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Dr. Kristin Craft

MEET BOERNE ISD'S
NEW SUPERINTENDENT

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OF KENDALL
COUNTY:
THE WREN FAMILY

PRIORITIZING
RETIREMENT
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LOCAL NEWS &
EVENTS



February

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Dr. Kristin Craft



MEET BOERNE ISD'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT

by Lauren Stumberg | photo by The Marvelous Mrs. Lindsey

2024 marked a new beginning for Boerne Independent School District. On January 2nd, Dr. Kristin Craft officially began her tenure as the new Superintendent for the district and has been engaging with the students, teachers, school staff and local community officials in an effort to truly understand and become part of not only the schools, but the Boerne community.

The Boerne Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name Dr. Craft as Superintendent of Boerne ISD on December 7th, 2023. Dr. Craft, who is the first female Superintendent in the history of Boerne ISD, has been an educator for over 28 years, and has served as Associate Superintendent of Academics and Chief Academic Officer in Spring Branch ISD in the Houston Area since 2018. She has spent 20 years serving in District Leadership Roles, including 12 years as a principal. She has served as a principal at every level, rising from elementary to intermediate and then to high school, between 2003 to 2015.

Dr. Craft earned a Doctorate of Education and Master of Education in Educational Administration from Sam Houston State University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Spanish and minoring in TESOL.

"I knew very early on in my career that I wanted to be a superintendent. I took strategic and intentional steps in my career to prepare me for the superintendency. When the opportunity in Boerne became available, it was just too good to pass by," said Dr. Craft. "Not only is it a phenomenal opportunity in a premier school district, but personally my husband, Chris, and I want to be here in this community as well. His family has all moved in this direction and is scattered around the hill country. Being here in Boerne puts us close to them. We are excited to be here!"

"Although I have been a proud Texas resident since 1995, I am originally from Webster City, Iowa. I am a small-town girl at heart and understand the importance of continuing the tight-knit community feel even as Boerne



continues to grow. This community possesses a unique trio of rural roots, small-town charm and strong community support, while also being one of the fastest-growing districts in the picturesque Texas hill country. These unique characteristics enticed me to become part of the remarkable Boerne ISD team, and I am confident it is for those very same reasons that many of our families have chosen to stay or move here. That being said, it is vital that we continue this legacy of excellence as we grow," said Dr. Craft. Currently, the district employs over 1,300 full and part-time employees and has almost 11,000 students on 12 campuses, with a 13th, Viola Wilson Elementary School, to be open this coming August.

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pictured (clockwise from bottom left): Dr. Craft serving lunch at Voss Middle School; Dr. Craft reading to dual language students at Fabra Elementary; Dr. Craft with Culinary students at Boerne High School



pictured (top to bottom): Dr. Craft hosting her first Listen + Learn session with BSD Principals; Dr. Craft with Bus Driver Lee Man before riding a route with Van Raub students; Dr. Craft in an art class at BMSN
pictured (facing page): Dr. Craft with a student at Cibolo Creek Elementary

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“We are absolutely thrilled to name Dr. Kristin Craft as the next Superintendent and to welcome her to the Boerne ISD family. Dr. Craft stood out from the other applicants, as she has been instrumental in the academic success made by Spring Branch ISD students, she helped close learning gaps after the pandemic, she strengthened SBISD’s career and technical education program, helped pass an important bond, and much more. The Board focused on finding the right leader who will continue to build on the successes of Boerne ISD, and Dr. Craft is that person. The selection of Dr. Craft would not have been possible without the results from the online community survey and input from in-person meetings by our search firm with community members. Dr. Craft realizes the uniqueness of our community as well as the importance of maintaining the small-town feel that we all love so much. She is the right person to lead BISD into the future,” stated Carlin Friar, President of the BISD Board of Trustees.

Dr. Craft spent her first weeks at Boerne ISD by diving right in among the students, teachers and staff. “I had some time between being officially hired and my first day on the job. I spent this time being thoughtful about my entry plan. I wanted to be able to learn quickly and be in the work,” she said. “In my short time here at Boerne ISD I have toured all of the campuses, met the staff, the SROs, members of the maintenance department, the teachers, principals and City officials. I have read to the students, taken an early morning bus route, served lunch in the cafeteria and so much more.”

