



The Pirate Post

Book Vending Machine Dedication



Students at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus now have access to a Bookworm Vending Machine that allows them to select books they can keep. Funding from the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation provided the vending machine that rewards pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students for attaining "BUG" status, which stands for "Behavior Unusually Good." Students use tokens received during regular meetings with teachers to "purchase" the books. The machine is highly visible in the hallway where students pass often, making it an incentive for students to be on their best behavior. The vending machine honors the memory of Lillian and Phil Bancale, both of whom

passed away last year. Mr. and Mrs. Bancale were well-known in the La Vega school community and avid reading volunteers on campus. Mr. Phil Bancale, the school's namesake, served on the La Vega ISD board for 43 years. Reading was very important to Mr. and Mrs. Bancale and this is a permanent fixture at the campus and a reminder of them and the special place they hold in the hearts of the La Vega family and community. H-E-B, American Bank, the Bancale Family, and La Vega ISD Superintendent Sharon Shields pledged funds to keep the vending machine supplied with books through May. The machine holds 144 books and has the capability to display both hardcover and paperback products. La Vega chose customized trays that showcase larger books filled with pictures. These books will become the student's own personal books for them to take home to build their at-home library collections. The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation and its executive director, Allison Vrana, were instrumental in getting the vending machine bought and delivered.

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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

La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Campus Students Graduate from Junior Policy Academy



The Junior Police Academy is a program for students at the intermediate school that inspires good citizenship through criminal justice education. It began in 2010 and is sponsored by the LVISD Police Department.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. – Malcolm X

La Vega High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Jerushalayim Guadarrama Perea, Valedictorian, is the daughter of Kerena and Jose Guadarrama. Her GPA is 4.63 and she is planning to attend the University of Texas at Arlington and major in Spanish. She has excelled academically and is a member of National Honor Society. In addition, she has participated in Band all four years of high school, culminating in leadership roles and competing at the state level three of her four years in high school. She is on track to graduate from McLennan Community College, prior to high school graduation.

Melinda Kiss, Salutatorian, is the daughter of Helen and Zoltan Kiss. Her GPA is 4.61 and she is planning to attend Tarleton State University and major in Business Administration. She has excelled academically and is a member of National Honor Society. She has received many academic awards, such as Honor Roll and Dean's Award. In addition, she participated in Band, holding leadership roles as section leader and a drum major. She has also competed at the State Solo and Ensemble contest the past three years. She is on track to graduate from McLennan Community College, prior to high school graduation.



Jerushalayim Guadarrama Perea (on left)
Valedictorian

Melinda Kiss
Salutatorian

Pirates Rowing Club

La Vega ISD is excited to have a new opportunity for our students! Competitive rowing is now a sport in the District.

The brand-new La Vega crew is the first school rowing team in McLennan County and is a new outreach of the Waco Rowing Center. The team will soon begin practicing at a boathouse the center has created on the Brazos River.

Three of our campuses held assemblies in April to introduce rowing to the students. Guests for the assemblies were Arshay Cooper, Dan Walsh, Luke Walton, and Matt Scheuritzel. Mr. Cooper, former captain of the first all-black high school rowing team in the Chicago area, told students the story of how rowing changed his life. With a life story that inspired dozens of La Vega students, Cooper re-counted growing up on the west side of Chicago without his father in his life. Mr. Cooper credits rowing with turning his life around. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Walton are former Olympic Team rowers who also inspired the students. Mr. Scheuritzel is the executive director at the Waco Rowing Center.

Manuel Gibson has been designated as the La Vega's on-site rowing coach and said after the assemblies about three dozen students expressed interest in rowing at the high school. He said another three to four dozen are interested at the middle school and the intermediate school.

The first multi-grade rowing practice was held on May 24th which included 60 students and 10 rowing machines.

La Vega ISD is partnering with the Waco Family YMCA to provide water safety classes for the rowers. Waco Family YMCA is part of YMCA of Central Texas. Funding for the swim safety program for La Vega ISD students is provided by the Madison Cooper Foundation.



Important Calendar Dates

Jul. 4 - Independence Day Holiday

Aug. 1 - New Teacher Orientation

Aug. 2-9 - Teacher Workdays

Aug. 10 - First Day of School

Sep. 5 - Labor Day Holiday

Sep. 29 - Student Holidays/
Teacher Workdays

Sep. 30 - Holiday

Oct. 10 - Holiday

Nov. 14 - Student Holidays/
Teacher Workdays

Nov. 21-25 - Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec. 16 - Early Release

Dec. 19 to Jan. 2 - Christmas
Holidays

Jan. 3-4 - Student Holidays/
Teacher Workdays

Jan. 16 - MLK Holiday

Jan. 27 - Student Holiday/
Teacher Workdays

Mar. 6-10 - Spring Break

Mar. 24 - Student Holiday/
Teacher Workday

Apr. 7 - Good Friday Holiday

May 24 - Early Release / Last
Day of School

May 25 - Teacher Workday

May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday

June 19 - Juneteenth Holiday



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

Education Foundation Grant Awards

The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation Board Members and liaisons awarded eleven grants totaling \$57,445.30 on April 26th. Congratulations to all of the winners! We are excited to see these grants in action.

