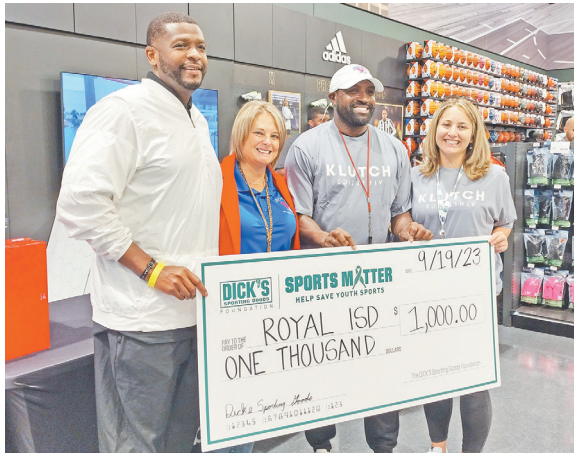


## Royal Falcons receive surprise from DICK's, Texan Will Anderson Jr.



A spokesperson for DICK'S House of Sports presents a \$1,000 check to the Royal ISD Football team; accepting are RISD Assistant Superintendent Duana Brashear and Coach Theadis Reagins. At far right is Nicole Martin of DICK's, who orchestrated the event.



Houston Texans Defensive End Will Anderson Jr. greets a Royal player.

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO  
PUBLISHER

DICK'S Sporting Goods hosted a private in-store meet and greet with Houston Texans' Defensive End, Will Anderson Jr., at the DICK'S House of Sport location in Katy, on September 19th to celebrate Anderson's new partnership with New Balance. The event benefited the Royal ISD High School Falcons Varsity Football team, who received the surprise gift as a result of a collaboration between DICK's and the Katy Christian Chamber of Commerce. Upon arrival, each Royal High School player was given a pair of brand-new New Balance shoes as well as a bag containing T-shirts, hoodies,

a water bottle, and related gear. Dick's House of Sport also presented the team with a \$1,000 grant.

An autograph session was preceded by a private training session led by Anderson, consisting of three types of drills. Royal ISD Head Football Coach/Athletic Coordinator Theadis Reagins said he welcomed the opportunity for his players to receive advice from an NFL professional. Anderson also spoke to the team following the drills and challenged each player to be a positive role model and to "coach each day" - particularly to coach each other and to prepare their teammates to assume leadership roles. DICK's House of Sports is located at 24600 Katy Fwy, Suite 1100 in Katy.



PHOTOS COURTESY RICE UNIVERSITY  
(L-R) Danni Zheng, Maxwell Yu, Melinda Zhu, Jessica Xu, Ayla Arslan, Charles Shi, Angeli Fetizanan, Adithi Arun, Xinyuan Liu



(L-R) Aarna Shukla, Andrew Wu, Andrew Liu, Charles Han, Katherine Gao



(L-R) Whitney Xiu, Hannah Liang, Melody Jin, Ryan Du, Sean Lu



FRONT (L-R): Lily Zhang, Jessica Fan, Alejandra Moscoso, Isabella Cooley, Jade Davidson. BACK (L-R): Matthew Wei, Amen Frankfort, Eric White

## Local STEM students attend summer Tapia Camps at Rice University

### CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD has several students kicking off the school year with newfound skills and confidence in the classroom thanks to a summer of learning and growth at Rice University's prestigious camps hosted by The Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity in Education.

The Tapia Camps, supported in part by ExxonMobil, are available to rising 8th-12th graders and feature a five-night, six-day residential experience with a challenging STEM (science, tech-

nology, engineering and math) curriculum. Campers experiment with hands-on STEM projects that simulate real world problems. This summer, campers completed a brand-new project developed by the Tapia Center and ExxonMobil that explored safe storage of carbon dioxide underground in order to slow climate change. Another project challenged students to design their own computational algorithm for equitable college admissions. During camp, students also enhance their communication and team building skills by learn-

ing how to simplify complicated STEM ideas through completion of an end-of-camp oral presentation - all while experiencing life on a college campus.

"The Tapia Camps deliver high quality education and mentorship to students of all backgrounds. We help them develop their STEM skills, improve their communication abilities, build confidence, and connect with peers and role models who share their backgrounds and interests," said Dr. Paul Hand, director of the Tapia Camps at

Rice University. "Additionally, we provide professional development programs to equip educators with tools and skills to be more successful with student engagement in the classroom, promoting a more impactful educational experience for all."

The professional development camp for educators of all subjects and levels provides participants the tools to implement project-based learning—a set of techniques that encourage hands-on, engaging experiences—in their classrooms. Teachers

who complete the program earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours.

This summer, more than 500 students and educators from across Texas and beyond attended the camps. Individuals or school districts looking to register for summer 2024 can reach out to The Tapia Center at [tapiacenter@rice.edu](mailto:tapiacenter@rice.edu) or 713-348-5182. Corporations and charitable foundations interested in sponsorship opportunities may also reach out to The Tapia Center for more information.

### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Brazos Conference Room, Houston, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	R. Hudson, V. Brown, A. Wiggins, W. Skelton & D. Moon
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.275 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.275 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$502,370	\$554,277
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$502,370	\$554,277
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,381.52	\$ 1,524.26
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$142.74 10.3321%

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

Notwithstanding the above, the Water Code permits the district to include any unused increment rate in calculating the maximum rate allowed without an election. After including the unused increment rate that maximum rate is \$0.275 and, therefore, no election is required.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Utility District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., at the Jackrabbit Road Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant, 16720 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, TX 77084. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	J. J. Sugg, D. Durgin, A. Grzanka & R. W. Schmitz
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	R. L. Watkins

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.2350 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.28200 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.047 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		20.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$199,773	\$221,332
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	-\$39,955	-\$44,266
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$159,818	\$177,066
Tax on average residence homestead	\$375.57	\$499.32
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$123.75 32.95%

#### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The purpose for the tax increase is to pay debt service requirements and operations and maintenance of the utility district.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.