

South Texas ISD
Science Academy

Class of 2020

Virtual Graduation Ceremony
May 30, 2020



Board of Directors

Douglas E. Buchanan, President

Yolanda Cuellar, Vice-President

Henry LeVrier, Secretary

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Sylvia S. Lopez

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Central Office Administration

Marco Antonio Lara Jr., Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Jeff Hembree. Deputy Superintendent

Marla R. Knaub. Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Juan Pablo Villarreal. Administrator for Support Services

Amanda Odom. Administrator for Public Relations & Marketing

Lissa Frausto. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Science Academy Administration

Irma Castillo, Ed.D. Principal

Lydia Gonzalez. Assistant Principal

Lorena Madrigal. Assistant Principal

Counselors

Alfredo Aguilera. Counselor

Sylvia Gamboa. Counselor

Eugenia Moreno. Counselor

Senior Class Sponsors

Miguel Celio-Torres. Spanish Teacher

Michelle Garza. English Teacher

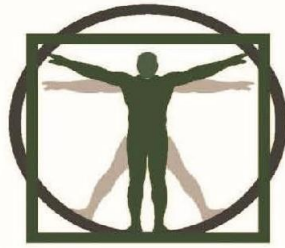
*South Texas ISD Science Academy
Class of 2020*

Commencement Exercises

Pledge of Allegiance..... Jeswin Thomas, Sr. Class President
Pledge to Texas Flag..... Elain Yao, Sr. Class Vice-President
National Anthem..... Destany Sanchez
Welcome..... Douglas E. Buchanan, STISD Board President

Introduction of Salutatorian and Valedictorian

Salutatorian Address.....Kunaal Kashyap Jha
Valedictorian Address.....Satya Ganesh Holla
*Verification of Graduation Requirements Fulfilment and
Recommendation of Diplomas.....Irma Castillo, Ed.D., Principal*
Certification of Graduates.....Marco Antonio Lara Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent
Presentation of Graduates David Wood, Teacher
Closing Remarks Irma Castillo, Ed.D., Principal



South Texas ISD Science Academy

Class of 2020

- S☆ *Gamaliel Enrique Aguilar (Mission).....Lehigh University*
- S☆⊕ *Haya Abdulrahman Albustamy (McAllen).....The University of Texas at Austin*
- Ⓒ☆ *Shaharyar Ali (Mercedes).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- S☆⊕ *Omar Arafat (McAllen).....University of California*
- S☆⊕* *Diego Avila (McAllen).....Rochester Institute of Technology*
- S☆⊕ *Carmen Maria Avila-Padilla (Mission).....Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Ⓒ☆⊕ *Daniel Ernesto Barajas (Harlingen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- Ⓒ☆ *Joaquin Jesus Barrera (Edinburg).....Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi*
- ☆⊕ *Epifanio Barroso III (Weslaco).....South Texas College*
- ☆⊕ *Michael Angel Burnias II (Weslaco).....Texas A&M University - San Antonio*
- ℳ☆ *Daniel Cantu (Combes).....Texas State Technical College*
- ☆ *Lizbeth Dalith Cantu (Hidalgo).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- ☆ *Jose Eduardo Castillo Laborde (Weslaco).....Tecnologico de Monterrey*
- ℳ☆⊕ *Corben Isabel Cervantes (Pharr).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- S☆⊕ *Christopher H. Choi (McAllen).....Colby College*
- ☆ *Sophia Cisneros (Weslaco).....El Paso Community College*
- S☆ *Pia Cortes (Brownsville).....University of Houston*
- S☆⊕ *Elizabeth Ila Croyle (McAllen).....University of Rochester*
- ℳ☆ *Mariano Cruz Toraya (Pharr).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- ☆ *Sergio Eldie Thomas Cuellar (Monte Alto).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- Ⓒ☆ *Connor Ethan Daley (McAllen).....Texas Tech University*
- ℳ☆ *Devin Chase Daley (McAllen).....Texas Tech University*
- Ⓒ☆ *Sofia Sky Davis (Edinburg).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*
- S☆ *Alan Eduardo De Leon (Los Fresnos).....Texas A&M University*
- Ⓒ☆ *Hector Javier Deciga (Brownsville).....South Texas College*