Writing in Style

Writing in Style is awarded to Jessica Medina and the Kindergarten team of Connie Holmes, Kathy Plummer, Teresa Gonzalez, Emma Ramirez, and Karye Maine at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus. This grant awards \$6,599.34 to purchase 244 stylus pens for each Kindergarten student to use with their iPad. This grant will assist students across all content areas and help them improve their pencil grip, fine motor skills and provide support in practicing writing as they form letters and numbers.

Slipping Past the Summer Slide

Slipping Past the Summer Slide is awarded to Lisa Seawright and Janet Jones. This grant awards \$3,050.89 to assist incoming Pre-K students and their families by putting literature in their hands over the summer. This project should increase exposure for students to vocabulary, story comprehension, math and science concepts as well as social-emotional well-being. It will also help with “the summer slide.” Each book bundle contains five books, three in English and two in dual language English and Spanish along with projects that families can do in relation to the stories.

The Treasure Chest

The Treasure Chest is awarded to LaRonda Benson, Beth Aldridge, Amber Lewis and Nancy Muhammad for the purchase, installation and filling of books for a book vending machine at the La Vega Intermediate School H.P. Miles Campus. This grant totaling \$7,083.57 is for the entire campus and will be used as an incentive to promote Positive Behavioral Interventions, show growth with student reading levels, boost student morale and achieve better academic and behavioral goals. This is a great initiative for the campus because students here love to read, yet many students have a limited number of books at home. 333 books will also be purchased to get the machine filled and ready to use!

Genrefication of the Library

Genrefication of the Library awards \$5,598.00 to the La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus for Melonie Normandin to use to reorganize the campus library. Arranging fiction by genre can help students and teachers find what they want to read for fun or for a class assignment more easily. Identifying titles by genre will also show any gaps in titles or collections, so more materials or popular genres can be expanded and ordered. This will be no small undertaking as 6000 books are reorganized in 20 genre sections. We can’t wait to see the finished product!

Filling in the Literary Blanks

Filling in the Literary Blanks will provide \$2,000 to the library at La Vega High School and gives Stacey Hyde the opportunity to update the blanks where book titles are missing. This will allow books to be updated to the most recent popular titles and all books in a series to be purchased. This will allow students to access more recent popular book titles and have access to all books in that series. Many popular books coming out now are in a series and this will allow all books in a series to be purchased so students can access the complete story.

Biological Curiosities

Biological Curiosities will provide \$3,439.83 to Rudy Hikel at La Vega High School and will give him the opportunity to purchase 3D models for freshman biology students, art students and anatomy and physiology students to better understand the human body and biological systems. 3D models are a great way to foster engagement with students and these models will bring what is hard to see under a microscope to life.

Virtually Endless Career Possibilities

Virtually Endless Career Possibilities will provide \$5,656.64 to La Vega Early College High School and Jeanne Gravitt to purchase three virtual reality headsets along with a year's subscription to CareerlabsVR. This virtual reality software will allow students the opportunity, through built-in simulations, the opportunity to explore different jobs and careers and interact and practice vital tasks specific to that career.

3D Printing Our Future

3D Printing Our Future will provide \$4,699.54 to Sage Gonzalez at La Vega Elementary School to purchase a MakerBot Sketch 3D printer and provide training for 15 teachers on the printer. With the incorporation of a 3D printer, lessons become interactive and students can physically see what material looks like along with using their imagination. It will bring lessons to life and give students a more dimensional way to view learning.

Leamos! Let's Read!

Leamos! Let's Read awards \$3,332.55 to La Vega Elementary School and Rebecca Northcutt to provide dual language book titles not only for her classroom, but for the school library as well. This will allow more dual language book titles and more students access to these books. Being able to have books in the classroom as well as the library will give students the ability to read different titles on non-library days. Dual language books will allow the students to compare the languages within the books and practice their ability to read in both languages.

Cheers to Outdoor Learning!

Cheers to Outdoor Learning will provide \$5,994.94 to La Vega Elementary School and Stacy Martinez to purchase six commercial picnic tables to expand outside opportunities to students. Having additional seating outside will allow teachers the opportunity to take learning outside or use it as an incentive for good behavior to have reading time or class time outside at the tables. We can't wait to see these in action!

Great Leaders Are Readers! Booking Our Way to Better Behavior!

Great Leaders are Readers will provide \$9,990 for the purchase, installation and filling of books for a book vending machine at La Vega Elementary School. This grant is for the entire campus of 668 students and will be used as part of the positive behavior intervention strategies and conscious discipline approach to reduce student referrals to the office. This is a great initiative for the campus because students here love to read, yet many students have a limited number of books at home. This grant will also provide 730 books for the machine to be filled throughout the school year!

