

Lanier Accomplishments for School Year 2008/2009



Awards/ Achievements

- **Only International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program within HISD.** The IB program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The program integrates the school's curriculum of eight subject groups to focus on the individual student.
- **National Center for Educational Achievement named Lanier as a top performing school** in Texas. Lanier is one of the 19 HISD schools ranked as a "higher performing school in all subjects" and was the only middle school in HISD to make this distinguished list in all subject areas.
- **TBEC Honor Roll in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009;** only 4 Middle Schools in HISD received the honor in 2009.
- Ranked Recognized by TEA.
- **One of Texas Monthly's Best Public Middle Schools** in Texas.



Academics

2009 TAKS Results

6th grade

Reading 96% passed	(68% commended)
Math 89% passed	(64% commended)

7th grade

Reading 96% passed	(59% commended)
Math 96% passed	(48% commended)
Writing 98% passed	(68% commended)

8th grade

Reading 98% passed	(68% commended)
Math 96% passed	(79% commended)
Science 93% passed	(60% commended)
Social Studies 97% passed	(71% commended)

- In 2009 Lanier alumni were Valedictorians at DeBakey HS for Health Professions, Eastwood Academy, Waltrip, and HSPVA.
- In the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP), 40% of Lanier students taking the SAT test (55 of 138) were "Recognized" on the state level, and 4 received National Recognition

Zoned Students (non-Vanguard)

- Lanier won a clean sweep at the Rainbow Challenge Mathematics Competition, held at Reagan HS and attended by 35 schools, winning first place in both individual and group categories for all three grade levels.

- 8th grade Literacy classes hosted a poetry reading and talk with author Dr. James Ulmer, writer-in-residence at Houston Baptist University.
- An 8th grade non-Vanguard student's poetry selected and read by Tony Award-winning poet Suheir Hammad at a Seattle poetry event.

Spanish

- Spanish 1; 20 students took National Spanish Exam and all received either Gold, Silver, or Bronze medals.
- AP Spanish; all students who took their AP exam passed and received 4 High School credits, plus *university credit*. Middle Schoolers already receiving university credits!



Teacher Awards

- **Dennis Huffman** (8th grade science) is **HISD's Secondary School Teacher of the Year**. Mr. Huffman also won the Best Buy Teach award.
- **Mike Giroir** (Leadership training, soccer coach) **2009 Finalist for the Walter Case Award for Teacher Excellence**
- **Two** of the top 5 Aspire Teachers (K – 12th) in HISD District 4 for 2008-2009 are from Lanier - **Mike Bordelon** (6th grade Math) and **Deanna Roquemore Lee** (6th grade Science).
- **Dr. Irene Fong** and **Kristi Devera**, both 8th grade science, were selected "ASPIRE Highly Effective Teacher" for being in the top 10% of HISD teachers whose students made the highest levels of academic growth for 2 years.



Leadership/ GSG Program

The Guidance Support Group (GSG) program at Lanier consists of 8th graders selected by their peers and teachers as classroom leaders. These leaders present lessons on character education, tolerance, peer pressure, as well as time management and study skills. Leadership students also give back by participating in the Race for the Cure (75 students and parents), raising and donating money for March of Dimes and the AIDS Foundation, as well as 20+ students participated in the AIDS walk. In a joint effort, GSG and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) also sponsored a canned food drive, which gave over *a thousand pounds of food* to the Houston Food Bank. GSG leaders also individually contribute community

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service (over 4000 hours in 2009) as well as were recognized for their work listed below.

2009 No Place for Hate Designation by the Anti-Defamation League

2008 No Place for Hate Designation by the ADL

2007 No Place for Hate Designation by the ADL

2006 No Place for Hate Designation by the ADL



Fine Arts

Debate

SEVEN TIMES NATIONAL CHAMPIONS (last 7 years).

- 1st Place Sweepstakes - Klein High School
- 1st Place I.E.'s - Bellaire High School
- 2nd Place Overall - Bellaire High School
- 1st Place Sweepstakes - Westside High School
- 1st Place Sweepstakes - Oak Ridge High School
- 2nd Place Overall - Woodlands High School
- 1st Place Debate - Woodlands High School
- 1st Place Sweepstakes - University of Houston Debate School of Excellence, I.E.'s School of Excellence, and Overall School of Excellence;
- Top sweepstakes points earners at Nationals in San Antonio, TX

Dance

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!!!!

Top 10 International Champions!!!!

Lanier has 4 teams - Drill Team, Dance Team, Dance Company, and girls' Hip Hop Crew, all four groups won top honors in an all HISD contest

Band

- 1st division rating at the Waltrip Band Festival 2 years in a row
- "Superior" and Excellent" ratings at UIL contest 2 years in a row
- 2nd place polka in Houston band among High Schools
- "Superior" Ratings at the Schlitterbahn contest 2 years in a row
- The Band program is now larger than it has been in the past 20 years, it has doubled in size over 2 years!

