HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD and City of Houston partner for creative artwork competition to promote sustainability

Jan. 31, 2023 – Houston Independent School District and City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department are partnering for an artwork competition inviting students to submit their unique creations in a truck art contest. Winning artwork will be featured on City of Houston waste collection trucks promoting sustainability through recycling.

"Houston has one of the most diverse populations and is a city that is passionate about the arts in a way that creates a lasting impact, HISD Superintendent House said. What we heard from our community is that access to the arts needed to be expanded and become a clear focus district wide."

This year's theme is "I RECYCLE FOR HOUSTON" where HISD students between K-12 grades can submit original artwork inspired by the contest theme. Artwork will be judged by age groups, with prizes awarded to winners in each category. The four categories will include:

- Category 1: Grades K-5 (2 winners)
- Category 2: Grades 6-8 (2 winners)
- Category 3: Grades 9-12 (2 winners)
- Category 4: Special Education (2 winners)

"This is more than just an art competition," SWMD Director Mark Wilfalk said. "Art is not only drawing, coloring, & cutting. It is a tool for creative expression, healing, and change. Recycling is more than what meets the eye. It's about what motivates you to be the change in your home, neighborhood, and in your classroom."

Students will be able to submit their artwork and entry form (insert link) or via email (insert email) until February 28, 2023. Finalists will be displayed online and will be open to the public vote.

All winners will receive a framed copy of their artwork and a certificate at the awards ceremony during Earth Week in April. Applicants can <u>click here</u> for full details, contest rules and entry form.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 197,000 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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