

# TELETYPE



## A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

*The Class of 2020's senior year will go down in history as one to remember*

## MECHANICAL BRAINIACS

*Roosevelt-Wilson's Robotics Club continues success*

## A NEW WAY OF TEACHING

*Teachers embrace virtual instruction after COVID-19 forces closures*

SUMMER

2020



# TELETYPE

## SUMMER 2020

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## WE'RE ONLINE

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# SUPERINTENDENT

## DR. MELISSA DUARTE



On June 19, 2020, the Texas City ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved Melissa Duarte, Ed.D. as the lone finalist for superintendent of Texas City ISD.

She currently serves as the deputy superintendent in Goose Creek ISD. Her 28-year education career also includes teaching at the elementary, junior high and high school level, serving as a principal, an elementary curriculum coordinator, an executive director for curriculum and instruction, and an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

"Dr. Duarte has a strong proven track record with curriculum, academic accountability and financial accountability. She is a proven leader and has shown great leadership in her role as deputy superintendent in Goose Creek ISD," Bryan Thompson, board president, says. "She implemented effective academic measures in her current district that can be replicated in Texas City ISD."

She is known to be a turn-around administrator that takes campuses from unacceptable to exemplary. Some of Duarte's achievements also include receiving national designations for academic programs, increasing dual credit and career and technology education participation, and developing a community outreach early literacy program and a dual language program. Duarte has a Bachelor of Business Administration & Economics Studies, a Masters' of Education, Administration/Supervision and a Doctorate in Education, all from the University of Texas-Pan American.

Together, she and her husband, Darrell, have 4 adult children: Ryan, Drew, Aaron and Brittany.

"We believe the Duartes are going to be a great addition to our community and to the Texas City ISD family," Thompson says. "We expect Texas City ISD to demonstrate even greater levels of student success under her leadership."



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TELETYPE





# A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

*Texas City ISD seniors ended their  
school year in a way no one expected*

The Class of 2020 had plans for their senior year - homecoming, senior skip day, prom, graduation. It was meant to be a momentous year, filled with memories to last a lifetime.

Just not these memories.

“Who would’ve thought our Powder Puff game would be our last time seeing each other (at school),” La Marque High School senior Cheree Taylor says. “I was hoping to return to talk about what we did over spring break and brag on all the senior activities we had coming up.”

COVID-19 and the closure of schools across the state on March 16 put the brakes on the Class of 2020’s senior year. As a week-long closure spanned to two weeks, then four, and eventually to include the remainder of the school year, many seniors began to lose hope that their senior year would end anywhere close to normally. Prom – canceled. Graduation – who knew.

“When the closure was extended, I started to lose hope for my senior year and motivation for my school work,” Texas City High School senior class president Haley Moore says. “This affected my ending grades very much!”

TCHS senior Brayden Torres echoed Moore’s feelings about losing motivation.

“In regards to school work, I had very little motivation; I saw it as pointless,” he says. “I was devastated my senior year was stripped from me.”

Stay-at-home orders and the requirements to quarantine and social distance also took their toll. Taylor says she missed the LMHS staff, students and the bonds she had made with athletes in her role at the basketball team’s manager. Moore missed walking the halls of TCHS and seeing everyone.

“I missed messing with the staff and making everyone smile around me,”

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she says. “I missed actually being taught by a teacher in person because I seemed to take that for granted. When we crossed over to fully online courses, it was exponentially harder for me.”

The switch to virtual instruction also affected Taylor, who says it was hard to manage all her classes at once.

“But once time passed, it got easier and everything was manageable,” she says.

The time spent away from school wasn’t all bad, they say. Torres enjoyed driving on the Dike every night with his sister just to get out of the house. Moore received gifts through the Adopt-a-Senior program initiated by local community members and her sister threw a surprise parade for her and her friends to celebrate graduation.

For Taylor, the best moment of the COVID-19 closures and quarantine was when Texas City ISD released news that both high schools would have in-person graduations. Classmates had talked about the possibility of a virtual graduation, but she says that didn’t sit well with her.

“I wanted to feel the excitement and anxiousness everyone else felt when talking about graduation,” Taylor says. “I love my classmates and to see them walk across the stage made me proud.”

Deputy Superintendent Susan Myers says it was imperative to have an in-person graduation for the Class of 2020 and provide a day as normal as possible and as close to what they had envisioned their high school graduation to be.

“Those students lost most of their senior year and all of the special events that the spring semester brings,” she says. “We were committed to giving our kids an in-person graduation ceremony.”

Torres agrees that having a graduation was hugely important.

“I felt like every kid wanted to be able to experience walking across the stage in front of their fellow graduates; I was no exception,” he says. “I think the ceremony went great (even with the social distancing).”



### COVER

Isabella Dekelaita prepares to walk across the stage at the TCHS graduation ceremony.

### PREVIOUS PAGE

Katriel Ivy snaps a selfie after she turns her tassel at the LMHS graduation ceremony.

### LEFT

Mykenzie Gorom holds up her cap and gown at the TCHS Senior Night parade.

### TOP LEFT

Cliston Fontenot shows off her cap and gown and senior yard sign at the LMHS Senior Night parade.

### TOP RIGHT

Shariya Anderson-Shumpert gives a thumbs up to her family at the 2020 graduation ceremony.

### RIGHT

LMHS graduates wear face masks as part of their graduation ceremony.



## SUMMER 2020









# MECHANICAL BRAINIACS

*Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary Robotics Club  
fields first all-girls team*

Try hard, fail better.

These are the words Ricci Rodgers shares with her robotics students at Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary. The goal, she tells them, is not perfection, but to learn something new.

“Did you learn something new,” she asks. “I can just see their wide-eyed looks and head nods now. It’s a beautiful moment for a teacher.”

Started in May 2018, the Roosevelt-Wilson Robotics Club is entering its third year with the 2020-2021 school year. The program served as Texas City ISD’s elementary pilot program, with the goal of teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts at an early age so that students could grow in the district’s robotics program in order to create more advanced projects when they reached high school.

The club is made up of two teams of fourth grade students chosen by application and teacher recommendation in the spring of their third-grade year. The students spend hours in the summer prior to fourth grade building background knowledge.

“Much of the STEM concepts used in competitive robotics are advanced skills the students have not had previously,” Rodgers says. “The students join the team with little robotics experience, but as I teach the curriculum, it reignites my own passion for robotics and they take off with it!”

Rodgers says her philosophy has always been to give the students the maximum time they request to meet their team goals. This means dedicating hours after school, on weekends and holidays. She says she often finds herself explaining to parents that she will be available additional hours because of her students’ request. Ultimately, it’s hundreds of hours.

The hours have paid off in dividends. In the club’s first year, the Roosevelt-Wilson students earned the highest awards at the very first VEX IQ tournament where they competed. This year, the club won multiple design and excellence awards. Design awards go to teams that demonstrate the ability to implement the most effective and efficient robot design process. Excellence awards are the highest awards presented in the VEX IQ Challenge.

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Rodgers says the students continually ask for more time to outdo their previous performance because those early awards showed the teams just how much dedication it required to be successful.

“It’s the students who drive the program,” she says. “They’re energized.”

The 2019-2020 club featured two teams — Team 30116W “Robo Girls,” an all-girls team, and the mixed group Team 30116R “Mechanical Brainiacs.” Rodgers says there’s a solid place for women in the STEM field, and the combination of an all-girls team and mixed group team were integral to each other.

“Girls tend to be systematic thinkers, analyzers; this is one of the highest level thinking skills in the process of STEM activities,” she says. “But at the same time, girls aren’t usually risk-takers until they’re taught it’s safe to fail as long as they keep trying, apply what they’ve learned and keep moving forward.”

Boys, on the other hand, have a tendency to take things apart and figure out how processes work.

“Boys are not necessarily concerned with how to put something back together the same way; sometimes the new way isn’t quite better,” Rodgers says. “That’s where I have to work hard to get boys to document their processes and build multiple copies of the same prototype. The boys take more risks that result in multiple innovative solutions.”

While the club has been fortunate to win the state competition and qualify for the world championships both years since forming, Rodgers says winning isn’t truly the goal.

“Learning takes place in the failures and the process,” she says. “Bring on 2020-2021. I’m ready to see the light of new discoveries in my students’ eyes.”

### TOP

Roosevelt-Wilson Robotics Club members Fatima Aguilera, Alayna Bottoms, Kaleb Brannan, Julia Chapman, Jazleen Elizondo, Chloe Hamilton, Olin Jeffcoat, Johnathan Lee and Haydyn Reyes celebrate after winning the VEX IQ State Championship.

### MIDDLE LEFT

Fatima Aguilera works on the “Robo Girls” robot in preparation for a VEX IQ tournament.

### MIDDLE

The team 30116W “Robo Girls” robot.

### MIDDLE RIGHT

A “Robo Girls” team member shows off a piece of the team’s robot during practice.

### BOTTOM LEFT

Julia Chapman measures the height of the “Robo Girls” robot.