Choir

- UIL Sweepstakes at Contest and Sight-Reading
- Best in Class at Splashtown Choral Festival
- One of 3 choirs invited to sing on the Houston Chamber Choir Invitational Choral Festival Concert
- 6th Grade Honor Choir for UH Kodaly Institute workshop
- Consistent representation in the Region 23 Honor Choir for the past 6 years
- Lanier Ladies will sing on Sister Cities 9/11 Memorial Concert (September 10)

Students every year that are accepted to HSPVA

Drama

Over past 4 years participated in HISD Jr. High UIL One Act Play contest. Results are:

2009

- Third Place Overall Play
- Advancing District Play
- Awarded Best Actor- District Finals
- Awarded Best Crew - District Finals
- Received multiple "All Star Cast Awards" Acting Awards
- Received multiple "Honorable Mention Acting Awards
- Awarded "Best Lights and Sound"

Past Years Achievements

- First place Overall Play (2007, 2006)
- Second place Overall Play (2008)
- Awarded Best Actor- District Finals (2008, 2007, 2006)
- Awarded Best Actress- District Finals (2007, 2006)
- Received multiple "All Star Cast Awards" Acting Awards (2008, 2007, 2006)
- Received multiple "Honorable Mention Acting Awards (2008, 2007, 2006)
- Awarded "Best Lights and Sound" (2008, 2007, 2006)

The Drama Department also presents seven plays a year, in the Spring 2009 the lead play was *Of Winners, Losers and Games*. The department aids the development of students in theatre, with the result of many students being accepted to HSPVA, Lamar and Bellaire theatre programs.

Orchestra

- **The Sinfonia orchestra was selected to the National Orchestra Honors Project**
- For the 15th year in a row, both orchestras, Philharmonia and Sinfonia, earned Sweepstakes at UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.
- Only HISD school in which both Varsity and Non-Varsity Orchestras received Sweepstakes at UIL Contest.
- More students (27) in Region Orchestra than any other HISD school.
- More first chair players in Region Orchestra than any other HISD school.
- 32 First Divisions at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Lanier Honors String Quintet placed first in the Region at German Contest and 4th in the State, all against High Schools!

Art and Media Art

- Juried Art Show Finalists; "Contents Under Pressure" at Houston Contemporary Art Museum.
- Video Selections on Contemporary Art Museum Film Festival.
- Community Photography exhibit at House of Tea.
- mediaKIDS; Visual and Media Arts on HISD Channel

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Community Service

As part of the IB concept of community service, each cluster has a service project, which in 2008/09 were:

- 6A *Pet Patrol* - Collected and donated food to Pet Patrol. Pet Patrol is an organization assisting limited income elderly and those affected by chronic or life-threatening illnesses in the Houston area by helping clients care for the pets who they share their lives.
- 6B "*Green Lanier*" – Students recycled aluminum, plastic, and paper. Students also sorted, and weighted the recyclables before taking to center.
- 6C Conducted a *Community Yard Sale* which donated the proceeds to *Changing the Present* (www.changingthepresent.org) - a global non profit organization dedicated to the eradication of poverty worldwide. It's an organization designed to build a better world presently by challenging and changing the concept of gift giving.
- 7A *Feed the Homeless* - made Peanut Butter sandwiches and sack lunches for the homeless.
- 7B *Cell phones for soldiers*; collected Cell Phones for Soldiers, with the proceeds used to purchase calling cards for our troops overseas.
- 7C *Blood Drive* – All 160 students in the cluster participated in a successful Blood Drive, collecting over 60 donations in a two day period. Students were organized into 4 committees based on differing responsibilities such as fundraising, logistics, publicity and marketing, and evaluation. The publicity and marketing committee arranged coverage on 8 different radio stations, two magazines, television and all around the neighboring areas.
- 8A *Get Hip to Habitat* program with the Galveston Bay Foundation; An "ambassador" will speak to the kids in September, then two groups of 25 will visit a wetland nursery to harvest the grasses. Students will then set up pools between the Temp buildings and fence on campus. In May, all of the kids will go to plant the grasses in Galveston Bay. (This is the project for 2009/2010). For more information, see http://galvbay.org/education_gethip.html.
- 8B *Bayou Clean up* - Removed debris and non-native invasive species plants then replanted native species plants in Buffalo Bayou's Green Tree Trail site.
- 8C *Adopt a Platoon Care Package* – sent packages to soldiers in Afghanistan.

Note that many clubs and the GSG program also do significant community service efforts, seen below.



Athletics

Baseball

2007- 1st in division, 2nd in play offs

2008- 1st in division, 1st in play offs -

HISD Champions!

