



The Pirate Post

Pirate Band Marches to Area Competition

The La Vega High School Pirate Band's hard work and commitment earned them a trip to area competition on December 5th. The top six bands advance to state competition and the LVHS Pirate Band placed ninth out of 26 bands.

The band and color guard received a Superior rating at the UIL Region 8 marching band contest which was held on November 7th. It was only the fourth time in school history that the band achieved a Superior rating. The band performed a Jason Nitsch show called "Step into the Light" which had special effects and lighting that enhanced the production. The band consists of 120 students, but a total of 96 actually marched due to some students who have been taking part virtually.

The band and directors have had to deal with new safety protocols and extreme challenges this year but all of their hard work paid off. The LVISD Board of Trustees and Administration are very proud of their success this year.

Band staff members include Lindsay Pfaff, Director of Bands, and Assistant Directors David Sprinkle and Justin Vance. The Color Guard Director is Reagan Flournoy, and Percussion Technicians are Matt Dula, Will Sewell, and Alejandro Alvarino.



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Connect with LVISD

Up-to-date news and information about La Vega ISD can be found on the District's website and Facebook pages. Follow us on Facebook and bookmark La Vega ISD's website:

www.lavegaisd.org

Chloe McLellan Advances to State Cross Country Meet

La Vega High School 11th grader Chloe McLellan placed 9th in the regional cross country meet and qualified to participate in the state cross country meet on December 5th.

Chloe represented us well by running the 70th fastest time in the state.

The Board and Administration are proud of Chloe's amazing efforts in the La Vega High School cross country program this year.



"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all" — Aristotle

Special Days at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancalé Campus

Autumn and the fall semester mean it is time for special days such as Rodeo Day, Dress Like a Pirate Day, Johnny Appleseed Day, Mexican Independence Day, 50's Day, Storybook Character Day, along with lots of Christmas activities and Fun Fridays at the primary school campus. These special days are a tradition that the staff and students enjoy participating in year after year.



Yee-haw! Students in Francisco Jimenez's class had a great time celebrating Rodeo Day!



Traci Kimberling's students learned how applesauce is made.

What is AVID?

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), is a College Readiness System dedicated to preparing all students for college, career and other postsecondary choices.

La Vega ISD's AVID program begins in Pre-Kindergarten. At the 7-12 grade level the AVID program becomes a course that students enroll in and receive support in preparing college applications, taking college entrance exams, receiving tutoring, organizational skills, and making college visits. Students who select AVID as an elective class in grades 9-12, bond and support one another socially and emotionally.



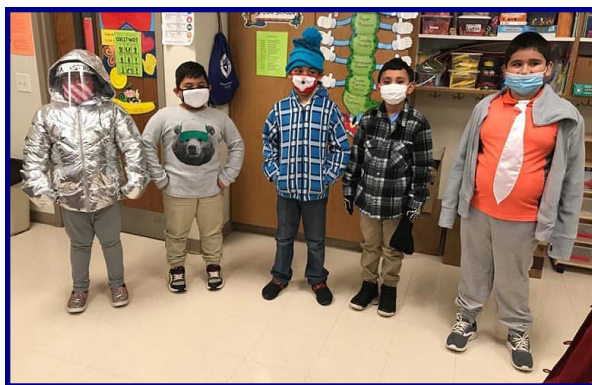
Dressed for college-bound success!

AVID offers a rigorous program of instruction in academic "survival skills" and college level readiness skills. The AVID program teaches students about organization, study skills, reading comprehension, communication, taking notes, and time management. Students also participate in collaborative study groups and tutorials.

The AVID approach to teaching and learning is designed to close and narrow three proficiency gaps that impact students and their learning: achievement, opportunity, and expectations. A higher percentage of AVID high school graduates enroll in college and more enroll in four year colleges. Students in the program commit themselves to improvement and preparation for college.

By teaching and reinforcing academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at a young age, AVID elementary teachers create a ripple effect in later grades. Elementary students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in middle school, high school, and college, in an age-appropriate and challenging way. The strong college-going culture on an AVID elementary campus encourages students to think about their college and career plans.

AVID at the secondary level equips teachers and schools with what they need to help students succeed on a path to college and career success by developing AVID elective courses. Students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses.



La Vega Elementary School students dress as their favorite career choices, including an astronaut, a Baylor Bear, lumberjacks, and the President.

Important Calendar Dates

Please note that the District revised the school calendar to include additional early release days for the 2020-2021 school year. These additional days will assist teachers in preparing for both remote and in-person instruction.

January 4 & 5—Staff Development, No Classes

January 18—MLK Holiday

February 3 - Early Release

February 15 & 16—Staff Development, No Classes

March 5 - Early Release

March 8 to 12—Spring Break

March 15—Staff Development, No Classes

March 24 - Early Release

April 2—Good Friday Holiday

April 14 - Early Release

April 28 - Early Release

May 14 - LVHS Graduation

May 25—Early Release and Last Day of School



La Vega Pirates Education Foundation

Did you know that La Vega ISD has a very successful Education Foundation?

The foundation gives thousands of dollars in grants to teachers every year! Funding for these grants helps to provide innovative programs and experiences for our students.

The foundation also goes above and beyond in honoring and celebrating the successes of our students, teachers, and our District..

Strong communities grow from strong schools – YOUR participation is vital to the continued success of our school district, its teachers and students.

The Executive Director for the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation is Allison Vrana.

For more information about the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation, check out their webpage on the LVISD Website.

