



The Pirate Post

La Vega Charts New Instructional Territory

Teachers and administrators were given very little notice that the schools would close due to the coronavirus outbreak of 2020. They were asked to completely redesign what school looks like and in about 24 hours local administrators and teachers came up with solutions. Kids learning, children being fed, and needs being met in the midst of a global crisis. Teachers and administrators did whatever was needed to make sure that instructional learning continued through the days of shelter-in-place and quarantine. Learning packets were assembled and distributed from the front steps of the school. Breakfast and lunch was also served "to-go" from the front curb of the campus. Teachers read books online and provided extra lessons through social media. Some staff members had to report to work in order to provide services. Other staff members struggled with working from home to continue to provide services and information to our students, their families and the community. The Board of Trustees made a commitment to continue to pay all employees so they would not be worried about finances. Through it all, and with everyone's cooperation, patience, and assistance, we made it through the school year. Our Pirate Nation is the best and we thank you all! The 2019-2020 school year will go down in the books as one of the most historic school years in the history of La Vega ISD!

LVISD Child Nutrition Services Department Shines During Shutdown



The LVISD Child Nutrition Services Department met the challenges of the district shutdown by serving over 60,000 curbside meals through May and delivering 60 meals a day to homes using our school buses and drivers. They reported to work when many people had to "shelter-in-place" to continue to serve the children of our community. They were also recognized by Aramark for their Fresh Fruit and

Vegetable Program (FFVP). Before the shutdown, students at the primary school participated in a "Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Hour" that was very successful. After shutdown, the Child Nutrition Department handed out bags of fresh produce to children under 18 on a drive-by basis. The bags had a great variety, including clementines, poblano peppers, squash, onions, blackberries, grapefruit, and garlic. LVISD would like to publicly thank Mr. Dave Thiel, Director of CNS, and his staff for all of their hard work!

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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

Staff Members Receive Citizenship

Three dual-language teachers at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus recently became citizens of the United States of America. In the photo are (from left) Dr. Sharon M. Shields, Superintendent, Teresa Alanis, Maribel Valdez, Francisco Jimenez, and Mrs. Lisa Seawright, LVPSPBC Principal. Congratulations to these three outstanding teachers! We are proud of your hard work and commitment!



"Education is all a matter of building bridges." — Ralph Ellison —

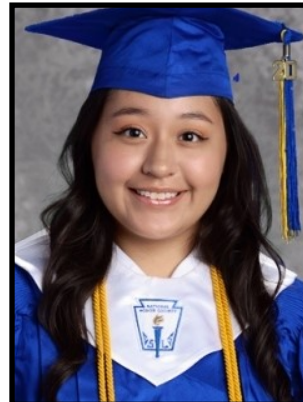
La Vega's Top Graduates



Madeline Kiss Valedictorian

Madeline Kiss, Valedictorian of the LVHS Class of 2020, finished her high school career with a 4.717 GPA. As part of the Early College High School, she earned 62 college hours and her Associates Degree from McLennan Community College while

in LVHS. She is a member of the National Honor Society and received several academic awards throughout high school. As a part of the AVID program and NHS, she has volunteered at many events throughout high school. She participated in Band all four years winning numerous awards. Madeline plans to attend Texas Tech University at the University Center on the MCC campus and major in Biology. She plans to continue her education after earning her Bachelor's Degree by pursuing medical school, followed by a career as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist. Madeline's parents are Helen and Zoltan Kiss.



Norelys Hernandez Salutatorian

Norelys Hernandez, Salutatorian of the LVHS Class of 2020, earned a GPA of 4.594 for her high school career. She is a part of the Early College High School and

earned 62 college hours and her Associates Degree from McLennan Community College. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, and received several academic awards in high school. Norelys has been in the band all four years of high school and received several band awards. In addition to volunteering with AVID and NHS, she has spent time at her church each week assisting with the religious education classes. She plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in Biology. Norelys' parents are Maria Ochoa and Martin Hernandez.



Remembering the good old days! We love and miss our students! Hope to see everyone soon! - From the Faculty and Staff at La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus

LVHS Top Ten Percent Graduates

La Vega ISD's commitment is to prepare each student to contribute to an ever-changing and interdependent society. It is fitting during this time of unprecedented challenges to the nation and the entire world that we recognize the "La Vega High School Class of 2020 Top 10 Percent." These students have demonstrated the determination and dedication throughout their high school careers to enable them to achieve this award. These young adults are remarkable representatives of our La Vega ISD Family, and we look forward to watching them sail to new destinations in their education, careers, and lives. Congratulations to these, and all of the graduates, of the La Vega High School Class of 2020.