Why was this important to Dr. Craft? Because in immersing herself in all that is Boerne ISD she was able to see what makes our district so very special, and what it will take to continue its excellence. According to Dr. Craft, “My top three takeaways from my time here in Boerne ISD so far have been that relationships matter, rigorous first time instruction, and community commitment. Without a doubt, BISD is a shining example

of excellence in education within the state of Texas, and the nation. Our students demonstrate excellence both in academics and in a variety of extracurricular pursuits, resulting in numerous regional and state titles. Our staff members exemplify dedication and hard work, embodying our core values in all aspects of their work. Our community provides unwavering support and collaboration to aid us in offering programs that provide hands-on experience to equip our students with the tools they need to succeed at the next level."

Boerne ISD is consistently regarded as a top-tier K-12 organization. The district's high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools have been ranked highly in Texas. Additionally, all 12 BISSD campuses have received high marks from the US News and World Report and the district's achievements range from being named to the U.S. College Board's AP District Honor Roll to receiving the NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education designation. The standard of excellence maintained across the district and its commitment to the core values of Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Perseverance, Service, and Compassion has resulted in numerous awards, such as the HEB Excellence in Education Best Small School District in Texas and the San Antonio Express-News Top Workplace Award. "There is no doubt that fabulous things are happening at BISSD. Schools are constantly in stages of continuing improvement. My goal is to keep the good growing and make our district even stronger in the years to come," added Dr. Craft.

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to join the Boerne ISD family and serve as your Superintendent of Schools. I am thrilled to make Boerne my new hometown and look forward to shaping the future for every student, teacher, leader, and family in BISSD. What I have learned in my time here is that what makes this school district so great is YOU!"



Be sure to listen to the Boerne Insider Podcast for weekly district news from Boerne ISD.

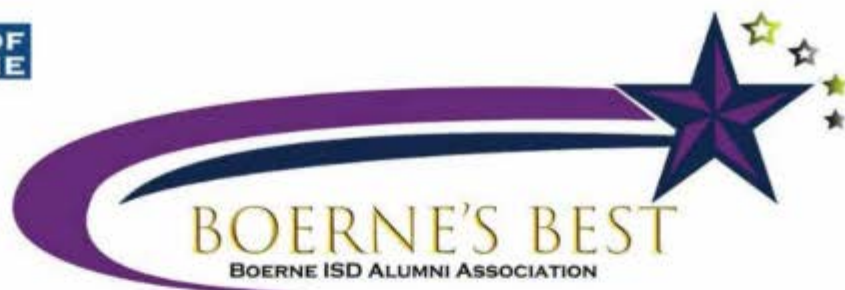
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CLASS OF 2024

The Boerne Independent School District has announced the Boerne's Best Distinguished Alumni Class of 2024. This year's honorees are Dr. C. Clifford Wendler (BHS, 1935), Erin Meyer-Chameux (BHS, 1990), Jeff Fincke (BHS, 1972), and Mike Fincke (BHS, 1974), with the Benefactor Award being presented to Dr. Thomas Price.

This is the fifth class of Boerne's Best inductees, with the first being enshrined in the class of 2020. Boerne's Best inductees are individuals who have graduated from Boerne ISD at least 10 years ago or later, have achievements that set them above and beyond the standard in their profession, and have achievements that set them above and beyond the standard in community service.

"This year's Boerne's Best class is absolutely extraordinary," said Boerne ISD Athletic Director and Boerne's Best Chair, Stan Leech. "This year's inductees represent the best that BISD has to offer. The contributions from this immensely talented group are second to none. We are very excited to welcome these legendary alumni to Boerne's Best."

DR. C. CLIFFORD WENDLER

Dr. C. Clifford Wendler's family roots are traced back to the early 1850's, when the pioneer Wendler and Luckenbach families settled in the area. Dr. Wendler served in the Army for five and a half years during World War II, and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the war, he returned to IBM in Dallas and later joined the management staff of Texas Instruments. He took a leave of absence to obtain a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. After receiving his doctorate, he became a professor in the School of Business at SMU in Dallas.

Dr. Wendler retired and spent much of his time painting and was an accomplished artist. He was a lifetime member of St. Helena's Episcopal Church, and enjoyed his church activities. He was founder, Chairman of the Board, and President of the Boerne Cemetery Foundation. In this capacity, he devoted many years to the restoration and improvement of the Boerne Cemetery, as well as obtaining a stable financial base for perpetual care of the cemetery.