To make a donation, you can pay online or send to:

La Vega Pirates Education Foundation
P. O. Box 154897
Waco, Texas 76715

Pirate Foundation Awards Grants

The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation awarded \$12,187.80 in grants on Monday, December 14th.

Growing Minds While Planting Seeds



Katie Alford and Angie Rosebure at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus were awarded \$2,555.70 for their grant Growing Minds While Planting Seeds.

This grant will be used to start a garden that can be utilized by all grade levels and extend student learning. Vegetables, herbs and flowers will be planted in above ground containers during each semester providing hands-on activities for students.

Warming Hearts Throughout the School One Cup at a Time



Ashley Rajkowski at La Vega Intermediate School H.P. Miles Campus was awarded \$1,055.43 for a grant written by Kristy Lamar for Warming Hearts Throughout the School One Cup at a Time. This grant is for a coffee cart for the special education classrooms to assist students in gaining exposure and experience to different careers and future opportunities in the community. Special Education classes will have the ability to have a working small business of specialized coffee to offer employees and staff at the Intermediate Campus. They will be able to learn how to run this new small business, calculate their expenses and profits and grow their business for future years.

Pirate Foundation Awards Grants

Up, Up, & Away



Diane Wilson at the Family Resource Center was awarded \$3,620.00 for Up, Up, & Away. This grant will provide 4 Dell desktop computers so that students in this program have access to a next-level technology computer lab in order to take dual credit college courses and/or certification courses. Most of the testing modules are not compatible with laptop computers and require a desktop to complete. This program serves La Vega ISD's most at-risk students and these desktops will allow access and opportunity for a clear pathway to a career or post-secondary options.

Learning to Fly

Chris Borland with La Vega ISD was awarded \$4,956.67 for his district-wide grant Learning to Fly. This grant would build a class set of 20 small indoor drones for use in classrooms. Each drone set will consist of a drone, multiple batteries, a charger, a handheld controller and a carrying case. This will allow for each set to transport from classroom to classroom and campus to campus. This project has the potential to move beyond the classroom and provide real world skills in a fun and challenging environment and gives students an introduction into coding. (*no picture was available at the time of print)

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Thank You!



Thanks to American Bank and their expansion of their All-Star Program by honoring four students from La Vega High School for their success not only on the field, but also in the classroom by making a donation to the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation. The students honored were: Marcus Willis, Chloe McLellan, Simitrio Ledesma and Ithzel Rubio. Thank you, American Bank, for honoring our students in this way!

Thank You!



The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation would like to thank the newly opened Bellmead Whataburger location for holding a Dine and Give lunch on December 9th. Proceeds from the event totaled \$865.23! These funds will be used to fund teacher grants this Spring! If your business is interested in a Dine & Give Back lunch or dinner – please contact Allison Vrana at:

allison.vrana@lavegaisd.org

La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Students Enjoy Escape Room Challenge

Students in Ryan Sparks' class at La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Campus had a "frightfully" good time doing an Escape Room Challenge on October 30th.



"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Don Hyde, Assistant Athletic Director and Head Football Coach, for being named one of the 2019-2020 State Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.



La Vega High School NJROTC Participates in Doris Miller Memorial Service

Members of the La Vega High School Navy ROTC lay a wreath at the base of the Doris Miller Memorial during a noon memorial service on the 79th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. A Waco native aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia, Miller carried his wounded captain to safety, rescued sailors from the water and shot at Japanese fighter planes with an anti-aircraft gun.



La Vega ISD Family Engagement Program



La Vega ISD recognizes that effective school-family partnerships are critical to student learning and success in school. Research shows that students receive the following benefits from a collaborative partnership with the school, the family and the community: higher grades and test scores, higher attendance and homework completion, fewer placements in special education, more positive attitudes and behavior, higher graduation rates, and greater enrollment in post-secondary education.

The gain for families includes: improved understanding of their child's development, improved ability to parent, improved ability to assist their children with school and learning, and improved relationships among all. The La Vega ISD Family Engagement Team is involved with supporting all campuses and establishing family partnerships. For information on how to become involved in this program or to find out about resources they provide, call 254-299-6743.

8th Graders at La Vega Junior High School Visit with LVHS Team

The 8th graders had a great visit with the La Vega High School Team to learn about all the awesome academic and career opportunities available beginning their 9th grade year. They also received information about Early College High School and P-TECH, or Pathways in Technology, both of which are free and offer college credit while in high school and fast track students to a future career. For more information about these programs, call 254-299-6820.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to two of our Early College High School Students for having their poetry published!

Ithzel Rubio, a senior, and Madison Lindell, a junior, got first and third in the McLennan Community College "Stone Circle" magazine poetry contest.



Madison Lindell



Ithzel Rubio

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La Vega High School Offering Free Income Tax Preparation Service

La Vega High School will be serving the Bellmead and Waco Communities this coming year by offering a free income tax preparation service.

The program is supported by the VITA Tax program, giving students the real world opportunity to provide free tax preparation for the. The program came to La Vega with the help of LVHS Teacher Dede Moore who has more than 13 years of experience running the program at four different schools.

The students who are part of the program receive multiple certifications from the federal government that give them the credentials to work in the program. Currently more than 30 students are certified to work and more are working for that certification daily.

The school will begin services starting January 21st and will work every Tuesday and Thursday through April 15th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

You need to bring a form of persona identification, your social security card, and your tax documents.

This service is completely free to the community. To get more information on the program go to www.lavegataxes.com