

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Jason Gordon  
830-885-1234

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### **Sanders honored as KENS5 ExCEL Teacher of the Year from Comal ISD**

Heather Sanders, a teacher at Canyon High for the past nine years, is the district's KENS5 ExCEL Teacher of the Year.

As a result, Sanders receives \$1,000 from the San Antonio Federal Credit Union. She also receives a golden apple trophy and her story will be told on the KENS5 6 p.m. newscast Nov. 9. It will re-air Nov. 11, between 7:30-9 a.m. Her story is also on [www.mysanantonio.com](http://www.mysanantonio.com).

Sanders is both a highly-successful 11<sup>th</sup>-and-12<sup>th</sup> grade calculus teacher and head volleyball coach at Canyon High.

In the classroom, 100 percent of Sanders' students passed the TAKS test last May. The results her students have achieved on the AP calculus tests may be even more impressive.

With the global population average (all students worldwide) for the AP calculus AB test hovering around the 2.9 mark on a 5.0 scale, Sanders' students averaged 3.7 in 2005. They spend many diligent hours both before and after school to master the difficult curriculum.

"She's is one of the finest math teachers I've ever had the pleasure to employ," Canyon High Principal Bob Wiegand said. "She's the hardest worker, and it's incredible to see the extra time she puts in with these students before school, after school, and on the weekends in the spring in final preparation for the AP calculus exams.

"It's so great to see her students pick up on that enthusiasm and want to achieve and get the results they do. Almost 100 percent of her AP calculus students head to college having already earned class credits."

Sanders said taking over the AP calculus program has given her rich teaching rewards.

“We become family by the end of the year,” Sanders said. “It’s a great thrill to get phone calls from students in July telling me they’ve received their first hours of college credit.”

On the volleyball court, Sanders has been equally inspiring.

She’s led the Canyon Cougarettes into the playoffs in each of the nine seasons she’s been head coach. The Cougarettes advanced to the Class 4A Region IV title game in 2005. Her teams have twice advanced to the UIL state tournament and played for the state title in 2001.

Sanders was chosen by her peers in the Texas Girls Coaching Association to coach the 2006 West All-Star Team, and to serve on the organization’s board of directors. Most recently, Sanders celebrated her 200<sup>th</sup> career victory.

Sanders earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration and economics from Austin College in Sherman. With a goal of heading into the world of accounting, Sanders spent a year at the University of Texas Graduate School of Business.

Her plans quickly changed, however, as she decided a lifetime in the accounting field would give her little chance to truly impact lives.

Sanders discovered what would turn out to be her career path by finding a volleyball club to coach, and doing volunteer work for pregnant teens and other at-risk students at Johnston High School in Austin.

“I knew then what I wanted to do with my life and made the decision to pursue a career in education,” Sanders said. “I never looked back and cannot imagine a more fulfilling life than the one I have chosen.”