### BOTTOM RIGHT

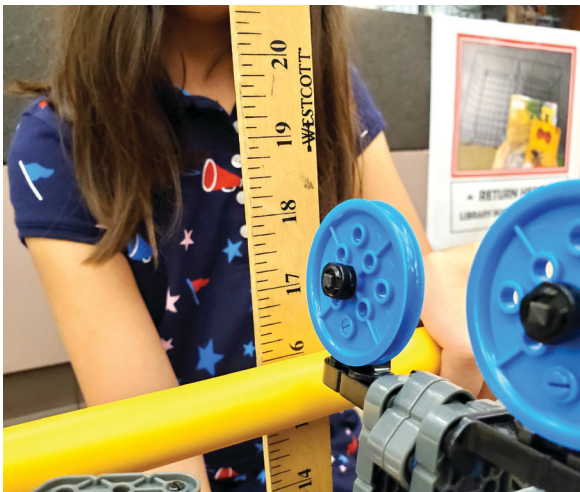
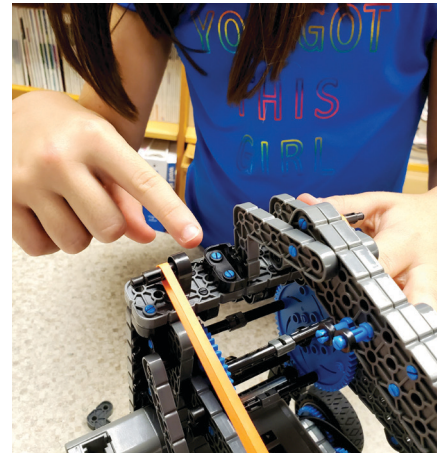
Julia Chapman and Chloe Hamilton work on the “Robo Girls” robot ahead of a VEX IQ tournament.

### PREVIOUS PAGE

Julia Chapman, Chloe Hamilton, Jazleen Elizondo and Fatima Aguilera prepare the “Robo Girls” robot and binder for competition.



## SUMMER 2020





## TELETYPE



# A NEW WAY OF TEACHING

*Teachers embrace virtual instruction after  
COVID-19 forces school closures*

When Texas City ISD teachers turned off the lights and closed their classroom doors on March 6, their plan was to return to campus in a week and welcome their students back from spring break.

That never happened. As COVID-19 cases rose in Texas, schools across the state shut down the week after spring break. The shutdown was then extended for two weeks, then three more weeks before eventually being extended for the remainder of the school year.

During that first-week closure, TCISD officials knew something had to be done to continue providing instruction to the district's students. It was essential to provide students with a continuity of learning and the opportunity to continue their school year. Enter virtual instruction.

"We knew that not only was it essential for the students to continue learning their grade level curriculum to be prepared for next school year, but it was also important for the children to return to some level of normalcy in their lives," Deputy Superintendent Susan Myers says. "Virtual school provided them that, and it allowed staff to check not only on their learning, but also their emotional wellbeing."

District administration, instructional specialists and technology specialists spent the week of March 16-20 crafting

curriculum and plans to help teachers move their regular instruction online. It was easier for some than others.

Texas City High School math teacher Minh Do already had a large part of her curriculum online. With the roll-out of Canvas earlier in the year and the improvement of technology, she spent many days fine-tuning her online course: organizing units with step-by-step instructions, filled-out notes and final answers for homework and supplemental videos for enrichment and remediation.

"By the time the virtual learning was a must, my courses were not only ready to go, but my students had been using them since the beginning of the year," she says. "They were so used to them that there was no questions asked."

Debi Schoppe, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Calvin Vincent Early Childhood, wondered how she was going to teach 4-year-olds online.

"If I had not had great relationships with parents, we couldn't have made it," she says. "Four-year-olds can do so much these days, but they needed adults to log them into Zoom, ABC Mouse and Facebook."

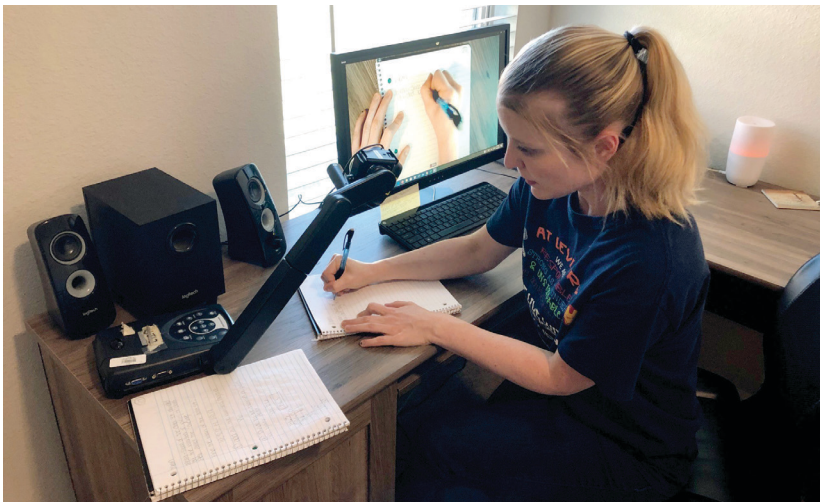
Guajardo Elementary fourth grade teacher Jennifer McCarty's first thought was how she was going to be able to keep her students engaged and

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## TELETYPE



### TOP LEFT

Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary kindergarten teacher Melissa Silvertooth (on screen).

### TOP RIGHT

Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary second grade teacher Sarah Fremont.

### ABOVE

Levi Fry Intermediate math teacher Alexis Buck.

### RIGHT

La Marque Elementary teacher Rodrigo Castor.

### PREVIOUS PAGE - TOP LEFT

Texas City High School physical education teacher Blake Ryder.

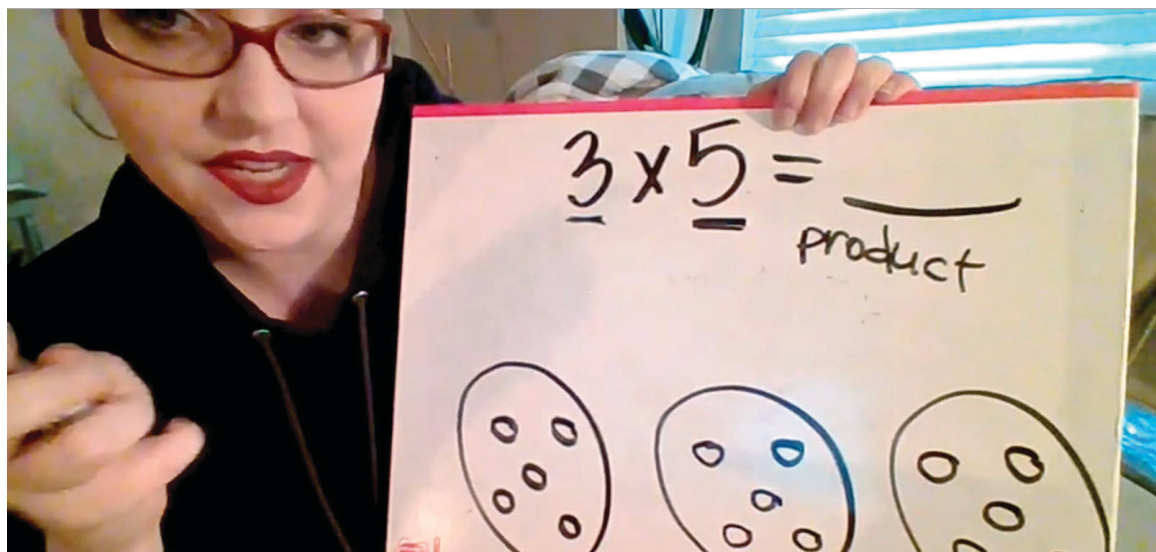
### PREVIOUS PAGE - TOP RIGHT

La Marque High School English teacher Tiffany Roberson.

### PREVIOUS PAGE - BOTTOM

Calvin Vincent Early Childhood Center teacher Martha Jaramillo.





continue building their skills and knowledge if she was unable to see them. A self-described “very involved type of teacher,” she starts her students’ days with hugs, high fives and fist bumps while also making sure they’ve eaten as a way to make sure their needs are met and they are ready to actively learn and grow in the classroom.

“I had to adapt my teaching to ensure my students were engaged and actively learning by virtual instruction; I found that by creating mini lessons regarding a specific skill, I could create or find a KAHOOT! Game to informally assess my students,” she says. “It would be a fun, engaging way to see if my kids understood the skill ... this gave immediate feedback to my student, and they loved it.”

La Marque High School world geography teacher Dustin Jones says his biggest challenge was not being in the classroom.

“In the classroom, you can tell if a student understands a new concept just by their facial expressions and body language; you cannot do that in a virtual setting,” he says.

Katashia Corpus, a first grade teacher at Kohfeldt Elementary learned she had to keep students motivated and parents encouraged at the same time; not just to complete assignments, but to actually sign on and attempt work. Some of that encouragement was letting parents know she understood their concerns and advising them to allow students to sign on at least three times a week.

“I periodically gave virtual celebrations and shout outs to the students for various reasons to motivate them and also posted many of their work samples in Kohfeldt’s Dojo praising their work and highlighting their efforts,” she says. “I celebrated a mom’s and student’s achievement with a personal Zoom chat and mobile dance party.”

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For many teachers, it was a matter of dedicating extra time to those students who needed additional help. Early on in the process, La Marque Elementary fourth grade teacher Bobbie Bellamy had a Spanish speaking parent reach out to her, saying her son was not understanding his math work. After messaging Bellamy in the class Facebook group, they conferenced through Canvas.