A – Valedictorian

β – Salutatorian

S – Summa Cum Laude

ℳ – Magna Cum Laude

Ⓒ – Cum Laude

☆ – Distinguished

⊕ – Volunteer Hours

** – Associates Degree*



South Texas ISD Science Academy

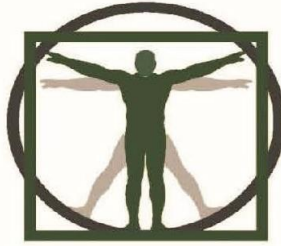
Class of 2020 cont'd

- ☆ Damien Augustus Delbouis (Pharr).....The University of Texas at San Antonio
- ☆⊕ Esteban Samuel Duran (Mission).....The University of Utah
- ☆⊕ Haytham Joshua El-Zaim (McAllen)..... The University of Texas at Austin
- Ⓢ☆ Gabriel Encarnacion Arrambide (McAllen).....Simpson University
- ☆⊕ Rigoberto Esquivel, Jr. (Alamo).....The University of Texas at San Antonio
- ☆⊕ Daniel Eduardo Farray (Mission).....University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- ☆⊕ Andres Fierro (San Juan).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆⊕ Natalie Cahn Fisher (Brownsville).....Washington University at St. Louis
- ☆⊕ Daniel Santiago Fleming (Mission).....Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ☆ David Alexander Flores (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓢ☆ Davor Erubey Gallegos (Pharr).....University of Houston
- ☆⊕ Amanda Rose Garcia (Edinburg).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆ Isaac Manuel Garcia (Alamo).....Missionary Baptist Seminary
- Ⓢ☆⊕ Joaquin Cruz Garcia (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓢ☆⊕ Miguel Angel Garcia (Donna).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ Nimrod Garcia (Edinburg).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆⊕ Ariana Noel Garlic (Weslaco).....Texas A&M University
- Ⓢ☆ Summer Lynn Garmendia (McAllen).....Brigham Young University
- ☆ Carlos Vidal Garza (Mission).....Air Force
- ☆⊕ Danya Yanel Garza (Edinburg).....Texas A&M University
- ☆⊕ Gabriella Yvette Garza (Mission).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ David Caleb Gomez (Mercedes).....The University of Texas at Arlington
- ☆⊕ Angelica Louisa Gonzales (Donna).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓢ☆⊕ Mason Aaron Gonzales (Donna).....University of Houston
- ☆ Natalie Victoria Gonzales (McAllen)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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Class of 2020 cont'd