Class of 2022

Congratulations to the
La Vega High School
Graduating Class of 2022!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to La Vega High School Student Athlete Ariana Brown for placing second in the 400M at the UIL State Track Meet with a time of 56.64! We're proud of you!

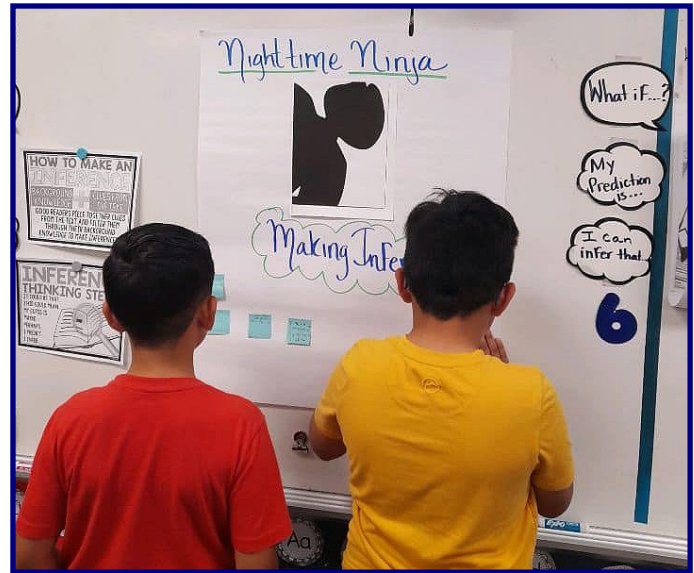


La Vega Elementary School Students Practice Inferencing

What does inferencing mean? It means to come to a conclusion on the basis of evidence and reasoning. Making inferences is one of the most essential, yet challenging, skills for Texas students of all grade levels to learn.

LVES teachers work hard to find creative ways to practice inferencing. Mrs. Gorby's second grade students created wordless picture books and then traded with students to practice making inferences. Ms. Alejo's third grade dual language students analyzed illustrations and made inferences by applying background knowledge and using context clues.

Inferencing is an important skill to develop in order to be effective readers and critical thinkers.



“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” - W.B. Yeats

Congratulations!

Shaunte' Scott-Stewart, La Vega Elementary Principal, recently received her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Congratulations to Dr. Scott-Stewart!



Dr. Shaunte' Scott-Stewart
Principal
La Vega Elementary School

La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus Students Inducted to Early College High School



Early College High School Bound!



Teachers of the Year 2022



Congratulations to the La Vega ISD Teachers of the Year for 2022! Shown in the photo above are:

LaNita Keys, La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus
Maddie James, La Vega Elementary School
Jenna Buckner, La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus
Lorenz Villa, La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Campus
Bill Taverner, La Vega High School

LVHS Band Percussion Ensemble Rated Superior

Congratulations to the LVHS Pirate Band Percussion Ensemble for receiving a Superior Rating at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest on Memorial Day weekend. Shown in the photo are Tre-Jon Andrews, Angel Chavez, Sean Baker, Dy'Reion Clark, and Lucio Hernandez.



Kudos & Applause

Child Nutrition Team
"Best of the Bunch"
2021 Fall Fresh Challenge

Don Hyde
National Federation of State
High School Associations Sec-
tional Football Coach of the
Year

Varsity Girls Basketball
Regional Quarterfinalists

Marcus Willis
District 18-4A Girls
Basketball Coach
of the Year

Varsity Boys Basketball
Area Champions

Varsity Girls Soccer
Advanced to Bi-District

Varsity Boys Soccer
Area Champions

LVHS Symphonic and
Concert Bands
UIL Sweepstakes Awards

Varsity Track Teams
Advanced to Regionals
and State

Ariana Brown
2nd Place
UIL State Track Meet

Varsity Baseball
Advanced to Bi-District

Dr. Shaunte' Scott-Stewart
Doctor of Education Degree

LVHS Percussion Ensemble
Texas State Solo/Ensemble
Contest - Superior Rating

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Student Registration for 2022-2023

All students, including returning and new, will register for the 2022-2023 School Year using the new online Skyward Family Access student registration process. Pre-Kindergarten (ages 3 and 4) will register online beginning June 25. All other grades (Kindergarten through Grade 12) will register online beginning July 22.

Parents will be able to complete all steps needed to register their students by using their new Skyward Family Access accounts. You can access your account from a computer, mobile device, tablet, etc. You will have the ability to update student and contact information as well as upload any needed documents like updated immunization records, proof of residency, copies of your driver's license, etc.

Registration assistance dates will be held at the campuses in early August. These dates are designated to assist parents with the online student registration process if they had difficulties completing it from home. More detailed instructions for completing your child(ren)'s online registration will be placed on the District's website mid-July.



Student Registration