



# **GISD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

***GISD – Achieving Excellence Together!***

## ***Gladewater ISD Awarded Competitive Perkins Grant***

I am excited to share with you that Gladewater ISD has received a \$75,000 federal grant for the purchase of a new ventilation system for the Gladewater High School welding facility along with several new welding booths. The grant is part of the Carl Perkins grant for Career and Technical Education.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the TEA pooled a large portion of the federal Perkins Grant into a competitive grant called the Perkins Reserve Grant. The idea was to have districts write grant proposals for specific areas where more CTE funding was needed. GISD and GHS leaders determined that offering dual credit welding courses at GHS was a high priority given the current job market projections in East Texas. In order to offer dual credit welding courses, the existing facility at GHS must be upgraded to include modern welding stations with adequate ventilation. Therefore, the decision was made to write a grant proposal for the purchase of these upgrades.

Gladewater ISD CTE Director Tracy Wells devoted countless hours to writing the grant proposal with assistance from GHS Agriculture/Manufacturing teachers Vince Todd and Ryan Bolt. After months of anticipation, GISD was notified that we were selected to receive the maximum amount - \$75,000! The TEA included a provision that a school district must match at least 20% of their grant award using district funds. The GISD board of trustees has approved matching funds that bring the total amount of the grant to \$90,000.

GISD will begin accepting bids for the project this week and the upgrades will be completed in time for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. In the meantime, GISD and GHS will be working with our friends at Kilgore College to design a course of study that includes dual credit welding courses for GHS students.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Gladewater Bear family as we continue to search for new sources of revenue to provide new opportunities for our wonderful students! –

J. Cliff Lightfoot, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning & Student Services

***Congratulations to our Softball and Baseball Teams!  
Playoffs Bound!  
Go Bears!!!!***