2009- 1st in division, 2nd place in play offs

Basketball

Girls - 8th grade Zone champions

Cross Country

Girls – 7A team Zone champions

7B team **Zone champions**

8A team **Zone champions**

8B team **Zone champions**

Boys – 7A team Zone champions

7B team **Zone champions**

8A team **Second Place Zone**

8B team **Zone champions**

Soccer

Girls -

2005 Undeclared season 6-0

2006 Undeclared Season 6-0, no goals allowed

2007 Undeclared Season 7-0, one goal allowed

2008 Undeclared Season 7-0, no goals allowed

2009 Undeclared Season 6-0, no goals allowed

Over the past 4 seasons the Girls soccer program has scored 127 goals and allowed only 1.

Boys - 2nd place in zone

Swim Team

Girls - 7th grade 3rd place in District meet

8th grade 2nd place in District

Boys - 7th grade District champions

8th grade 3rd place in District

Track

Girls – 7th grade team Zone champions

8th grade team **Zone champions**

Boys – 7th grade team Zone champions

8th grade team **Zone champions**

Volleyball

8th grade 2nd place in Zone

Club Sports

Girl's Lacrosse

Boy's Lacrosse

Softball

Tennis



Grants

- Lanier is a BP (British Petroleum) "A+ for Energy" grant recipient for the last two years. The awards are \$10,000 each for two teachers, Kristi Devera and Van Garrett.

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Clubs

Drama Club

- The Drama Club monthly attends at the Alley Theatre or Hobby Center of the Performing Arts local plays, view classics and watch Broadway theatre.

French Club

- This is a social club, emphasizing French culture, history and, of course, food. Through the year there will be dinners and movie meetings in the evening, as well as potential field trips to museums.

Geography Club

- Competed at two World Affairs Council Worldquests with Model United Nations where most competition was High Schools
- One 8th grade student was selected to be one of 100 Texas students to go to state National Geographic Bee

German Club

- At the Texas State German Contest in Austin students won 1st place in 6 categories and with 14 placing in other individual categories. LMS has had 5 teams place in team competitions. **Overall LMS was 2nd best German program in the State of Texas!!!** Lanier competed in the same category as HIGH SCHOOLS!

Model United Nations Club

- Students earned best delegate awards in 9 of 10 committees at the Global Elementary Model United Nations Conference in Dallas. One student won the overall Peace Prize Award for the entire conference of 600 students.

Yes You Can/Si Se Puede (YYC/SSP)

- This organization's purpose is to make students aware of their potential and increase their community involvement. We also nurture a sense of belonging and personal involvement in the school community. Last year we learned about setting goals, while working on social skills with various dances. This year the focus is on promoting cultural awareness in our school and community. Our objective is an entry for the annual **Art Car Parade**, reflecting the various cultures represented at Lanier. There will also be lessons on goal setting, positive relationships, peer discussions groups on teen issues and several other leadership oriented lessons as well as guest speakers from the community.

Spanish Club

- A social club emphasizing an awareness of Spanish in our community.

Ladies of Lanier

- A social and community service organization where the students participate monthly in activities to get to know

each other, celebrate holidays and to choose several community service projects to participate in.

mediaKIDS

- An arts club that focuses on creative arts and critical thinking about all kinds of media matters.

National Junior Honor Society

- Co-hosted Hurricane Ike benefit 70's dance with Student Council;
- Held food drive and donated over 200 pounds of food to the Houston Food Bank;
- Several times cleaned up Tony Marron Park on Buffalo Bayou through the Adopt-A-Spot program



Extracurricular Events/Trips

- Washington D.C. Tour during Spring Break for 22 years - targeted for 6th graders
- Reunion trip (for above D.C. trip) to San Antonio for 7th and 8th graders at first of summer
- NYC Theatre tour in summer for drama 7th & 8th graders
- Best of Italy Tour (summer 2009)
- Pup Camp for incoming 6th graders, 2 day
- Math/Language Arts Camp for 6th graders, 5 day,
- Summer Algebra Camp for rising 8 graders entering Algebra 1

HISTORIA , a social studies summer camp which allows incoming sixth graders to meet new people, make new friends and learn about all things history related by building their own civilizations and competing against classmates in true to life historical scenarios.

- Eight 8th graders were selected for the GeoForce Summer Academy, a program sponsored by UT's Jackson School of Geosciences and HISD. Students travel to geological significance locations around the US, exploring hands-on activities and field activities not obtained in normal academic settings. Past locations visited include the Grand Canyon, Mt. St. Helens, Mount Hood, and the coast of Florida. Next summer they will visit Utah and Colorado. See more <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq7thX97iGw>

Book Fair/Literacy Night

Fall evening event promoting Literature and Book Fair

Math Night

Spring evening event with Math Dept. & PTO where parents and students play games to win prizes.

Lanier A La Carte

An evening 'Feast of the Arts' where students showcase work in Dance, Debate, Drama, Orchestra, Choir, Photography, and Theatre.