supermarkets around the United States begin to fall barren, as frightened Americans stock up on supplies in case of an outbreak that warrants self-quarantine.

While the virus itself poses little threat to most in the United States, the reactive steps taken by people are the globe may amplify the total impact, economic or otherwise, of the virus.

Harvey Weinstein Convicted



As February came to a close, the public received word from a Manhattan courtroom that Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was found guilty of criminal sexual assault in the first degree and rape in the third degree.

Weinstein's case goes back to the New York Times' 2017 investigation into the producer, wherein a number of women came forward with stories of sexual misconduct in the

workplace, kickstarting the #MeToo movement as a campaign for women afraid to speak out against sexual misconduct spoke out against their alleged abusers. The investigation began as an expose, but after the movement picked up traction, criminal charges were pressed, leading up to the conviction found this year.

The jury found Weinstein guilty of criminal sexual assault in the first degree and rape in the third degree,

but they found him not guilty in the two charges of predatory sexual assault. While the official sentence has not been determined yet, the charges he was found guilty of makes it clear that Weinstein will face prison time. He will face a to-be-determined prison sentence between 5 and 29 years.

Democratic Primary Election



The race for the presidency is of course precursed by the election of party nominees, and while the incumbent Donald Trump has assured his candidacy in November, the fight for the democratic nominee seat has been turbulent as ever. With a pool of nearly 30 democratic candidates to begin with, the race has now been narrowed down to two real contenders – Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders – with the number of other candi-

dates still appearing on the ballot dwindling, as Elizabeth Warren and Michael Bloomberg have suspended their campaigns.

This filtering of candidates occurred most substantially on Super Tuesday, the primary election day for 14 states, with over 1300 delegates for the taking. In the few days before Super Tuesday, 3 more moderate candidates dropped out of the race: Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, and

Tom Steyer. All three of the candidates made official endorsements of Joe Biden, which likely influenced Biden's strong performance on Super Tuesday.

Super Tuesday concluded with Biden and Sanders being awarded roughly the same number of delegates, making it truly anybody's game for the democratic nomination.

Threats of War With Iran



On January 8th, 2020, the United States launched a military effort called Operation Martyr Soleimani. The operation consisted of a number of U.S. ballistic missiles being launched at Ayn al-Asad airbase in Iraq, with the aim to assassinate the Commander of Iranian Forces, Qasim Soleimani. The successful strike sent shockwaves across the Middle East, prompting an expedient and enraged response from the Iranian government, as they stated "a forceful re-

venge awaits the criminals who have his blood and the blood of the other martyrs last night on their hands." The Trump administration continued to escalate tensions with Iran, leading to Iran sending a missile strike at a U.S. military base, only to be shot down before landing.

The Trump administration claimed that the purpose for the attack was to settle a score of sorts. Soleimani was believed to be responsible for the deaths of hundreds of US soldiers during the Iraq War, as

Soleimani assisted Iraqi insurgents without training and equipment, especially for the purpose of making bombs. Opponents of the strike in the U.S. claim that it was an unprompted strike with no tactical merit or purpose which holds the grave possibility of revived war in the Middle East.

December 31st

The first cluster of cases of Covid-19 reported in Wuhan, China originally thought to be a problem with the seafood market in the area.

January 3rd

Qassem Soleimani is killed by American airstrike attacks after the U.S. said he was planning "imminent" attacks

January 30th

The World Health Organization (WHO) declares Covid-19 a public health emergency of international concern.

February 13th

The U.S. Senate votes 55-45 to restrict President Trump's power and ability to wage war with Iran

February 24th

After 5 days of deliberation, the jury finds Harvey Weinstein guilty.

