



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

**P L A N O**  
Independent School District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Clark High School Students Create Positive-Message Mural Guided by Visiting Artist, Alex Cook**

**Plano, TX – October 12, 2016.** Artist Alex Cook, in cooperation with DFW World Affairs Council, visited Clark High School last week and guided students' creation of a positive-message mural in the school's front hallway. Clark High School is one of two DFW area school selected to participate.

The artist is known for painting walls nationwide with messages of hope and love. During the Spring of 2016, Plano ISD formed the Social Emotional Learning Advisory Committee (SELAC) that consists of Plano ISD teachers, counselors, school administrators, and district administrators. This committee of 47 staff members was formed so that our educators can continue to learn effective strategies as they relate to teaching and connecting with the whole student. "This is something that we strongly believe in here at Clark High School and this mural project will add to that culture," said Assistant Principal Aquil Bayyan. "Clark High School and Plano ISD have a very diverse student population; we may not know or understand what a student may be dealing with unless we connect with that student at the Social and Emotional level." The Plano ISD SELAC believes that social emotional learning is a school-wide educational process through which skills for life effectiveness are intentionally taught and modeled in a safe and supportive environment. These skills are most effectively developed in a setting that is nurturing and culturally responsive. In Plano ISD, students will grow to understand and manage emotions, care for self and others, develop empathy, build resiliency, and solve problems effectively and ethically. Social emotional learning will empower students to become responsible, productive and contributing members of the global community.

### ***About Plano Independent School District***

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for each student. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,500 staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Plano ISD schools empower students to be able to adapt to new learning and career opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be disciplined and creative in their thinking.

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