“We went back and forth; finally at about 9:00 in the evening, he found it and we were able to work together using the cooperative white board,” she says. “It felt so good to be able to help him and to see the appreciative look on his mother’s face.”

It’s those special moments with students that teachers say they will remember most about the virtual learning experience. Alexis Buck, a sixth grade math teacher at Levi Fry Intermediate, says her team had one student who visited them on every single conference, twice a day, every day. There were days, she says, that he would just talk for an hour about nothing in particular.

“He just wanted to visit,” Buck says. “It was special to me that he

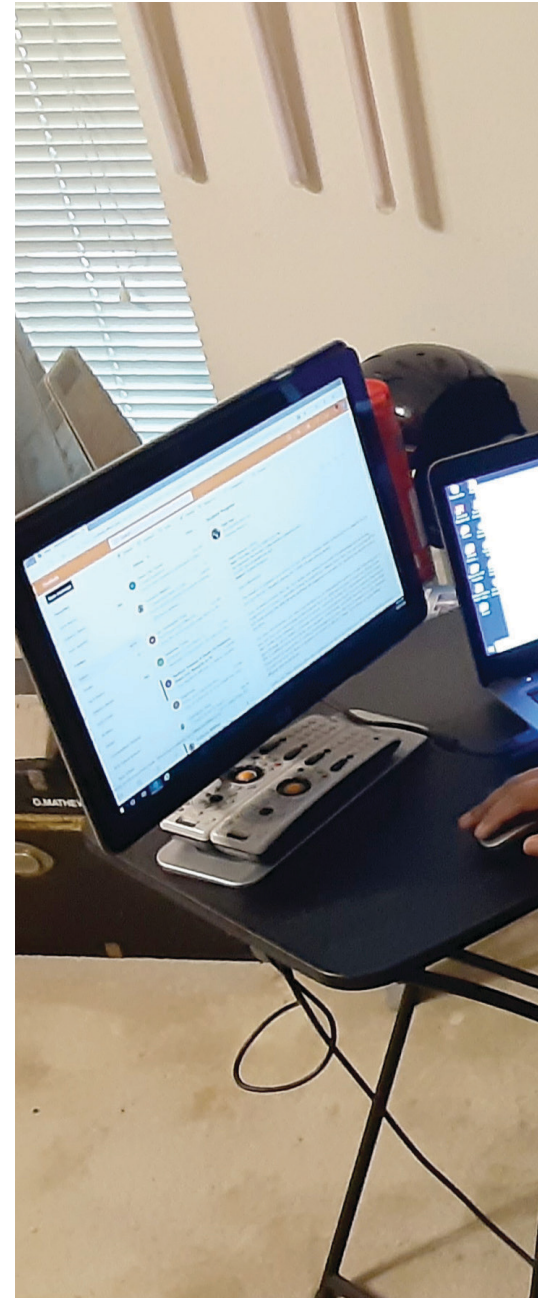
appreciated the company of his teachers so much and reminded me that teaching, even if it’s online, isn’t only about the content, but also about building long-lasting relationships.”

Levi Fry sixth grade reading teacher Alchia Nelson says the shift to remote learning has changed her as a teacher.

“I can wholeheartedly say that change has been, and will be, for the better,” she says. “This shift required me to use innovation and creativity for the most critical assessments while highlighting the importance of the teacher-student relationship.”

Myers says all of the TCISD teaching staff did an excellent job of adapting to the switch to virtual instruction.

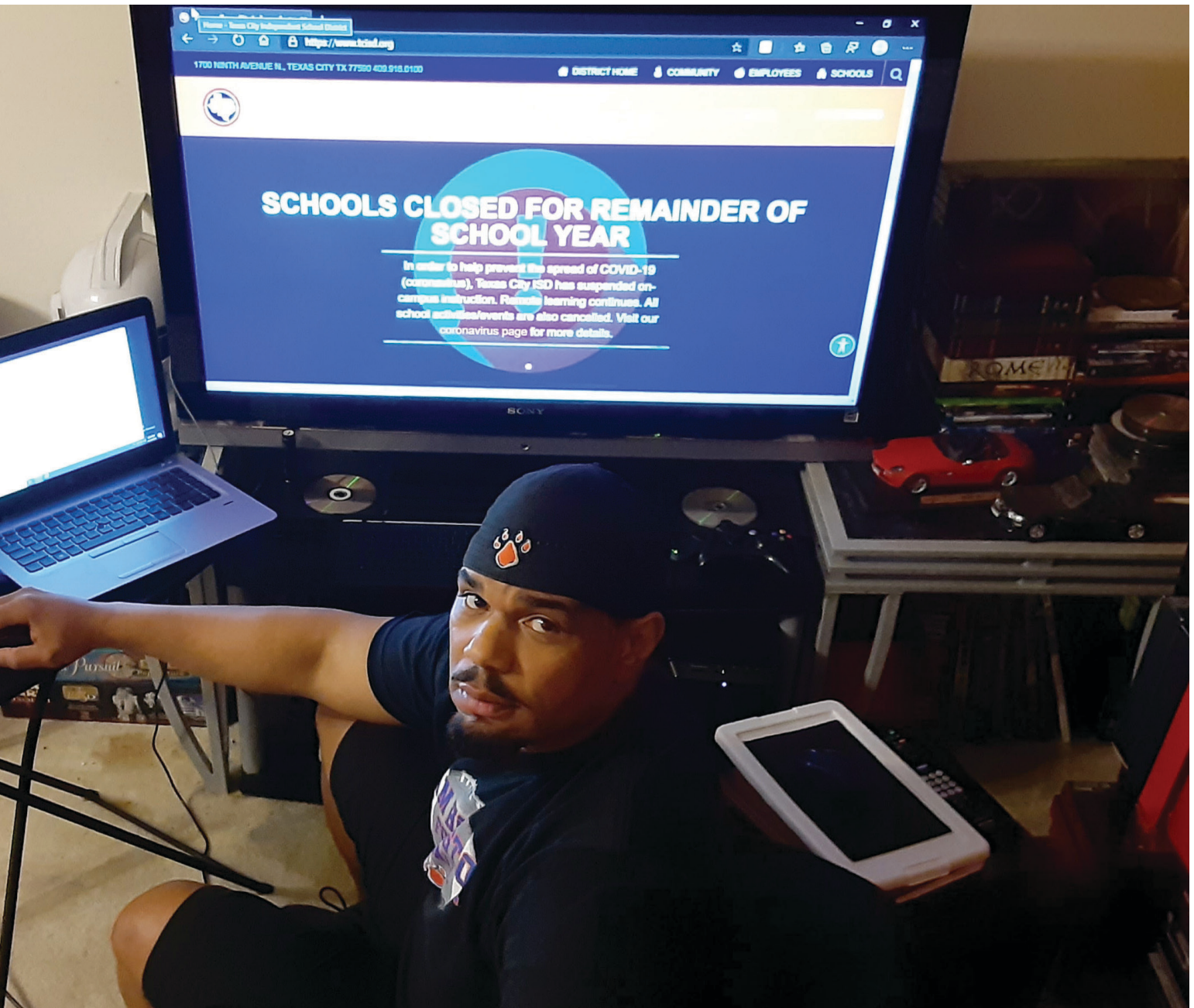
“They approached these changes with professionalism and the way they always approach their work – with intention, care and expertise,” she says. “Our end product was not perfect, but it was purposeful and provided a bridge for student learning while our schools were closed.”



Texas City ISD social studies instructional specialist Marcus Mathews.



## SUMMER 2020



# EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

*Texas City ISD recognizes 12 Staff Stars*



The Texas City ISD employee recognition banquet may have been canceled due to the COVID-19 closures, but TCISD still found a special way to honor the district's employees of the year.

The district's teacher and principal Staff Star winners were surprised with signs recognizing their honors and were gifted with balloons and gift cards to Chick-fil-A. The remaining winners will receive their awards at Convocation. Campus Teachers of the Year and service award recipients were also recognized on social media.

## STAFF STAR AWARD WINNERS

- **Secondary Principal of the Year:** Don Jones, Woodrow Wilson DAEP
- **Elementary Principal of the Year:** Debbie Fuller, Guajardo Elementary
- **Secondary Teacher of the Year:** Rachel

### LEFT

2020 Elementary Teacher of the Year Diana Smith with Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary principal Wendy Patterson and assistant principal Dr. Angela Randall.



- **Elementary Teacher of the Year:** Diana Smith, Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary
- **New Teacher of the Year:** Alexis Alaniz, Kohfeldt Elementary
- **Administrator of the Year:** Stephany Brown, La Marque Middle School
- **Professional Support Staff of the Year:** Sara Gonzalez, Blocker Middle School
- **Paraprofessional of the Year:** Reginald Toussant, La Marque Elementary
- **Nutrition Employee of the Year:** Hosana Medbery
- **Custodial Employee of the Year:** Lisa Craven
- **Maintenance Employee of the Year:** Alex Benavidez
- **Transportation Employee of the Year:** Billy Ray Russell

### RIGHT

2020 Secondary Teacher of the Year Rachel Barnett with Texas City High School principal Lincoln Hypolite.



SUMMER 2020



# BACK TO SCHOOL

*What you need to know to  
start the 2020-2021 school year*

*At press time, details on instructional options for the  
2020-2021 school year were not available.  
Visit [www.tcisd.org/coronavirus](http://www.tcisd.org/coronavirus) to read the latest.*

TELETYPE

# TEXAS CITY 2020-2021

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

LEARNING TODAY. LEADING TOMORROW.