March 3rd

Super Tuesday takes place; Biden and Sanders come out on top

Testing Around the World



Junna Chang | Staff Writer

Due to the variety of education systems around the world, standardized testing is implemented differently amongst nations. From smaller countries such as Netherlands and South Korea to larger ones like Russia, global standardized testing is unique to the specific values of each individual country:

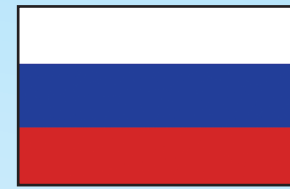


South Korea

In South Korea, the standardized test is called the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT). It is only offered once a year on the second week of November. For this reason, if students are not satisfied with their results, then they need to spend another year of preparation. The test does not only determine which university or college students go to, but also their social standings and it secures a highly paid occupation for their future. Hence, South Korea's testing process is known for its rigor. The CSAT is an 8 hour marathon of back-to-back exams. Subjects, such as math, english, and korean history are compulsory, but the last exam is either the social studies or science,

depending on if the student is on the liberal arts or general science track. According to a BCC Korean representative, education is held to the top priority to the whole nation of South Korea to the extent that on exam day, work starts an hour later, enabling students to get to their testing centres on time and planes are grounded during the listening portion so as not to create any extra noise. Younger classmates flood the streets to support upperclassmen. Parents pray together that the many hours of study their children have put in will pay off. A college student in Korea, Jehyun Lee (26), has already been through the rigorous testing process.

"I sacrificed a lot, including freedom and time. I believed that if I kept pushing to the day of the test I would live and get accepted to a good college. It's very stressful because you can only take it once a year, and if you fail, you have to wait another year. When I got stressed, I ate good food and went to gaming rooms with my friends." Although Jehyun never negatively fell under the stress, many South Korean students commit suicide due to the immense pressure to do well on the test, as a result South Korea holds one of the highest suicide rates in the world.



Russia

In the world's largest country, Russia's standardized testing is also immensely rigorous. The test is called the Unified State Exam (Единый Государственный Экзамен): it is an exam every student must pass after school graduation in order to enter a university. The USE is conducted in 14 subjects: Russian, mathematics (which has two levels), physics, chemistry biology, history, geography, social science, computer science, and foreign language literature. Each subject test consists of two parts: the first compo-

nent is short answers and the second one requires students to apply deeper, abstract knowledge. Every subject test takes an average of 3-5 hours. Similar to the Netherlands, Russia's test is not proctored only one day but for almost a month. Although the test itself is very intensive, the USE is free unlike ACT or SAT in America. Since the Unified State Exam is very complex, each Russian student must repeat the entire school curriculum from first to eleventh grade in order to prepare for the exam.

Youbin Kim is a Russian student who

is currently in his last year preparing for the Unified State Exam.

"Since I have not yet passed the exam, I can't tell you for sure what I have sacrificed. But you must sacrifice time for sure. I spend about 28 hours a week preparing for the exam. And sometimes it is really stressful. Personally, I cope with my stress thinking that all I do is to glorify God's name."

Although the USE is stressful, Youbin has a very positive mindset and deals with the stress appropriately. He has never severely fallen under the weight of Russia's standardized test.



Netherlands

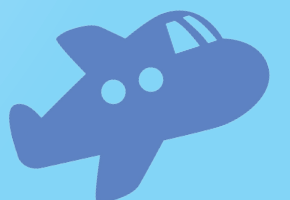
Although European states are bordered together, their international testing have distinct differences. In the case of the Netherlands, it has a complicated education system on top of an intensive standardized test. In order to fully understand the process of the test, it is important to explain the education system. Netherlandic students take their first standardized test at the end of their primary school called the CITO exam. It categorizes the students into three levels according to their academic abilities. Since middle school and high school are combined, students attend their respective school that caters to their level. Although the depth of learning is different according to their level placements, the subjects are the same and each student is required to take the standardized

test. The Netherlandic education splits its exams into two categories: one group is the typical school exams that are implemented throughout their school year and the other is the actual standardized test called the Central Exam which is taken at the end of the students' last highschool year. The Central Exam depends on how many subjects a student takes because each subject is a three-hour test, and students can choose up to 15 subjects. Hence, the amount of testing is directly related to how many subjects a student selects. In America the standardized tests are contained to one day; however, the Netherlands tests carry out for two weeks. Furthermore, there are four school exams taken each school year, but the last four exams are the only ones that truly matter because the schools

average the last four school exams and the central exams which ends up being the grade for the subjects. The scoring is on a scale from 1 to 10, making 5 1/2 the passing grade.

Moohyun Chang, a level 3 (the most academically advanced level) student who is currently preparing for the Central Exam.