Jennifer De La Cruz Enriquez

Abigail A. Dominguez

Aiyana M. Ephraim

Rachel F. Escobedo

Daniela Gozalez

Elias Guadarrama

Simon Guerrero

Norelys G. Hernandez

Ziyon J. Johnson

Madeline H. Kiss

JaRon O. Livingston

Victoria A. Mendoza

Alejandra O. Montelongo

Arraya A. Moore

Jeffrey C. Nickerson

Sylvia A. Ramos

Ka'Niaya G. Robinson

Isaias Roman

Tierney M. Sawyers

Important Calendar Dates

June 15—PK Online Student

Registration through Parent Portal

July 20—Online Student Registration

Opens through Parent Portal

July 28 & 30—Registration Assistance

July 31—Back-to-School Bash

August 4 & 6—Registration Assistance

August 13—First Day of School

September 7—Labor Day Holiday

October 5 & 6—Staff Development, No Classes

November 23-27—Thanksgiving Holidays

December 18—Early Release

December 21 to January 5th—Christmas Holidays for Students

January 4 & 5—Staff Development, No Classes

January 18—MLK Holiday

February 15 & 16—Staff Development, No Classes

March 8 to 12—Spring Break

March 15—Staff Development, No Classes

April 2—Good Friday Holiday

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.

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

LVISD Employees Offer Support to the Community

Many of our LVISD staff members donated time and talents to contribute to the community during the quarantine. Some sewed masks, others adopted a graduate, shared supplies, made donations, and everyone checked on each other and those who were ill, elderly, and vulnerable. LVHS Teacher Robby Wilson put his classroom equipment to good use by constructing masks and shields for the Waco-McLennan County Emergency Operations Center. Each stack of masks took about 15 hours to print and about 150 have been made so far, which has been a huge boost to the local production effort. Shown in the photo to the right is Ashlie Serrato, Logistics Section and Donations Coordinator at the Center. She was very impressed with the donation and was excited to be able to be a part of providing our first responders with the equipment that they need.



La Vega Pirates Education Foundation Gala



Teachers of the Year 2020

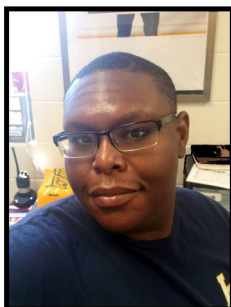
Congratulations to our outstanding Teachers of the Year for 2020!



Francisco Jimenez
La Vega Primary School
Phil Bancale Campus



Melanie Morgan
La Vega Elementary
School



Ryan Sparks
La Vega Intermediate
School H. P. Miles Campus



Laura Penney
La Vega Junior High School
George Dixon Campus



Julie Grigsby
La Vega High School

“Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of the individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honor for me.” – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam —

A New “Normal” - So What’s Next?

The emergency declaration that closed all schools because of the coronavirus pandemic forced districts to implement various types of remote learning, much of it based online, to keep students engaged.

With the new school year comes the hope of returning to traditional schooling, however, safety precautions recommended by state and local public health officials may make that option impractical, if not impossible. It is very likely that the district will continue with some form of remote learning, and are hoping to blend it in with more traditional ways of teaching face-to-face in the classroom. There will likely be restrictions on class sizes as well as other guidelines and safety precautions that will be set forth.

For now, the district is planning to adhere to the school calendar which was approved and is posted on the district’s website. The first day of school for students is August 13th. We will definitely experience a “new normal” but we will adapt and make changes as necessary.

“Teachers, administrators, and employees adapted to the shutdown, and basically did not miss a beat. Students continued to learn and will continue to learn,” said Dr. Sharon M. Shields, LVISD Superintendent.

Employees and students adapted to the restrictions by having drive-by parades through the neighborhoods so students could see their teachers. Kindergarten and Senior graduates were able to stop and have their pictures taken with their caps and gowns. Meals were picked up curbside. Drive-by retirement receptions and celebrations for Teachers of the Year were held. LVHS held an outdoor graduation ceremony on the football field with restrictions. Staff members made instructional plans and stayed in touch by utilizing online meetings.

In the meantime, we all have some words that are now in our everyday vocabulary ... such as Zoom, virtual, online, pick-up, drive-by, pandemic, unprecedented, masks, the “new normal,” and social distancing!



Heavenly Bodies

by Ithzel Rubio

Second Prize - Poetry
MCC's The Stone Circle
Magazine

*Always my sun,
You called me your moon.
You brightened my day.
I revolved around you.
Day after day,
The nights flying by,
We danced in our circles
Time after time.*

*I can't shine without you,
My beaming bright star,
Dark ousted by rays,
Created by love afar.
But every so often
As I wait for a new dawn,
Hours shift past,
Then I realize you're gone.*

*I miss my bright sun,
The center of my life.
Do you miss me,
The light in your night?
Give me your burdens to bear
When you return to me soon.
I will always be there,
Forever, your moon.*

LVHS National Merit Scholar

Congratulations to LVHS Junior Ithzel Rubio for being named a National Merit Scholar!

