

Nena Mankin

Superintendent of
Schools, Boys Ranch
Independent School
District



Nena is the educational leader and superintendent of Boys Ranch Independent School District. Nena was born in Hereford, Texas, and raised in Bovina. She attended West Texas State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in speech and hearing therapy and a Master's in education, and then added mid-management and superintendant certifications. She began her career in education as a teacher in Hereford, rising through the ranks until becoming Deputy Superintendent. Nena is married to Ronnie Mankin. She has one 19 year-old daughter and two adult stepsons.

According to Nena:

"I was drawn to BRISD because so many of my personal beliefs align with those of Cal Farley's.

I believe that children need recognition, positive adult role models, meaningful discipline, and an opportunity to be the best that they can be. Educating children is a calling for me, not a job. I have always been drawn to at-risk youth and this is an opportunity of a lifetime to make a difference."

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Boys Ranch Independent School District:

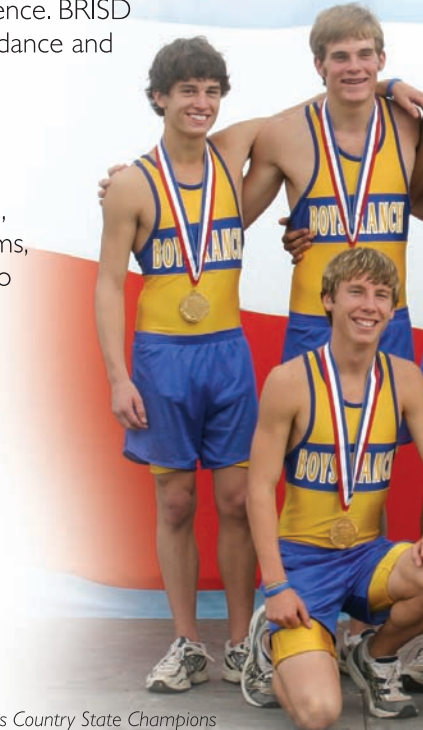
The educational component of our programs at Boys Ranch and Girlstown is extremely important. Our children spend many hours participating in academic, extra-curricular and vocational training programs each day, even during the summer.



BRISD provides a wide array of curriculum offerings that are aligned to ensure that each student has the opportunity to participate in courses leading to success in college, the military, and employment. Participation in athletics, fine arts, or career and technology activities develops leadership, teamwork, and a solid work ethic.

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is taken by most Texas public school students in grades 3 through 11 each spring. BRISD performed well on the 2005 TAKS tests. The District and each campus received a rating of "Acceptable" and met the Adequate Yearly Progress federal requirements. District performance improved in English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. BRISD received Gold Performance Acknowledgements in attendance and was commended on writing and social studies.

Leadership by the three campus principals (elementary, middle and high schools) is crucial because they are uniquely situated to exercise the special skills of initiation, support, and visioning. Educational enhancement programs, after school tutorials and TAKS tutorials were designed to meet the individual needs of students.



2005 2A Cross Country State Champions

Girlstown Academics

Although Girlstown does not have its own independent school district, it does operate an on-campus school as part of the Whiteface Consolidated Independent School District. The partnership allows its teachers and administrators to serve the needs of our girls in more structured and individualized ways. Although many of the girls attend school in Whiteface, those who attend the on-campus school earned educational credits through computer-assisted learning modules supported by one-on-one learning opportunities with teachers. This unique educational partnership continues to provide outstanding results for our girls.

The BRISD administrative team focused on “leaders as learners,” and were trained in various techniques and strategies that enable them to work more effectively with children.

The Advanced Placement and Dual Credit course offerings continued to grow this year. Six new courses were added serving a total of 70 students. The District implemented a full time teacher to work with Gifted and Talented students and a new “work-based” learning program. These programs exemplify the variety of initiatives offered to meet the needs of each child.

The BRISD Board of Trustees added several new faces. George Owens, Antonio Renteria, and Chris Storm are new members of the Board and serve the students of BRISD through their appointments by the State Board of Education. Suzanne Wright, Board President, and Alice O’Brien, Vice President, have both been on the Board for several years. Their leadership and dedication to the students at BRISD will set the vision and direction which will be the foundation of an outstanding educational opportunity for every child that walks through our doors.

Boys Ranch youth excelled in various athletic and extra-curricular competitions, especially the BRHS “sweepstakes,” band, and the AA state championship cross country team. Participation is the goal for BRISD activities. Directors and coaches that develop meaningful relationships with students can and do make lifelong differences in the lives of our children.

BRISD Goals

- BRISD students and teachers will have a safe and secure environment in which to learn and teach
- BRISD will provide a curriculum that addresses the full range of needs and capabilities of the student body
- All students attending BRISD will meet required state/federal criteria and measures required by “No Child Left Behind” and the Texas “Academic Excellence Indicator System”
- BRISD administration and staff will uphold and enforce district rules and policies providing a strong positive environment for student learning
- BRISD in partnership with Boys Ranch will maintain an open, honest line of communication to enhance future planning, current programs, and day-to-day operations and tightly integrate the offerings and operations of the school district with Boys Ranch and its Model of Care