- M☆ Christopher Robert Gonzalez (Weslaco)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 C☆ Claudia Stephany Gonzalez (Palmview)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 ☆ Eduardo Gonzalez (McAllen)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 ☆⊕ Loana Gonzalez Salas (Harlingen)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 C☆⊕ Azael Ricardo Guerra-Benavidez (La Feria)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 ☆ Andres Manuel Guevara (Alamo)..... Texas A&M University
 ☆ Elian Gutierrez (McAllen)..... University of Houston
 Ricardo Jesus Gutierrez (La Feria)..... South Texas College
 M☆⊕ Amaya Sanaa Hernandez (Edinburg)..... University of Houston
 M☆ Erick Alberto Hernandez (Mission)..... Texas A&M University
 ☆ Isaac Alejandro Hinojosa (Mercedes)..... Our Lady of the Lake University
 AS☆⊕ Satya Ganesh Holla (McAllen)..... Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 S☆ Danielle Louise Horr (McAllen)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 ☆ Timothy JR Hudson (Brownsville)..... Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
 S☆⊕ Rex Achilles Schnupp Imperial (Brownsville)..... The University of Texas at Dallas
 S☆⊕ Subash Jagadeesan (Mission)..... Rice University
 C☆ Alejandro Damian Jaramillo (Santa Maria)..... Full Sail University
 βS☆ Kunaal Kashyap Jha (Edinburg)..... The University of Texas at Austin
 C☆⊕ Carlos Enrique Jimenez, Jr. (Weslaco)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 M☆⊕ Juliet Jimenez (Edcouch)..... Texas A&M - Kingsville
 S☆ Ozan Karabulut (Brownsville)..... Undecided
 M☆ Kyle Curtis Keller (Harlingen)..... University of Hawaii at Manoa
 S☆⊕ Leily Grace Khaleghi (Brownsville)..... Texas A&M University
 S☆⊕ Waaed Majed Khuffash (McAllen)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 ☆⊕ Dylan Reid La Press (La Feria)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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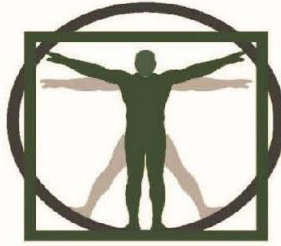
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- MI☆ Diego Joaquin Landa (Edinburg).....The Culinary Institute of America
- Ⓒ☆ Nick Leines (San Benito).....University of Houston
- MI☆⊕ Jason Lin (Harlingen).....The University of Texas at Dallas
- ☆⊕ Alex Ray Lopez (McAllen).....University of the Incarnate Word
- Ⓔ☆ Carlos Isidro Lopez (San Benito).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆⊕ Melissa Lopez (Brownsville).....The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Ⓔ☆⊕ Lance Lui (Rancho Viejo).....The University of Texas at Austin
- Ⓒ☆ Ivan M Luna (Weslaco).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓔ☆⊕ Shivam Kumar Mahitani (McAllen).....Texas A&M University
- Ⓒ☆ Abraham Andres Maldonado (Weslaco).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ Giovanna Monserrat Martinez (Weslaco).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- MI☆⊕ Krystal Nicole Martinez (Weslaco).....Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- MI☆⊕ Lexi-Ani Martinez (San Benito).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓔ☆⊕ Javier David Mayorga-Kintanar (Mission).....Cornell University
- MI☆ Joshua Alexander McCain (Edinburg).....Texas A&M University
- Ⓔ☆ Gabriel Antonio Mego (McAllen).....Southern Methodist University
- MI☆⊕* Cynthia Mendoza (Weslaco).....Southern Methodist University
- Ⓒ☆ Dylan Glen Miller (Edinburg).....Saint Mary's University
- ☆⊕ Arianna Karen Montalvo (Weslaco).....University of The Incarnate Word
- MI☆⊕ Anthony Lorenzo Bayona Montecillo (McAllen).....Texas A&M International University
- MI☆ Jerry Isai Montes (Mercedes).....Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- MI☆ Joshua Pascual Navarro (Harlingen).....Texas Tech University
- Ⓒ☆ Elidiana Beatriz Ngo Moronta (Weslaco).....Universidad Iberoamericana
- Ⓔ☆ Myrhissa Calen Ortega (Edinburg).....St. Edward's University
- ☆ Pedro Andres Ortiz (Weslaco).....Our Lady of the Lake University

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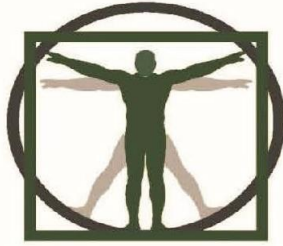
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- S ☆ ⊕ Diego Andres Paredes (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ Scott Evan Pedley (Brownsville).....The University of Texas at Dallas
- Ⓢ ☆ Alexia Sofia Perez (McAllen).....St. Edward's University
- Ⓢ ☆ Francisco Ramon Perez (Mission).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ Nicole Perez (McAllen).....The University of Houston
- M ☆ ⊕ Thomas Otto Pimentel (Harlingen).....Texas A&M University
- M ☆ * Bryan Ramon Pruneda (Donna).....The University of Texas at Dallas
- M ☆ Carlos Nihal Puentes (Weslaco).....Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- S ☆ ⊕ Jack Qiao (Edinburg).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆ Aurelio Alexis Ramirez (Weslaco).....Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
- S ☆ ⊕ Marina Anne Ramos (Harlingen).....Rice University
- ☆ ⊕ Vanisia Ariana Renteria (Brownsville).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ Eliseo Reyes, Jr. (Alamo).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ Lloyd Anthony Rigney (Edinburg).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ David Albert Joves Rioferio (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ Elena Marie Robertson (San Benito).....The University of Texas at Austin
- S ☆ Austin Edward Rodriguez (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓢ ☆ ⊕ Darissa Rodriguez (Donna).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ Juan Lorenzo Rodriguez (Harlingen).....United States Military Academy West Point
- M ☆ Tamara Judith Rodriguez (Brownsville).....Texas A&M University
- Ⓢ ☆ ⊕ Alwyn Romy (Edinburg).....The University of Texas at San Antonio
- S ☆ ⊕ Joshua Aaron Rosenberg (McAllen).....Rochester Institute of Technology
- ☆ Jorge Tadeo Ruiz (Edinburg).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- S ☆ ⊕ Rene Alejandro Saenz (Harlingen).....The University of Texas at San Antonio

