



Contact: Dr. Jill Siler, Gunter ISD Superintendent
jsiler@gunterisd.org / 903.433.4750

FOR RELEASE AT 2 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Gunter Elementary Named 2017 National Blue Ribbon School

(Gunter, Texas – September 28, 2017) U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today recognized Gunter Elementary School as 1 of 342 schools named [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) for 2017. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“National Blue Ribbon Schools are active demonstrations of preparing every child for a bright future,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to the honorees. “You are visionaries, innovators and leaders. You have much to teach us: some of you personalize student learning, others engage parents and communities in the work and life of your local schools and still others develop strong and forward-thinking leaders from among your teaching staff.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. This coveted award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Gunter Elementary earned this prestigious honor as an **Exemplary High Performing School**, among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

GES Principal, Dara Arrington, shared that “The philosophy of GES is ‘all in.’ The staff does whatever it takes to make each child successful academically, emotionally, physically and socially. Whether that means coming in early to help with morning tutoring, staying late to help with Homework Club and the After-School Care program or bringing food to fill weekend backpacks for families in need – they help in every way they can.”

GISD Superintendent, Dr. Jill Siler, added that “the National Blue Ribbon program is the most prestigious academic honor a school can earn. While we are earning this award in 2017, this is a result of years and years of hard work by our teachers and students and continued high expectations from our entire school community.”

Now in its 35th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 8,500 schools. On Nov. 6-7, staff from Gunter Elementary School will travel to Washington D.C. where the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with these honorees at an awards ceremony.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>. For more information, visit www.gunterisd.org.



GUNTER I.S.D.
Congratulations
Gunter Elementary
2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

GT GROWING CHAMPIONS AT GUNTERISD.ORG

For over 100 years, the Gunter Independent School District has provided an exceptional educational experience to students in southern Grayson County. Located 25 miles north of Frisco and 20 miles southwest of Sherman, Gunter ISD is a 3A school district with 800 students that excels at various athletic programs (cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, swimming, tennis, golf, powerlifting and track) as well as extracurricular programs (band, choir, academic UIL, robotics, FFA, Beta Club, NEHS, one act play and more). In 2012, Gunter High School was ranked in the top 10 in the UIL Lone Star Cup, rating the best high schools in athletics, academics & fine arts. For more information visit www.gunterisd.org

P.O. Box 109, Gunter, TX, 75058

Phone: 903.433.4750 Fax: 903.433.1053 www.gunterisd.org