



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PLANO ISD MUSIC PROGRAMS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

PLANO, TEXAS, SEPT. 18, 2020 — Four Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ensembles were among the Foundation for Music Education 2020 Mark of Excellence award winners.

The Mark of Excellence awards is a competition where middle and high school music ensembles from throughout the country compete by submitting recordings of performances which are adjudicated by renowned musicians. The top 25% of entrants are named national winners and the next 25% are honored as commended winners.

Rice Middle School's Tenor-Bass Choir and Acapella Treble Choir, both directed by Chelsea Farmer, were named national winner awards. Winning commended awards were Otto Middle School's Wind Ensemble, directed by John Vanhook, and Plano East Senior High School's Chamber Orchestra, directed by Ann Smith.

Plano ISD's award-winning music program begins at the elementary school and continues through senior high school where students can join band, choir and orchestra as well as take advanced music studies courses and participate in numerous competitions. In the 2019-2020 school year, 69 Plano ISD students were named All-State Musicians. To view videos of musical performances or learn more, visit the school district's [Fine Arts Page](#).

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About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,900 staff members who serve more than 53,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.