



For More Information:

Dale A. Whitaker
Director of Communications
512.858.3082
512.465.3082 metro

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2014

DRIPPING SPRINGS HS INCLUDED ON U.S. NEWS LIST OF TOP SCHOOLS

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas – Dripping Springs High School is featured on the *U.S. News & World Report* list of the nation’s top high schools, earning the designation of “Gold Medal” for the first time; the previous two years DSHS was designated as a “Silver Medal” recipient. DSHS also has jumped up the list significantly compared to a year ago, and currently is ranked 52nd in the state of Texas and #466 on the national list. The national ranking represents a jump of 63 places from 2013 for Dripping Springs HS.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 31,000 high schools and awarded 500 gold medals, 1,519 silver medals, and 2,688 bronze medals to the top-performing schools. In Texas, 1,382 high schools were analyzed for the publication’s “Best High Schools” 2014 rankings and 54 earned Gold Medals. Of those Texas schools ranked higher than DSHS, only four were comprehensive 4A high schools (others were specialty or magnet schools).

U.S. News & World Report partnered with the Washington, D.C.-based American Institutes for Research (AIR), to implement the rankings’ methodology. A three-step process was used to determine the Best High Schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using performance on state proficiency tests as the benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work. These ranking are based on 2012 data.

The *U.S. News* ranking is the second that has been released recently. The *Washington Post*’s annual “High School Challenge” ranking listed Dripping Springs at #1,101 nationally and #111 in the state of Texas. That ranking is based on an index formula that is a ratio of the number of Advanced Placement tests given divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year. This year’s index is based on data from 2013.

###