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- ☆ Antonio Alexander Thibodeau Salazar (Mission).....Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
- ☆ George Sebastian Salinas (Edinburg)..... The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ Destany Danielle Sanchez (Edinburg)..... Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Ⓒ☆ Francisco Adrian Sanchez (McAllen).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓐ☆ Karla Daniela Sanchez (Weslaco).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆ Marco Antonio Santos-Gracia (San Juan).....South Texas College
- Ⓐ☆ Pablo Sebastian Santos-Salas (McAllen).....Undecided
- ☆ Fernando Roel Sosa (Brownsville).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆⊕ Aditi Srivastava (McAllen).....Boston University
- ☆⊕ Rajiv K Swarup (McAllen).....Washington University
- ☆⊕ Edwin Tapia (Edinburg).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Ⓒ☆ Jeswin Thomas (Edinburg).....Texas Southern University
- ☆⊕ Neil Xavier Thomas (Edinburg).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆ Maria Noelia Tobar (Harlingen).....The University of Texas at San Antonio
- ☆⊕ Santiago Torres (Mission).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆⊕ Om Vadodaria (McAllen).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆* Kissimnee Ashlynn Vargas (Pharr).....Houston Baptist University
- Ⓒ☆ Mario Omar Vasquez, Jr. (Palmview).....South Texas College
- Ⓒ☆ Sebastian Villanueva (Los Fresnos).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆⊕* Carmine Villarreal (McAllen).....Trinity University
- ☆ Helen Eilene Goodwin Wilson (Lyford).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- ☆⊕ Elain Yao (Brownsville).....The University of Texas at Austin
- ☆⊕ Rosa Marian Yopez (Los Fresnos).....Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- Ⓐ☆ Emiliano Zepeda (Pharr).....South Texas College
- Ⓐ☆ Maximiliano Zepeda (Pharr).....The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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South Texas ISD
Science Academy

Mission Statement

South Texas ISD Science Academy offers a curriculum of choice with an emphasis on Science, Mathematics and Engineering that fosters curiosity, open mindedness and a passion for life-long learning.

Vision

Inspiring students to problem-solve, innovate and transform their communities.

Certifications

Associates Degree with South Texas College

Partnerships

*Partnerships with Yale University, Stanford University,
Rice University, Cornell University,
The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley,
South Texas College, Texas A&M University at Kingsville,
and Johns Hopkins University,
Partnership with Project Lead The Way, Inc.*

School Achievements

Ranked 56th in Texas for "High Schools with the Best Teachers" Niche (2020)

Ranked 11th in Texas for "Best Public High Schools" Niche (2020)

Ranked 26th in Texas for "Best High Schools" U.S. News and World Reports (2020)

Ranked 186th in the nation for "Best High Schools" U.S. News and World Reports (2020)

Selected by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education as a 2019 Texas Honor Roll Star School

Named a "School to Learn From" award sponsored by Teach for America, which highlights the schools that provide excellent education for students (2018).

Ranked 254 in Newsweek "America's Top High Schools 2016" (only campus from the Rio Grande Valley)

Ranked 45th in the Newsweek "Beating the Odds 2016" which includes the top 500 high schools in the nation for low-income students

Rated as an "Exemplary" campus by the Texas Education Agency in 2007 and has been rated "Exemplary" for 14 out of 15 years. In 2013 Rated "Met Standard" all Distinctions Recognized

Nationally recognized as a National Blue Ribbon High School by the U.S. Dept. of Education in 2005

Ranked 21 in the nation (April 2014) 15 in the nation (June 2012) and 12th in the nation (June, 2011) by The Washington Post

Rated in the best high schools rating by Texas by the Texas Business Education Coalition Honor Roll for the past eight years

Awarded an "Exemplary" rating for eight consecutive years by the Texas Business Education Coalition

Awarded by the Project Lead the Way for being Recognized as 2019-20 PLTW Distinguished School