

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Interim Superintendent surprises 2021 Principals of the Year

Feb. 11, 2021 – Two Houston Independent School District principals received surprise visits today by Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan who announced the campus leaders as the 2021 HISD Elementary and Secondary Principals of the Year.

Principal Dolores Perejon-Lasheras at Helms Elementary School in north Houston and Principal Gretchen Kasper-Hoffman at Tanglewood Middle School in west Houston were named Elementary Principal of the Year and Secondary Principal of the Year, respectively.

They received the news on their campuses during events where physical distancing and mask-wearing were observed.

“Each of these veteran educators began their careers in the classroom where they became deeply invested in the academic success of the students of HISD,” Lathan said. “They lead with integrity, knowledge, and above all, they have the heart to make a difference.”

Perejon-Lasheras has been the principal at Helms Elementary School for five years. The campus is a dual language magnet campus and has a B-rating from the Texas Education Agency. During the surprise visit, Principal Perejon-Lasheras made a Facetime call to her parents in Spain to share the good news. She said she came to the U.S. to teach in HISD in 2000, leaving all her family in Spain.

“I am overwhelmed and completely surprised by this honor,” Perejon-Lasheras said. “I want to thank all our students, parents and teachers. My parents were ecstatic to hear this news, especially my father who is a career educator. He is a university professor in Spain.”

Kasper-Hoffman has served as the principal at Tanglewood Middle School for 15 years, one of HISD’s International Baccalaureate World Schools. Her son was present for her surprise honor.

“I did not expect this at all,” Kasper-Hoffman said. “I am a lifelong educator who believes in the district. I believe in making the students number one and being an advocate for them and the teachers.”

- Video of Principal Perejon-Lasheras’ surprise announcement is available [here](#).
- Video of Principal Kasper-Hoffman’s surprise announcement is available [here](#).

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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