P.O. BOX 1150, Texas City, TX 77590 | (409) 916-0100 | www.tcisd.org | f TCISD | Twitter TexasCityISD | Instagram texascityisd

JULY 2020							AUGUST 2020							SEPTEMBER 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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							30	31												

## LEGEND

- New Teacher/Staff Dev.
- Teacher Inservice
- Student/Staff Holiday
- Staff Dev. Day (No Classes)
- Parent Conference
- Early Release Day
- STAAR Testing
- Beginning of Nine Weeks
- End of Nine Weeks
- Summer Hours (Offices Closed)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug. 3-4 New Teacher/Staff Development
- Aug. 5-11 Teacher Inservice
- Aug. 12 First Day of School/ 1st Nine Weeks Begins
- Sept. 7 Labor Day Holiday
- Oct. 16 Parent Conferences (No Classes)
- Nov. 23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 8-11 STAAR Testing
- Dec. 17 Early Release Day
- Dec. 18-Jan. 1 Christmas Holiday
- Jan. 4-6 Staff Development (Student Holiday)
- Jan. 18 MLK Day Holiday
- March 15-19 Spring Break Holiday
- April 2-5 Easter Holiday
- April 6-9 STAAR Testing
- May 4-14 STAAR/STAAR EOC Testing
- May 26 Early Release Day/ Last Day of School
- May 27 Staff Development Day TCHS Graduation
- May 28 LMHS Graduation
- May 31 Memorial Day Holiday
- June 22-25 STAAR Testing Make-up

## SCHOOL TIMES

7:15 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
La Marque High School  
Texas City High School

7:25 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Blocker Middle School  
Woodrow Wilson DAEP

7:55 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Guajardo Elementary  
Hayley Elementary  
Heights Elementary  
Kohfeldt Elementary  
Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary  
Simms Elementary

8:35 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.  
Calvin Vincent Early Childhood  
Levi Fry Intermediate  
La Marque Middle School

\*STAAR testing dates are subject to change per TEA

\*\*In the event we have an extended break due to a pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year, Texas City ISD will make up days in June.



# 2019-2020 SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

- ☐ 1 box 24-count crayons (no fluorescent)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 8-count washable markers (no fluorescent)
- ☐ 2 boxes of facial tissues
- ☐ 2 8-oz. bottles school glue
- ☐ 4 glue sticks
- ☐ 2 boxes Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ 2 boxes Ziploc bags (gallon)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 6-inch paper plates (no Styrofoam)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 9-inch paper plates (no Styrofoam)
- ☐ 1 clear backpack (non-rolling) with child's name on straps only

## KINDERGARTEN

- ☐ 1 pair metal scissors
- ☐ 24 No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 4 large pink erasers
- ☐ 6 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- ☐ 4 8-oz. bottles school glue
- ☐ 8 glue sticks
- ☐ 2 pkgs. asst. construction paper, 12x18
- ☐ 2 pkgs. manila paper, 12x18
- ☐ 1 plastic school supply box
- ☐ 1 3-ring pencil pouch
- ☐ 1 spiral notebook, wide-ruled (70-count)
- ☐ 2 plastic folders with pockets and brads
- ☐ 2 pkgs. dry erase markers
- ☐ 1 pkg. 8-count washable markers
- ☐ 2 yellow highlighters
- ☐ 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- ☐ 2 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- ☐ 1 pkg. baby wipes
- ☐ Girls: 1 pkg. brown paper lunch bags
- ☐ 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- ☐ Boys: 1 pkg. 9-inch paper plates
- ☐ 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)

## 1ST GRADE

- ☐ 1 pair metal scissors
- ☐ 24 No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 4 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- ☐ 2 8-oz. bottles school glue
- ☐ 1 pkg. assorted construction paper, 9x12
- ☐ 1 pkg. manila paper, 12x18
- ☐ 1 plastic school supply box
- ☐ 8 glue sticks
- ☐ 4 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled
- ☐ 2 highlighters
- ☐ 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- ☐ 2 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 4 pink erasers
- ☐ 2 8-oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- ☐ 4 vinyl folders with pockets
- ☐ 4 dry erase markers
- ☐ Girls: 2 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)

## 2ND GRADE

- ☐ 1 pair pointed scissors
- ☐ 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 3 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- ☐ 8 glue sticks
- ☐ 1 ruler
- ☐ 4 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled (70-count)
- ☐ 1 pkg. of notebook paper, wide-ruled
- ☐ 6 dry erase markers, black
- ☐ 8 pink erasers
- ☐ 1 zipper pouch
- ☐ 1 binder, 1-inch (white preferred)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 5-count dividers
- ☐ 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- ☐ 4 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 2 8-oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- ☐ 2 vinyl folders with pockets and brads
- ☐ Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ 1 pkg. asst. construction paper, 9x12
- ☐ one-piece swimsuit
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- ☐ 1 pkg. manila paper (9x12)
- ☐ one pair swim trunks

## 3RD GRADE

- ☐ 1 pair pointed scissors
- ☐ 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 1 pencil pouch
- ☐ 4 pink erasers
- ☐ 2 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- ☐ 4 glue sticks
- ☐ 3 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled
- ☐ 3 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- ☐ 1 pkg. asst. construction paper
- ☐ 1 pkg. manila paper
- ☐ 1 pkg. index cards
- ☐ 1 box colored pencils
- ☐ 1 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- ☐ 2 composition books
- ☐ 2 red pens
- ☐ 2 yellow highlighters
- ☐ 2 dry erase markers
- ☐ 5 vinyl folders with pockets and brads
- ☐ 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- ☐ 4 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- ☐ Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (sandwich)
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)

## 4TH GRADE

- ☐ 1 pair pointed scissors
- ☐ 6 boxes of No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 2 boxes 24-count basic color crayons
- ☐ 6 glue sticks
- ☐ 2 pkgs. of highlighters
- ☐ 1 pkg. red pens
- ☐ 3 composition notebooks
- ☐ 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- ☐ 1 school supply pouch

- ☐ 1 box map pencils
- ☐ 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- ☐ 4 pocket folders with brads
- ☐ 2 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- ☐ 1 pkg. dry erase markers
- ☐ 1 backpack (non-rolling)
- ☐ 3 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 1 8-oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- ☐ Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ 1 pkg. large construction paper
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- ☐ 1 pkg. manila paper

## 5TH GRADE

- ☐ 1 pkg. construction paper
- ☐ 5 folders with pockets and brads
- ☐ 1 pkg. map pencils
- ☐ 6 pkgs. No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 2 pkgs. blue or black ink pens
- ☐ 1 pencil pouch
- ☐ 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- ☐ 2 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- ☐ 5 spiral notebooks
- ☐ 2 composition notebooks
- ☐ 3 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 2 dry erase markers, black
- ☐ 1 handheld pencil sharpener
- ☐ 1 bottle of glue
- ☐ 4 pkgs. index cards
- ☐ 1 student scissors
- ☐ 1 3-ring binder, 1-inch
- ☐ Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)

## 6TH GRADE

- ☐ 5 folders with pockets and brads
- ☐ 2 pkgs. map pencils
- ☐ 1 pkg. blue or black ink pens
- ☐ 6 pkgs. No. 2 pencils
- ☐ 2 pkgs. pencil cap erasers
- ☐ 6 pkgs. notebook paper, wide-ruled
- ☐ 8 spiral notebooks
- ☐ 2 pkgs. index cards
- ☐ 3 large boxes facial tissue
- ☐ 1 handheld pencil sharpener
- ☐ 1 bottle of glue
- ☐ 1 wooden ruler
- ☐ 2 dry erase markers, black
- ☐ Girls: 1 box Ziploc bags (gallon)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 9x12 construction paper
- ☐ Boys: 1 box Ziploc bags (quart)
- ☐ 1 pkg. 12x18 construction paper

## 7TH-12TH GRADES

☐ Students will need notebook paper, pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, folders and binders. Specific teacher supply lists will be provided on the first day of school.

*\* Additional supplies may be requested by the teacher on the first day of school. Please send all supplies at one time. Put your child's name on all outdoor clothing and backpack straps. Supplies should be replaced throughout the year. Rolling backpacks are not acceptable.*

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

When severe weather conditions or other factors pose a threat to normal school operations, the superintendent will evaluate the hazards and, prior to the school day, determine if school will be held.

If school is canceled, area radio and television stations will receive updated information concerning school closings or altered schedules from TCISD school officials.

### INFORMATION

Monitor the following media sources for emergency information about TCISD schools:

- Radio: KTRH (740 AM)
- TV: All major Houston networks
- Web: [www.tcisd.org](http://www.tcisd.org)
- E-News: Sign up for the district's weekly e-newsletter.
- Social Media: Like Texas City ISD on Facebook or follow us on Twitter, @TexasCityISD

### WHEN THERE IS A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

The decision to shelter-in-place or evacuate will depend on whether the chemical is toxic, producing toxic fumes or flammable, as well as the direction and strength of the wind. Following the decision of the emergency coordinator to shelter-in-place or evacuate, bus transportation will be mobilized as needed.

There is the possibility of legal ramifications if an individual violates the shelter-in-place procedure (Criminal Trespassing, Texas Penal Code, Section 30.05; Disruption, Texas Education Code, Section 31.123; and Class C misdemeanors).

