



*For Immediate Release*

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**National PTA recognizes three Clark County School District schools  
*Bryan, Scherkenbach and Vanderburg Elementary Schools named Schools of  
Excellence***

**LAS VEGAS** – Richard H. Bryan, William and Mary Scherkenbach and John C. Vanderburg Elementary Schools have been selected as National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Schools of Excellence for their achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. They are among only four schools in Nevada and 173 schools across the United States to receive the prestigious designation. The PTA said the honor demonstrates the schools' "leadership and commitment to supporting student success and continuous school improvement."

To be recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence, PTAs evaluate their current family engagement strategies and submit a goal for school improvement that families, teachers and administrators have set together. They improve upon their family engagement strategies throughout the year, while focusing on their goal. The National PTA School of Excellence designation is awarded to those schools that have demonstrated improvement in the family-school partnership and significant progress toward their goal.

The National PTA said, "As National Schools of Excellence, families at the three schools feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement."

Scherkenbach Elementary School Assistant Principal Sandy Tomburo said, "We are very proud to be recognized by the National PTA. We have a wonderful community here at Scherkenbach where everyone is involved. Parents, students, teachers, staff and community members all work together to ensure that everyone has a voice and feels important. To be recognized as a School of Excellence has motivated and inspired everyone to become even more involved and has challenged us to see what great new things we will do together in the future."

A contributing factor in the national award was that the Scherkenbach PTA holds meetings both in the morning and after school, providing ample opportunities for people to get involved. Also, parents can choose a comfortable level of participation. Tomburo said, "People are encouraged to take part in something small, if that is all they have the time for, or take part in larger projects if they can."

The connection between the school and parents also plays a role in a school's transition to its new operating model under Assembly Bill 394. Scherkenbach Elementary School PTA President

Jennifer Munoz said, "It's exciting to know that you are going to have a voice in saying this is my school and I want to help to make it better."

To learn more about the Clark County School District, visit [ccsd.net](http://ccsd.net).

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