



NEWS RELEASE

Eanes Independent School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTLAKE SENIOR IS NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

AUSTIN, Texas—Matthew Brailas, a senior at Westlake High School in the Eanes Independent School District, has been selected as one of 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts for the 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program (there also are 121 academic winners). Mr. Brailas is the only Presidential Scholar from the Austin area. This is the third consecutive year that a Westlake student has been chosen as a Presidential Scholar: Christina Chang, who now attends Princeton University, was a 2008 Scholar and Stanford University freshman Abhinav Golla was chosen in 2009.

The Presidential Scholar program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. The selection is based on superior achievements, leadership qualities, personal character, and involvement in community and school activities. Semifinalists were chosen by a panel of distinguished educators after a review of student essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations and transcripts.

The son of Deborah and Robert Brailas, Matthew was awarded a silver medal at YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation of the Arts, earlier this year. A National Merit Finalist, at Westlake he is involved in Madrigals and chorale, and serves as vice president of the choir program. He has won two Gold Keys and a Gold Medal in the national Scholastic Arts and Writing His work has been published in the Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) after receiving one of five honorable mentions in the publication's annual teen poetry contest. Matthew will attend Princeton University in the fall.

Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholar medallion at a recognition ceremony.

For more information or to arrange an interview with Mr. Brailas, please contact EISD Director of Communications Dale Whitaker at 732-9002.

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