Dr. Wendler is a 1935 graduate of Boerne High School. He passed away on April 22, 2015 at the age of 97.



ERIN MEYER-CHARNEUX

Erin Meyer-Chameux is an artist, speaker, and author. She was born and raised in Boerne and is a naturalized Belgian who has lived in Brussels for over 25 years. Meyer-Chameux is the author of D-DAY LESSONS FOR TODAY: How to Create Your Future History, and she is currently developing the book,

Coming to BE: A journey of self-discovery in a surreal little land. The D-DAY piece is a visual reflection on creative problem solving, innovation, and personal development inspired from history.

Meyer-Chameux created an interactive exhibit of D-Day Lessons for Today for over 3,000 students and teachers in Normandy, France during the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

As a public speaker, has delivered speeches to TEDxViloorde, The Council of Europe Youth Department, The International School of Brussels, and The US National WWII Museum. Throughout her career she has made live television appearances on BBC World, The Today Show with Katie Couric, as well as "Forts en Tete", a Belgian cultural game show.

A 1990 graduate of Boerne High School, Meyer-Chameux was a cheerleader all four years, including Head Varsity Cheerleader her senior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Senior Class President.



JEFF FINCKE

Jeff Fincke is a descendant of one of the early families of Kendall County. He has served Kendall County for over 55 years both as a volunteer and an employee. Fincke has served Kendall County as a member of the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years, including 28 years as Chief, as well as Kendall County EMS Administrator for 42 years, including roles as Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshal. Fincke was instrumental in beginning the annual EMS Christmas breakfast, a tradition that lasted for 24 years.

Fincke spent 33 years with the Castle Hills Fire Department, with most of that experience as Captain.

He served as a Strike Team Leader with STRAC (South



Texas Regional Advisory Council on Trama), where he responded to dangerous storms and fire events, including Hurricane Dolly and Hurricane Ike. During Hurricane Katrina, Fincke received evacuees from Louisiana at the shelter in Boerne.

Fincke, a 1972 graduate of Boerne High School, was a four-year letterman for the Greyhounds Football Team, including serving as a captain during his senior year. He was in the last senior class to attend the old Boerne High School, which today is Boerne Middle School North, and was in the first class to graduate from the new Boerne High School.

MIKE FINCKE

Mike Fincke, like his brother Jeff, is a descendant of one of the early families of Kendall County. Fincke has lived a life of service, including 35-years with the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department as a Captain, Assistant Chief, Chief, and President, as well as 38-years as a professional Firefighter with the City of Castle Hills as Lieutenant and then Assistant Chief.

Upon his retirement from Castle Hills, Fincke served as Kendall County Commissioner Precinct 1.

Fincke was instrumental in beginning the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry, as well as serving on the Berges Fest Board of Directors, including several years as President. He also was an early member of the Centurions Club and played a large role in beginning the Boerne 4th of July fireworks show, and was an EMT in Kendall County.

He has been a strong supporter of the Boerne ISD athletic program,



even serving as a volunteer statistician and spotter for the Greyhounds football team.

Fincke, a 1974 graduate of Boerne High School, was a four-year letterman with the Greyhounds Football Team.

DR. THOMAS PRICE

Former Boerne ISD Superintendent Dr. Thomas Price is this year's Benefactor Award recipient. Dr. Price currently serves as Superintendent Emeritus and will retire at the end of the school year after seven years of service to the BISD community and 37 years in public education, including 17 years as a Superintendent of Schools.



During Dr. Price's tenure as Boerne ISD Superintendent, the district has grown by nearly 3,000 students to almost 11,000. He oversaw the opening of three new campuses, as well as the passage of the 2022 Bond that will result in Viola Wilson Elementary School opening in 2024, along with additions at both high schools, renovations at other campuses, and other facility updates needed for a fast growth district.

Under Dr. Price's leadership, Boerne ISD was Academically Rated an "A" three times by the Texas Education Agency, received an "A" by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas in six consecutive years, earned the Texas State Comptroller's Transparency Star, was named the Best Small School District in Texas by the H-E-B Excellence in Education Foundation, as well as named a Top Workplace by the San Antonio Express-News. In addition, Dr. Price was named Regional Superintendent of the Year during his tenure in BISD. [BISD](#)

THE CLASS OF 2024 WILL BE INDUCTED AT A LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26 AT THE CLUB OF CORDILLERA RANCH AT 11:30 A.M.

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