### WHEN WEATHER WORSENS DURING THE DAY

If schools do open and weather conditions worsen during the day, schools will not be closed early since the vast majority of Texas City ISD's students come from households where both parents work. If school were dismissed early, those children would go home to empty households during a dangerous weather situation. They are much safer at school where they will be supervised until dismissal.

Whenever road conditions allow buses to run safely, drivers will deliver students to the established bus stops. If buses cannot enter a subdivision because of road conditions, parents may meet the bus at the main road and escort their children home.

If weather conditions make all roads impassable, students will remain at the schools and will be well

## IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.



### LOCKOUT

Everyone come indoors and all exterior doors are locked. Business inside the building carries on as usual.



### LOCKDOWN

Everyone moves out of sight, remains silent, and does not open any doors. All interior and exterior doors are locked.



### EVACUATE

Teachers will lead students to the evacuation location. Students can bring their phones but leave all other belongings behind.



### SHELTER

During a weather or industrial hazard, students and teachers will seek shelter inside the buildings and follow proper procedures for the event. If the event is related to an industrial scenario, parents may not be able to come inside the building once it is ordered on shelter-in-place.



### HOLD

Everyone will remain in their classrooms until an "all clear" is given. Teachers will close and lock classroom doors. It will be business as usual within the classroom.

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supervised, warm, dry and fed until they can be transported home or until their parents come for them. Parents may, of course, pick up their children at any time during a bad weather situation in accordance with district procedures.

## NUTRITION BITES

### REDUCED APPLICATION

Your student may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Parents need only complete one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals application for all students in their household. Return the completed application to the Simpson Education Support Center, 1700 Ninth Ave. N., Texas City, TX 77590 or apply online at [texascity.healtheliving.net](http://texascity.healtheliving.net).

### ONLINE MEAL PAYMENTS

Online payments are a simple, safe and secure way to make payments to your student's account 24 hours a day. Use Lunch Money Now to deposit pre-paid funds into student meal accounts online with a credit card. Parents can check the balance of their child's account, and students don't have to worry about forgetting or losing money. Parents can even sign up to get emails when the account is getting low: [texascity.healtheliving.net](http://texascity.healtheliving.net).





# NEW BEGINNINGS

*Construction continues on three new campuses,  
opening set for January 2021*

Texas City ISD is scheduled to open three new schools in January 2021 barring any setbacks on the manufacturing of necessary supplies due to the pandemic.

Hayley Elementary and Simms Elementary will house approximately 570 students at each school in grades kindergarten through 5th grade. Students who were previously zoned to La Marque Primary and La Marque Elementary will be attending these two new schools.

Patti Martin, who is the principal currently at La Marque Primary, will be

the principal at Hayley. Sharon Williams, who is the current principal of La Marque Elementary, will be the principal at Simms. In addition, a new Guajardo Elementary School is being built as a replacement for the current building which operates as a kindergarten through 4th grade campus. Debbie Fuller returns as principal.

“We are very excited about the opening of our new schools,” says Deputy Superintendent Susan Myers. “I believe these three elementary schools will bring a lot of pride to the La Marque and Texas City community, our students, staff and

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parents.”

The interiors will use uplifting colors primarily of blue, orange, yellow and green. Each grade level will be in their own pod with a flex space that can be used for science experiments or large group lessons or programs. The library/multi-media center is prominently in the center of the school for easy access for all students.

It will feature, Makerspaces, a collaborative space where students gather to get creative with DIY projects, invent new ones and share ideas. TCISD libraries are the ideal place for this collaboration. The music room is near the gymnasium so that students can easily

access the stage from the classroom for programs.

“We cannot wait to move into our new schools,” Myers says. “I know the students and teachers are going to love their new learning environments.” An open house will be set at a later date when the schools are ready so that the community can come and see the new campuses.

Architects are currently working on plans for a new La Marque Middle School. Three of the four La Marque campuses were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. Citizens approved a bond election in 2018 that called for the building of these new schools.

### PREVIOUS PAGE

Simms Elementary teachers sign a beam that will be part of the construction above the school's library doors.

### RIGHT

Jason Hayley and Jane Hayley, the son and wife of Jimmy Hayley, the namesake of the new Hayley Elementary leave a message for its students.

### BELOW

The family of longtime TCISD board member Manuel Guajardo Jr. at the beam signing for the new Guajardo Elementary.





# SUPERINTENDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

*This award promotes academic excellence and recognizes students who demonstrate exemplary academic scholarship in grades 6-12. Students must maintain an A average for every course each semester, meet attendance requirements each semester and maintain an excellent discipline record in order to receive the award. The Academic Achievement Award recipients are listed with the number of years they have received the award.*

## 12TH GRADE

Jared Aceves, 3  
Jonathan Alvarez, 1  
Kara Amos, 1  
Joshua Azagidi, 2  
Abbigaile Bacon, 1  
Cassie Bailey, 5  
Shane Baker, 2  
Daisie Bottoms, 2  
Nathan Brooks, 5  
Elizabeth Carter, 6  
Kristopher Castro, 3  
Jordyn Cheatham, 5  
Isabella Dekelaita, 1  
Naomi Edwards, 7  
Karen Fabela Gutierrez, 1  
Dennis Flores, 2  
Katherine Foreman, 7  
Emilio Garza, 5  
Alondra Gonzalez Martinez, 3  
Mykenzie Gorom, 7  
Ashley Guajardo, 1  
Dulce Guerrero Lopez, 3  
Jade Guice, 3  
Kevin Harvey, 1  
Trevor Hooks, 4  
Katriel Ivy, 3  
Ariana Ivy, 6  
Deborah Jaeger, 1

Kayla James, 1  
Isabela Johnston, 4  
L'erique Jones, 2  
Evan Landrum, 7  
Kwame Lee Jr., 1  
A'Shanti Lewis, 1  
Julisa Macedo, 2  
Andrew Martin, 1  
Esmeralda Martinez, 8  
Jasmine Maxey, 1  
Donyae Narido, 2  
Daniel Nguyen, 6  
Francisco Ortega-Paz, 1  
Juneilee Ortiz Rivera, 1  
Jeanne Petit, 1  
Emily Prada, 4  
Nathan Quinonez, 1  
Angela Quintero, 3  
Kevin Recarte, 6  
Joseph Reed, 1  
Angel Reyes Bustos, 4  
Armando Rubio, 1  
Sofia Salinas, 4  
Brayden Schurwon, 5  
Aja Sherwood, 4  
Rashaun Smith, 5  
Christian Sumlin, 1  
Emmanuel Swain, 1  
Aaliyah Torres, 4

Brayden Torres, 6  
Mya Vaughn, 1  
Jasmine Walker, 1  
Alayah Washington, 3  
Marina White, 2  
Corday Williams, 1  
Luis Windom, 2  
Paige Wyles, 1

## 11TH GRADE

ReAnn Arnold, 3  
Andrea Britton, 2  
Kawika Burnett, 4  
Christian Clay, 1  
Jadyn Cortez, 3  
Braelyn Crawford, 1  
Jovany De La Garza, 3  
Fernando De Los Santos, 1  
Davionna Driscoll, 1  
Corbin Duke, 6  
Kyla Earl, 2  
Samantha Eguia, 5  
Ayuna Ejiri, 1  
Jose Espinosa Rios, 1  
Christa Fowler, 7  
Grace Fox, 1  
Noah Fox, 1  
Sebastian Fuentes, 5  
Madelynn Gallagher, 2

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## TELETYPE

Madeline Goetschius, 1  
Austin Guerra, 1  
Isaac Haralson, 2  
Olivia Henry, 1  
Skylar Hernandez, 6  
Emily Hudnall, 7  
Lauren Hudnall, 1  
Joshua Ivy, 3  
Haley James, 1  
Makayla Jaramillo, 3  
Keira Johnson, 1  
Italeigh Kelley, 1  
Brenda Landis, 3  
Joseph Ledesma, 1  
Kendall Lewis, 2  
Baylie Leyva, 1  
Kadrien Lockett-Pettiett, 1  
Leyda Lucio, 3  
Adrian Martinez, 1  
Angelica Martinez, 1  
Isait Martinez, 2  
Kristy Martinez, 2  
Dorian Mathews, 1  
Peter Mazzearella, 1  
Nakavia McDaniel, 3  
Jules Meadows, 2  
Breanna Ministerio, 1  
Montgomery Mitchell, 3  
Angelica Moran, 1  
Samuel Moreno, 1  
Amy Murphy, 3  
Aydia Nash, 2  
Amy Nichols, 7  
Sundos Nofal, 4  
Gerardo Orea, 1  
Tavery Ortiz, 3  
Maximus Peck, 2  
Alejandra Perez Galvez, 1  
Cara Piazza, 7  
Leonardo Rabago, 4  
Gabiella Ramirez, 3  
Jayda Ramirez, 1

Tisoc Ramirez Jr., 2  
Reymundo Ramos III, 1  
Serenity Reeves, 7  
Cole Robinson, 5  
Paris Rodriguez, 1  
Valerie Romero, 2  
Iliana Ruiz, 5  
Pinyada Sawangwisarn, 1  
Sydney Schaefer, 5  
Rayven Schloss, 4  
Jonathan Silvas, 3  
Johnia Smithers, 1  
Amber Steber, 5  
Jurnee Taylor, 2  
Amanda Valdez, 7  
Danea Verdun, 1  
Adam Wadding, 5  
Madison Waldrop, 4  
Holly Walker, 6  
Leah Walker, 3  
Camren Williams, 2  
Caitlin Wilson, 5  
Emily V. Woods, 2  
Amauri Wyatt, 6  
Hunter Yancey, 2  
David Zelaya Morales, 5