"I have to study 4 to 5 hours per subject. When it is testing week, I have to study hardcore to get a good score, but I try not to make the tests a big deal and just focus on learning new things." Students like Moohyun are able to handle the stress of the complicated tests through leisure time when it is not testing week, but they try their best when it is.



SWIPE

How Teens Use Dating Apps

Scott Convery | Editor-in-Chief

People all around the globe are quite quickly becoming disillusioned with the notion that one will run into their true love walking down the street or in line for a cup of coffee. It appears that in an era of Instagram livestreams, Facebook security breaches and presidential Twitter notifications, the conventional means of meeting a “special someone” simply do not suffice. How could they? This is a moment in time in which one can sit down at a laptop for fifteen minutes and construct a comprehensive online profile to connect with old friends and meet new ones, yet the future of one’s romantic life should be left up to the first impression a random stranger at a bar makes? A far cry from the newspaper personal ads of the seventies and eighties, dating apps have marked a rapid and

profound transformation of the way in which young people meet each other, and how relationships are formed. But with these new options for creating relationships widely accessible, how much are high school students dipping their toes into this realm, and what does it mean for them?

So where does one start online dating? For older generations, the first thing to come to mind where hearing the term “online dating” may be web services like eHarmony or match.com, but in reality, the newest, and most popular wave of these services come in the form of far more simplistic, swipe-based apps. Tinder, Bumble, and Grindr, to name a few, these apps are built on the straightforward idea swiping right on profiles one is interested in,

and left when that just isn’t the case. Furthermore, a consistent rule across the board for these apps is their 18+ age restriction. For obvious reasons, apps like these cannot legally operate if they knowingly allow underage consumers to utilize their services to find romantic involvements, but for teens, this restriction proves to be an ineffective barrier.

It is no secret that a significant proportion of high school students participate on these apps, creating profiles incorrectly labelling their ages as eighteen or higher, so we reached out to a number of these students to ask them questions on the process, their results, and the possible drawbacks. For the consideration of their privacy, real names are changed.

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

STACY

- Female
- 17 Years Old
- Senior

JUAN

- Male
- 17 Years Old
- Senior

ALLEN

- Male
- 17 Years Old
- Senior

When and why did you download dating apps?

“I first got Bumble over this past summer. I wanted to meet new people from other schools or cities but I couldn’t think of a better way to initially introduce myself to new people.”

“About two weeks ago, back at the start of February, because I thought it would be hilarious. It was.”

“I first downloaded Tinder and Bumble after leaving a reasonably long-term relationship in the fall. After investing a lot of time and effort into trying to make something work, I wanted to have an easy and non-binding way to get back out there.”

What was your experience with the apps?

“My feelings are mixed with my experience using dating apps. I found myself not wanting to commit to actually meeting anyone in person, likely due to the fact that I’ve been constantly warned about the dangers of strangers on the internet. I did, however, get to know some really interesting people who I have a lot in common with.”

“Mostly judging people by their looks and their music taste. Also laughing at a lot of people, which might make me a bad person, but I think it’s the point of the game.”

“It becomes clear when using an app that you hold different standards than you would in an organic setting. I found myself far pickier about the people I would swipe right on that I thought I would, probably because of the almost unlimited number of options provided.”

Did you tell people you matched with about your real age?

“I usually did, especially if I felt connected to the person and they seemed genuinely interested. Sometimes I would forget to mention it, but usually those people lost interest anyways.”

“Absolutely not, because in my mind, Tinder is like Pokemon Go. The purpose is to catch as many as possible and laugh at everybody else who has none.”

“I would tell them, but usually after letting conversation flow naturally for a bit, because I felt that chances are, if you start off by telling a match your real age, they would probably just unmatched you.”

Do you think it is dangerous for underage teens to use dating apps?

“I think if an underage person doesn’t educate themselves on what the dangers of online dating are and how to avoid them, then they could find themselves in a dangerous position.”

“Probably.”

“It can be if you act stupid, which is the case with anything. The extreme majority of people on these apps aren’t trying to prey on people. Exercise caution, but don’t let fear keep you from meeting new people.”



Tinder

- Most downloaded dating app
- Popularized swipe-based dating apps



Bumble

- Similar to Tinder
- Women must send the first message



Grindr

- Specifically for LBGTQ+ individuals
- Swipe-based