Of the about 1.6 million juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT each year, approximately 50,000 juniors with the highest PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores (or total PSAT scores) who meet the eligibility requirements qualify for NMSP recognition. That is, approximately the top 3% of 11th grade testers will qualify.

Ithzel has won numerous awards during her three years at LVHS, including UIL Academic Competitions and Band. Just this fall, three of her poems won prizes and were published in the McLennan Community College's magazine *The Stone Circle*. You can enjoy one of her

poems titled "Heavenly Bodies," which is printed to the left of this article.

We are very proud of you, Ithzel, and we cannot wait to see what your future holds!



Maintenance, Custodial, and Technology Departments Shift Gears Due to Shutdown

With the shutdown due to the coronavirus, there were many unexpected challenges and obstacles that the District needed to take care of with an abbreviated staff working on-site.

Technology took a very different turn with students now needing devices to study from home. Teachers and staff also needed extra assistance in doing their jobs remotely. Graduation was live-streamed for the first time ever. Maintenance staff installed sanitation stations and shields, while custodial staff provided extra sanitation.

Thanks to all of our special departments for keeping us safe and productive!



(Left) Allen Hardage and Dean Mosley with the Maintenance Department don their masks on a visit to La Vega Intermediate H. P. Miles Campus. Julia Story, Custodian at LVES, is busy spraying disinfectant with an electrostatic sprayer.

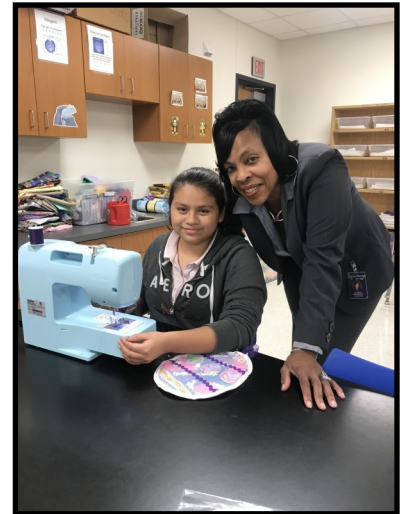
Reading Academy

La Vega ISD is very excited that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved the district as a HB3 Reading Academies Authorized Provider.

The 86th Texas Legislature passed HB3 that requires each teacher and principal in Grades K-3 to attend reading academies by 2021-2022. There are only 37 entities across Texas that have been approved by TEA to provide the reading academies. The state has over 121,000 teachers and principals that must attend a Reading Academy to retain their teaching position in a K-3 classroom.

The reading academies will teach teachers about the best research-based instructional strategies in how to teach core reading and writing skills to young children.

La Vega ISD is very excited to be able to provide our teachers as well as teachers from other area school districts with this mandatory training!



Dr. Sharon M. Shields, Superintendent, visits with Adrianna Delgado, a student in the after-school Sewing Club at La Vega Intermediate H. P. Miles Campus.

"I am not a teacher, but an awakener." — Robert Frost) —

Honored Educators

*Congratulations to these current
and former educators for being named
2020 Honored Educators!*

.....

Tia Barcelona	Lee Kuhl
Delores Dantzler	Tiffany Nelms
Tom English	Liz Newton
John Ghazzagh	Will Samford
Veronica Gloeckner	Bob Sheehy
Commander Jim Gompper	Debra Washington
Jacqueline Hupp	Scotty Wilhelm
Tiffany Jackson	

.....

*La Vega Pirates Education Foundation
2020 Honored Educators*



Victoria Mendoza

Congratulations to Victoria for receiving a Rotary Club Youth Citizenship Award! She is one of only twenty-five high school seniors in McLennan County who were recognized for their volunteerism and service in the 40th annual Youth Citizenship Awards sponsored by the Rotary Club of Waco and the Waco Tribune-Herald.

La Vega ISD

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Student Registration for 2020-2021

All students, including returning and new, will register for the 2020-2021 School Year using the online Parent Portal student registration process. Pre-Kindergarten (ages 3 and 4) will register online beginning June 15th. All other grades (Kindergarten through Grade 12) will register online beginning July 20th.

Parents will be able to complete all steps needed to register their students by using their Parent Portal accounts. You can access Parent Portal 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.

Parents will need to know their User ID and Password for their Parent Portal accounts in order to complete online student registration. If you need assistance with that information, please e-mail Parent.Portal@lavegaisd.org.

Registration assistance dates will be held at the campuses on July 28, July 30, August 4, and August 6th. 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 2020-2021 online registration will be placed on the District's Parent Portal website mid-July. You can access that information at the link below:

https://www.lavegaisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=119478&type=d&pREC_ID=1280227