### 10TH GRADE

Elijah Ancira, 2  
Eduardo Barragan, 1  
Claudia Belle, 1  
India Brown, 2  
Ashley Brown, 2  
Jauron Butler, 2  
James Caldera, 1  
Heaven Casey, 1  
Tavagoh Cockrell Jr., 2  
Jordan Davis, 4  
Leianni Delgado, 1  
Sherlyn Duarte, 1  
Danielle Dunkel, 1  
Charlotte Esther, 1  
Marissa Fernandez, 3

Alessandra Garza, 3  
Aaliyah Goins, 2  
Asia Goins, 3  
Haley Gomez, 1  
Jamal Gray, 1  
Sydney Gray, 1  
Cody Gregurek, 3  
Vernasia Henderson, 2  
Madison Howell, 4  
Kaitlin Ivy, 2  
Aiden Jackson, 1  
Kiley Johnson, 1  
De'Ashia Jones, 2  
Jordan Jones, 2  
Hunter Jordan, 1  
Judy Jules, 2  
Maia Kinzer, 1  
Bethany Lagunas, 1  
Alana Lee, 1  
Christopher Lopez, 3  
Peyton Marett, 2  
Yazmin Martinez, 2  
C'ierra McNeal, 2  
Nyomi Ministerio, 2  
Abbey Olson, 2  
Mariah Ortega, 1  
Paulo Ortega Del Rio, 1  
Tanner Park, 1  
Sadie Parnell, 2  
Brooklyn Peek, 3  
Elijah Ramirez, 6  
Harold Recarte, 6  
Alaysia Roy, 3  
Jose Salas Jr., 2  
Bogdana Semchenko, 6  
Aurionna Simmons, 3  
Chloe Smith, 2  
Alberto Solis, 1  
Jessica Spahr, 2  
Desiree Thompson, 1  
Maribel Valdez, 5  
Anastasia Vela, 1

Johnny Venegas, 1  
Emily Vicente, 2  
Isabella Waggoner, 4  
Kyle Wolfe, 2  
Dina Wyatt, 2

### 9TH GRADE

Paige Adams, 1  
Julia E. Alaniz, 5  
Kyndell Bell, 1  
Wyatt Brasher, 1  
Isaiah D. Cadriel, 3  
Haleigh Caldera, 2  
Bailee Chambers, 2  
Karlee Chapman, 1  
Ty Clark, 5  
Isabelle Clifford, 1  
Ian M. Cortez, 3  
Savannah Dean, 1  
Angelina Galicia, 1  
Juan Garcia Rodriguez, 1  
Vivian Garms, 1  
Vanessa Gonzales, 2  
Kylie Herm, 3  
Onesimo E. Hernandez, 2  
Melony Hutchinson, 1  
Keira Lewis, 1  
Leah Lillie, 5  
Emie McCoy, 1  
Minenaya Moore, 1  
Carys Morris, 2  
Holden Musick, 2  
Reagan Musick, 3  
Anthony Nguyen-Martin, 2  
Eric Ovalle, 4  
Alexis R. Pate, 3  
Libny Paxtor Gomez, 1  
Viktor Rodriguez, 1  
Brooklyn Saffold, 2  
David Salinas Ramos, 1  
Joleen Sonnier, 1  
Grace Stidhem, 1  
Lily Temple-Dozier, 1

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## SUMMER 2020



LMHS VALEDICTORIAN  
Katriel Ivy



TCHS VALEDICTORIAN  
Elizabeth Carter

Yesenia Villatoro-Rivera, 1  
Corye Winston, 1

### 8TH GRADE

Giselle Alcala, 4  
Marian Ashcraft, 4  
Miguel Campos II, 3  
Chelsey Chavez Guzman, 1  
Karla Fabela, 4  
Tanieka Francis, 1  
Morgan Guerra, 4  
Pete Hipp, 4  
Nathan Hudnall, 4  
Anson Johnson Jr., 1  
Legend Kuate, 4  
Azalea Longoria, 4  
Jadan Mallya, 1  
Lily Melchor, 4  
Jeremy Monroy, 1  
Jalyn Murray, 2  
Ahmad Nofal, 2  
Andrew Pham, 3  
Joseph Slocum, 1  
Nicole Spriggs, 4

Andre Thompson, 1  
Madison Tucker, 4  
Augustine Veliz, 1  
Breeanna Wilson, 3  
Ethan Zepeda, 4

### 7TH GRADE

Isabella Allred, 3  
Jordyn Argo, 1  
Kaleb Bentley, 3  
Dane Bergvall, 1  
Joseph Blakeman, 1  
Justyce Brown, 1  
Ashlynn Calvert, 3  
Shailyn Christian, 1  
Vanessa Cidrian, 1  
Myla Crable, 2  
David Fuentes III, 3  
Desirae Gauna, 3  
Cade Hatfield-Robinson, 3  
Kori Howard-Muhammad, 1  
Devin Kincaid, 3  
Jurnee Lee, 2  
Samuel Levesque, 1

Kiara Lindsey, 1  
Zachary McCarty, 1  
Sophia Ministerio, 3  
Gabriel Ortega, 1  
Abigail Owens, 2  
Madison Owens, 2  
Caybree Presley, 1  
Derek Rodriguez, 3  
Jayda Rodriguez, 3  
Ava Rojas, 3  
Aaliyah Stewart-Rosendahl, 3  
Melanie Surovik, 3

### 6TH GRADE

Aideyn Astorga, 1  
Audrina Benavides, 2  
Savanna Blaine, 1  
Jordan Cortez-Squier, 2  
Debanny Cruz Arellano, 2  
Kelsey Daily, 1  
Adrian DeLeon, 1  
Tori Elizondo, 2  
Nathaniel Fox, 2  
Bralyn Harris, 1

Randi Henderson, 2  
Andrew Hipp, 1  
Elissa James, 2  
Aviana Jaramillo, 2  
Aidan Martinez, 1  
Alesandro Martinez, 2  
Erick Martinez, 2  
Jenna Mayor, 2  
Hayden Milner, 2  
Adan Morales, 2  
Connor Morgan, 2  
Diana Ochoa, 2  
Logan Pedraza, 2  
Amaiya Perez, 1  
Jackie Perez, 1  
Simon Roberts, 2  
Patience Salusbury, 2  
Kassidy Scanlon, 1  
Kelly Stidhem, 1  
Abby Stokes, 2  
Aviaunce Tillman, 2  
Vanessa Vy, 1  
Jamelia Wallace, 2

*Texas City ISD and its students continued a tradition of excellence this school year by earning prestigious awards in many areas.*

**TCISD HONORED WITH BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION DESIGNATION**

Texas City ISD was honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. TCISD provides music programs from the elementary level to high school. Band and choir are introduced at the intermediate level with additional options beginning in middle school and continuing through high school such as show choir, jazz band, vocal jazz and mariachi.

**MARCHING BANDS EARN EXCELLENT RATINGS AT UIL COMPETITION**

Both the Texas City High School Sting Marching Band and the La Marque High School Cougar

Marching Band earned excellent ratings at the UIL Region 17 and Region 13 contests, respectively. This was the first time in over 10 years that the Cougar band had received an excellent rating at UIL.

**THREE TCHS STUDENTS MAKE REGION ORCHESTRA**

Two Texas City High School students earned places in the Region Orchestra. Kaitlyn Rodriguez earned first chair piccolo and Fernando De Los Santos earned fourth chair trumpet. David Salinas-Ramos also received first chair trombone in the 9th grade Region competition.

**▼ FIVE BLOCKER STUDENTS PLACE AT ALL-DISTRICT, ALL-REGION CONTESTS**

Blocker Middle School had five students who placed at the All-District and All-Region band competition. Earning All-District honors were Alexandra Rodriguez on clarinet and Daren Maris on trombone. Nicole

Spriggs and Ashlyn Fountain earned second chair and eighth chair, respectively, on flute in the All-Region Concert Band while Max Pickett earned eighth chair on trumpet.



**▲ WEBB PLACES EIGHTH IN ALL-REGION BAND**

Out of 55 trumpet players, La Marque High School's Jabarie Webb placed eighth overall at the All-Region band auditions and earned a chair in the All-Region symphonic band.

**LMHS, TCHS ARTISTS DESIGN TCISD CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Texas City ISD annually holds a Christmas Card art contest among the schools. The district selected two art pieces to turn into Christmas cards for 2019. This year's art was created by Rylie McCarty, an 11th grade student at La Marque High School, and Katy Garcia, an 11th grade student at Texas City High School. Their art teachers are Joan Finn and Megan Carpenter.

**FOUR LMMS STUDENTS SELECTED FOR REGION BAND**

Four La Marque Middle School students were selected for the Region 13 band. Maxwell Sajna earned sixth chair in the concert band on clarinet and Katherine Castro-Ramos earned second chair in the symphonic band on flute. Cindy Salas earned third chair in the wind ensemble on flute while Diego Mendez earned first chair in the wind ensemble on alto saxophone. This is the third year in a row that LMMS has had a first-chair selection at region competition.

**19 BLOCKER CHOIR STUDENTS EARN SPOTS IN REGION CHOIRS**

Nineteen Blocker Middle School students earned a spot in the Region choirs after competing in the region choir auditions. Mixed choir honors included Chelsea Chavez, River Dickman (first chair), Priscilla Doelitsch, Desean Johnican, Azalea Longoria (first chair), Michael Piazza and Zoey Reynolds. Treble choir honors included Emily Brown, Carissa Carpenter, Myla Crable, Maddy Cruz, Mikela Kane, Mya Miranda, Kara Nicholson, Angellynn Schurchardt, Aaliyah Stewart-Rosendahl, Melanie Torres, Madison Tucker and Jessalyn Valdez.

The students performed before a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their Region to compete against







musicians from other areas in eight TMEA Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged at the TMEA Area competitions qualify to perform in a TMEA All-State music group. Only the top 2.5 percent of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians.

## ▲ FIVE TCHS STUDENTS MAKE TMEA ALL-STATE

The Texas City High School Sting Band had three All-Staters this year. Aaron Cantu, tenor saxophone, placed in the TMEA Jazz Ensemble. Leonardo Rabago, euphonium, placed first chair and Fernando De Los Santos, trumpet, placed fifth chair at area and earned spots in the TMEA All-State Band. These students traveled to San Antonio in February for TMEA to perform in a concert.

Two Texas City High School choir members made the All-State Choir for 2020. Micah Lozano placed in the Texas All-State Tenor/Bass Choir and Angelica Moran placed in the Texas All-State Treble Choir. They sang with the Texas All-State Choirs in San Antonio.

All-State students are selected through a process that begins with over 70,000 students from around the state vying for this honor to perform in one of 15

ensembles (bands, orchestras, and choirs). Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their Region to compete against musicians from other areas in eight TMEA Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged at the TMEA Area competitions qualify to perform in a TMEA All-State music group. Only the top 2.5 percent of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians.

## ▼ LMMS CHOIR STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP RATINGS AT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Three La Marque Middle School students received top ratings at UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. Abrianna

Frenchwood and Lania Hill earned excellent ratings and Hailey Dougherty earned a superior rating. Participating students had to learn, memorize and perform either a solo or an ensemble piece in classical form in front of a judge. This is the first time in more than three years that LMMS has competed at this level.

## EIGHT TCISD STUDENTS WIN HLSR ART CONTESTS

Eight TCISD students won area Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo art contests to have their artwork on display in the Hayloft Gallery at the HLSR. Karen Fabela Gutierrez's "Broken" won Best of Show in the High School Division. Her teacher is Desiree Haddock at Texas City High School. Sierra Rotar's "A Herder's Breakdown" won a Gold Medal in the High School Division. Her teacher is Jennifer Massie at Texas City High School. Bogdana Semchenko's "Cabin in the Woods" received a Gold Medal in the High School Division. Her teacher is Megan Carpenter at Texas City High School. Rylie McCarty's "Hermosa Calavera" (Beautiful Skull) received Special Merit. Her art teacher is Joan Finn at La Marque High School. Gilberto Flores' "The Lonely Cow" won Best of Show in the Junior High Division. His teacher is Lola Rios at Blocke

Middle School. Nathan Hudnall's "Country Road" won a Gold Medal in the Junior High Division. His teacher is Lola Rios from Blocker Middle School. Sterling Mistretta's "Barn Horse" won Best of Show for the Elementary Division. Sterling's teacher is Kelly Kelemen at Levi Fry Intermediate. Zoey Lillie's "Western Chicken" won a Gold Medal in the Elementary Division. Her teacher is Kelly Kelemen at Levi Fry Intermediate.

## LMHS CHOIR STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP RATINGS AT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Four La Marque High School soloists qualified for the state level of UIL Solo & Ensemble competition. Jaaron Butler, Kendric Henderson, Alaysia Roy and Tamia Davis earned superior ratings and advanced to the state competition. In addition, Tai'Yera Clayton also received a superior rating and an ensemble of Butler, Amaurie Captain, Lennart Brummer, Henderson, Davis, Clayton, Brandi Cain, Roy, and Sadie Parnell received an excellent rating.

## LMHS BAND STUDENTS EARN SUPERIOR RATINGS AT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Seven members of the La Marque High School band received superior ratings at the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest. Two members advanced to state. State advancers are Kaila Sajna and Matthew Lewis.

## 16 TCHS CHOIR STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP RATINGS AT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Sixteen Texas City High School choir students received superior ratings at the UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. These students qualified to advance to the state solo and ensemble competition.



The advancing students included Kent Anderson, Shariya Anderson, Gabriel Clements, Ashley Guajardo, Demi Hildebrand, Keira Johnson, Seanna Johnson, Micah Lozano, Peyton Marett, Angelica Moran, Samuel Moreno, Mario Negron-Sweeney, Francisco Sandoval, Mitchell Tortorici, Victoria Valdez and Tucker Zarazua.

## ► TCISD ART PROGRAM NAMED DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION

Texas City ISD was among 20 winners of the Texas Art Education Association's District of Distinction Award. The district received the honor for providing well-rounded education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and reach all different learners. The award honors school districts that are leading the way in visual arts with outstanding leadership in promoting the arts in their district and community. The TAEA also looked at participation in competitions, field experiences, community service and community exhibitions to name a view as part of the rigorous rubric.



## ▲ LMHS ART STUDENT EARNS VASE GOLD MEDAL

LMHS junior Leonel Rubio received another Gold Medal at the adjudication for his artwork at the State VASE, Visual Arts

Scholastic Event. This year, 35,885 pieces of art were entered at the regional level. Of

in public speaking, decision making, communication and their knowledge of agriculture



those, 2,442 went to State, and of those, less than 1 percent received the highest rating of "4". "Tengo Papeles" (I have papers) is a linoleum block print on collaged handmade paper.

## TEXAS CITY FFA EARNS SECOND AT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Texas City FFA placed second at the Gulf Coast District Leadership Development events. Leadership Development events focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities

and the FFA organization. Team and individual events are used to reinforce what is taught in agricultural science classrooms. All LDE events have elimination rounds at the district and area before the state level competition. The team included Javonne Pool, Shane Baker, Kennedy Perez and Ginny Roth.

## FFA STUDENTS PLACE HIGH AT SANTA FE SHOWDOWN

Seven Texas City FFA students placed at the Santa Fe Showdown. Javonne Pool was named Senior Steer Showmanship Champion.

Brooke Madrigal placed third and Faith Alexander placed fifth in the American Steer Division. Kaylie Guzman placed second and Kylie Shaffer placed third in the British Steer Division. Javonne Pool and Kaylie Guzman placed second in the Exotic Steer Division while Kylie Shaffer placed third and Destiny Richardson placed fourth. Ashlynn Guzman placed second in the Star 5 Heifer Division.

## ▼ TCHS TAFE COMPETITORS EARN HIGHEST HONORS

Twelve Texas City High School students competed in the Texas Association of Future Educators State competition. There were over 120 schools from across the state who competed in various competitions where students had the opportunity to showcase their skills and knowledge about the education profession.

TCHS won six first place blue ribbons and one second place red ribbon. They also won a third place ribbon.

## Teacher Created Materials - Elementary

Echo Miller and Brie'lle Wilson, first place

## Project Visualize - Teaching

Echo Miller and Daniela Aguirre, first place





## SUMMER 2020

**Project Visualize - Fundraising**  
Kaitlyn Phillips and Anastasia Vela, first place

**Project Visualize - Appreciation**  
Jessica Bocanegra and Marisa Barrera, first place

**Interactive Bulletin Board - Elementary**  
Adriana Martinez and Jessica Bocanegra, first place

**Interactive Bulletin Board - Elementary**  
Daniela Aguirre, first place

**Interactive Bulletin Board - Middle School**  
Kaitlyn Dean, second place

**Chapter Yearbook**  
Violet Ridge, A'Mya Revilla and Brie'le Wilson, third place

### **RODRIGUEZ ADVANCES TO BPA STATE CONFERENCE**

Texas City High School's Kaitlyn Rodriguez participated in the Business Professional Association Regional Leadership Competition in Database Applications. She placed second and qualified for the BPA State Leadership Conference Competition.

### **TCHS DECA TEAM FINALS WITH BUSINESS PLAN**

Texas City High School had 13 students compete at the State DECA competition in Fort Worth. One team of Dylan Proctor, Wyatt Brasher and Camren Williams were finalists for their Independent Business Plan. They were also alternates for the International competition in Nashville.

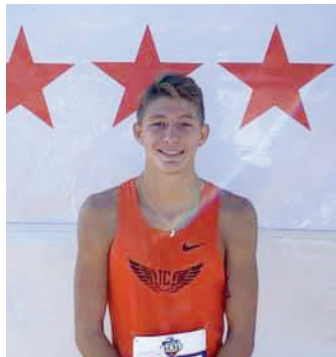
### **TCHS ROBOTICS QUALIFIES FOR VEX WORLDS**

A TCHS robotics team once again qualified for the VEX World Championships. TCHS Robotics competed in the Texas State Region 3 Championship where three TCHS teams out of a total 64 teams made it into the top 16 alliances. Team 590Z of Brayden

Schurwon, Joseph Reed and Daniel Nguyen made it into the semifinals, qualifying them for the VEX Worlds Championship.

### **TCHS SPEECH & DEBATE ADVANCE TO FORENSICS STATE COMPETITION**

Three Texas City High School competitors qualified for the Texas Forensics Association state-wide competition. Adrian Sendejas advanced in varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Brandon Collier and Jillian LeMaire advanced in varsity Cross Examination.



### **▲ STUNKARD SETS PERSONAL BEST AT STATE CROSS COUNTRY MEET**

Texas City High School senior Colton Stunkard set a personal record at the State Cross Country Meet placing 24th out of more than 100 runners. Stunkard bested his previous time (16:30) by nearly one minute with his 15:36 run at state.

### **LADY STINGS VOLLEYBALL HAS 12 NAMED TO DISTRICT**

The Lady Stings volleyball team returned to the playoffs and had 12 named to the District 22-5A All-District team. Coach Glenn Kennedy was named Coach of the Year and Macee Medina was named defensive player of the year.

First team honors were awarded to Hayley James and

Ashlynn Lewis, while second team honors went to Veronica Victoria and Bella Waggoner. Earning honorable mention honors were Zoe Johnston and Lexi Colon.

Eleven Lady Stings earned All-Academic honors, including Colon, Jayla Diaz-Medina, James, Johnston, Lewis, Medina, Aja Sherwood, Tahjea Smith, Victoria, Waggoner and Dylayna Zornes.

### **FOUR TCHS FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM**

Four Texas City High School varsity football players made the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Team for the 2019 season.

Rashaun Smith and Brayden Torres were named to the second team all-state team while Nikolas Fuentes and Corday Williams earned honorable mention honors. The teams were selected on a point system that awards points for grade point average, class rank and the SAT & ACT scores.

### **LMHS CLAIMS DISTRICT MVP IN ALL-DISTRICT FOOTBALL**

The La Marque High School Cougars claimed the MVP for District 11-4A football. Jauron Reid, Jr. was named the most valuable player for District 11-4A.

### **TCISD SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRING HOME MULTIPLE AWARDS FROM TOURNEY**

The TCISD Special Olympics competed in the Area 22 Bowling Tournament and brought home multiple awards. Junior high athletes Joshua Bostelman and Matthew Piazza both earned second place. High school athletes Michael Grubbs earned first place and Joshua Galloway earned second place. Joe Enrique and Kalyann

Gerhardt both earned third place and Kyle Arriola earned fourth place. Their coach is M.C. Giusti.

### **AQUASTINGS CLAIM TWO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The TCHS AquaStings claimed two district championships and advanced two other team relays to the regional swim meet. Mason White won first place in the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle. The girl's 200-meter medley relay team of Robyn Lechman, Vanessa Gonzalez, Reagan Begnaud and Adia Martinez placed fifth, as did the girl's 200-meter freestyle relay team of Gonzalez, Samantha Mounts, Karly Morris and Grace Stidhem.

### **LMHS BOYS BASKETBALL CAPS SEASON WITH RUN AT STATE PLAYOFFS**

The La Marque High School Cougar basketball team capped off a 32-7 season with a tough battle against top-ranked Jack Yates in the regional quarterfinals in the state basketball playoffs. The team has a district record of 8-0.

Jordan Ivy-Curry was named the District 24-4A Most Valuable Player as well as to the Houston Chronicle's All-Greater Houston first team. Edward Robinson III was named district defensive player of the year and Kevin Boone was named district newcomer of the year.

All-District first team honors were awarded to Jordan Ivy-Curry, Edward Robinson III, Kevin Boone and Willie Johns Jr. while second team honors went to De'Shawn Murphy and Terrence Cooper. Earning honorable mention honors were Keelan Norris, Brandon Jones and Roy Robinson.

Boone, Murphy and Cooper also earned All-Academic honors.

# A BIG SURPRISE

*TCISD Foundation for the Future awards teachers more than \$221,000 in grants*

Nothing beats a teacher's smile when they find out their classroom grants have been approved.

More than 65 classroom grants totaling over \$221,000 were awarded in December 2019 by the Texas City ISD Foundation for the Future to teachers for innovative classroom projects. Teachers use this grant money to purchase items to enhance learning in the classroom.

Over two days, the TCISD Foundation for the Future awarded grants to TCISD teachers to support a variety of inventive learning opportunities for students.

Just a highlight of the grants awarded include:

Levi Fry Intermediate's Gwen Dorsey wrote "Orffestrations of the Masters III" totaling \$5,764.92. This grant will support student learning at an advanced composition level. Students will be able to study classical composers and blues musicians and

will be challenged to play complex melodies and use higher lever thinking skills with professional tubular chromatic xylophone instruments.

Guajardo Elementary's Chasity Fuchs was awarded \$5,973 for "Help I'm Trapped in a Comic Book." This grant will enable students to read and analyze biographies of people who have impacted our world. Students will be able to create stories in comic book form about historic figures allowing space for critical thinking and creativity.

La Marque Primary's Robert Payne wrote "Pass Learning Store" for \$3,000. This grant will support a student-driven, incentive-based program for the PASS Program at La Marque Primary. On a weekly basis, the students' behaviors are monitored and tracked, and if they reach a preset mastery percentage (80%) for the week, they are able to participate in Fun Friday – a day of fun activities and academically enriching rewards.



LEFT

Levi Fry Intermediate teacher Deeanna Salenger received a \$2,294 grant for her animal adaptations project "Getting A Head."



RIGHT

La Marque High School teacher Tiffany Roberson received a \$948 grant for her "Accomplishing English" project.





## A DAY IN THE LIFE

*Deputy Superintendent Susan Myers helps  
lead district through unique circumstances*

Susan Myers' day can start at any time.

"When the day starts for anyone in our district, whether it's transportation, maintenance or our schools, my day will start with them because I'm one of their first contacts of communication," she says.

As Texas City ISD's deputy superintendent, Myers is typically the first point of contact for "exceptional" events that might throw a school day off schedule, like a weather event or facility issue. No day is typical, she says, and each one varies depending on the needs of just about anybody in the district.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Some days she's dedicated to spending time in the office, busy with meetings with staff and others to improve the curriculum and instruction in TCISD. On calmer days, she tries to schedule time to visit campuses and go into classrooms to see students learning and teachers working.

"Those are the great days," Myers says. "The best part, no matter how far you get from a classroom and a campus, is always going to be the kids."

Now in her 40th year in TCISD, Myers has served the district as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, a director and an assistant superintendent before taking on the role of deputy superintendent. After Superintendent Rodney Cavness' retirement announcement in March 2020, she assumed the role of interim superintendent – just as COVID-19 shut down schools for the remainder of the school year.

It's a role she calls a "problem-solving position."

"You just help people figure things out," she says. "I enjoy solving problems, so even though it's nerve-racking when you're in the middle of it, to be able to take a situation and walk through it with either a principal or a director or the other assistant superintendents and come to a solution is something I really like."

That problem-solving can often extend late into the evening. Most days, Myers and her staff don't wrap up their work until after 6:30 p.m. Then it's time to head home and curl up

with a good book.

"I would rather stay at work and get the work done than bring it home; I'll stay late so it's done," she says. "Of course, unless there's an emergency. Then it's not done."

No matter the emergencies and long days, Myers says she truly loves her job and the days she puts in, particularly working with campus principals and watching them come into their own and have the opportunity to lead a campus.

"I always tell the principals that it's going to be the hardest but the best job you'll ever have," she says. "So having that opportunity to work with the principals and watching them do their work is meaningful to me."

Myers says her favorite day of the year is graduation because it's the time when she gets to see the culmination of all the work that went in to every student and everyone – teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators – who put in the work for their accomplishments to see them cross that stage. After the abrupt halt to the 2019-2020 school year, it was particularly important for Myers to ensure that the Class of 2020 was able to have an in-person graduation ceremony.

"For me, it's always going to be about student success," she says. "Just getting to see the difference we make every day, not me specifically, but as a community of educators is pretty important. I believe in the mission of public schools and getting to be a part of that is really special."

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*Read more Day in the Life stories at [tcisd.org/dayinthelife](https://tcisd.org/dayinthelife)*



# OUR BOARD



**DISTRICT 1**  
Melba Anderson



**DISTRICT 2**  
Mable Pratt



**DISTRICT 3**  
Nakisha Paul



**DISTRICT 4**  
Bryan Thompson



**DISTRICT 5**  
Dickey Campbell



**DISTRICT 6**  
Hal Biery



**AT-LARGE**  
Dr. Nelson Juarez

## DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The policies established by the board, acting as a body, are executed by the administration of the schools. Trustees adopt a budget, which is necessary to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes to support the budget and submit bond issues to the district's community to finance construction projects. The board also appoints the superintendent as its chief executive officer.

## MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Regular meetings are scheduled

on the second Tuesday of each month and are held in the board room of the Simpson Education Support Center, 1700 Ninth Avenue N., in Texas City.

Board meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise designated. When necessary, the board schedules other public meetings — special meetings, emergency meetings, study sessions and work sessions — to conduct additional business and for in-depth study of programs and issues.



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#### NEW BEGINNINGS

Teachers at the new Hayley Elementary in La Marque sign a beam that will be used in the school's construction.

READ STORY, PAGE 21