

enlighten. inspire. achieve.

# CONNECTIONS

A Publication from Hillsboro Independent School District



Hillsboro  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2022



Also in this issue...

New reigns at HHS...Pg 2

Shakespeare in Hollywood...Pg 5

Evan's Editorials...Pg 8 & 9

Cover picture - HIS Career Day



# McAdams Takes Reigns at HHS



When students and staff of Hillsboro High School (HHS) returned to school in January from winter break, they were greeted by a new principal. Corey McAdams comes to Hillsboro ISD with over 13 years of administrative experience, including assistant principal, athletic director and interim principal. In total, the new HHS principal has worked in education for 21 years.

McAdams attended Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and completed his graduate degree at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He has grown up around teaching and coaching as both his parents were educators. His wife April also works in education and teaches 3rd grade at South Bosque Elementary School in the Midway ISD school district.

Mr. McAdams has quickly settled in the culture of Hillsboro High School and is so excited about being a part of a community that has developed such great kids. "It is rare to have such a deep community 'feel' in a school this size. The kids are awesome and the teachers are great," McAdams stated. "Hillsboro High School has a great bunch of people."

A goal of the new administrator is to have conversations with as many people as he can during the school day. He states he may not see every student every day but believes that having the intention each day to stop by classrooms to see and speak to as many as possible is important. "I'm not a social butterfly, but I do recognize the importance of nurturing relationships with students and staff," said McAdams.

Another goal of the new campus leader is to be clear and open with all communication from his office and the campus. He also recognizes his role in partnering with families and the community. "I want to be accessible and stay in touch with those who are our partners in educating kids."

Hillsboro ISD welcomes Mr. McAdams to the HISD family!



*"The kids are awesome and the teachers are great!"*



## Career Day Returns at HIS

Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) recently brought back Career Day to 3rd-6th grade students. Career Day on the campus began back in 2011 and has continued each year with the exceptions of 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

This year, guest speakers representing various career paths enlightened the students with endless possibilities for future endeavors. The students received information on careers such as aerospace engineering, dairy farming, nursing and even being a park ranger. Each year, the administration gives a survey to determine what the students would like to see, hear, and learn more about. The hope is that students will find something they are interested in that they did not realize was an option.

Aleshia Fleming, HIS counselor, said, "We hope to provide an array of experiences and learning opportunities for students. Career day organizers and I try our best to reach small businesses, hobbies, technical schools, and university-level careers. Efforts are made so students can learn about many types of careers firsthand and open the door to every avenue for our students."

It can be difficult to choose a path and stick with it at this age. With learning opportunities like Career Days, students can discover a little about their interests, learn about their career options, and get clarity on what their future could hold.



You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
in an directions you choose!  
~Dr. Seuss





## Granted A Fresh Start

Hillsboro Education Foundation presented Hillsboro ISD's new teachers for the 2021-22 school year with Mini Grants, funds up to \$500, to enhance student learning. Each campus was represented with at least one award recipient.

Hillsboro Elementary's Assistant Principal Margie Nesbitt wrote a winning grant worth \$495.58 for "Bite Sized Social Etiquette." Grant funds provided special tablecloths, centerpieces and awards used for designated areas for small group lunches, celebrations, and competitions. Opportunities provided by this grant award promote students' social skills, development of a positive school culture and extended social-emotional learning within the context of the cafeteria setting.

Additionally, Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) received three grants. The first award went to Dr. Matthew Short for "I've Got a Sens(ory) We Are On The Right Path!" in the amount of \$444. These funds provided specially developed pathways for hallways that provide various movements and activities to help students burn extra energy so they can be better focused in the classroom.

Together with Short, HIS Band Director Ramon Carrillo was awarded \$500 for the project "Building Blocks," which provided a set of classroom music books for beginning 6th grade band students. The final grant recipient from HIS was Jennifer Standlee for "Who Needs Something Fishy in Fifth Grade." Ms. Standlee purchased and equipped two aquariums for use in her classroom with a \$375 award. With this aquatic addition, students learn the science surrounding water ecosystems while also learning responsibility, pride, and work ethic through caring for the fish as well as enjoying the aquarium's calming effect.

Hillsboro Jr High's Lorena Roam also received \$465.26 for educational games for 8th grade Reading Language Art classrooms. The grant purchased various games to promote fun, innovative, and interactive ways for students to better understand the constructs of inference, main idea and summarization.

Lastly, with a \$500 grant, Hillsboro High School's Band Director Christopher Moix purchased Concert Band percussion mallets & accessories which helped to complete the high school's percussion inventory.

Altogether the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation invested nearly \$3000 in projects, materials, and resources to elevate the mind, body, and spirit of students.

## Father Daughter Dance

Recently, the Exhibits Building at the Hill Country Fairgrounds was transformed into a magical ballroom as part of a fundraising effort for the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation. The Father/Daughter Dance provided an opportunity for the local community to dance the night away and make family memories while raising funds for classroom innovative grants and teacher scholarships.

A record crowd filled the Hill County Exhibits building to enjoy a night of dancing, photos, and entertainment. The theme this year was "Hollywood Hits" which enabled the attendees to dress as their favorite TV or movie characters.

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation partners with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the Hillsboro Independent School District.



*"Little daughters are the only people able to soften the hearts of strong men." – Unknown*



## CONNECTIONS

Connections is published by The Hillsboro Reporter as a courtesy to the Hillsboro Independent School District.

For additional copies of Connections, please contact The Hillsboro Reporter at (254) 582-3431.

Hillsboro Independent School District  
Administration Office

121 E. Franklin St.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
Phone: (254) 582-8585  
Fax: (254) 582-4165  
www.hillsboroisd.org

Superintendent:  
Vicki Adams  
adamsv@hillsboroisd.org

Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
David Z. Timmons  
timmons@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro High School  
1600 Abbott Ave.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
Phone: (254) 582-4100  
www.hhs.hillsboroisd.org  
Principal: Corey McAdams  
mcadams@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro Junior High School  
210 E. Walnut St.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
Phone: (254) 582-4120  
www.hjhs.hillsboroisd.org  
Principal: Patrick Harvell  
harvell@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro Intermediate School  
1000 Old Bynum Rd.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
Phone: (254) 582-4170  
www.his.hillsboroisd.org  
Principal: Ryan Cook  
cookr@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro Elementary School  
1601 Abbott Ave.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
Phone: (254) 582-4140  
www.hes.hillsboroisd.org  
Principal: Robin Ralston  
Ralston@hillsboroisd.org  
Principal: Michelle Steele  
stelem@hillsboroisd.org

Connections is created by :  
Anissa Faris,  
Director of Communications  
farisa@hillsboroisd.org

With assistance by:  
Evan Faulknor,  
Practicum Student



# SPRING SPORTS







Each year in early March, schools around Texas have students put on costumes and theatrical paint to prepare for a competitive performance on stage. The University Interscholastic League (UIL) One Act Play (OAP) begins as a district competition. It consists of an 18-40 minute performance judged by a panel of three judges.

Students from Hillsboro High School recently performed in district UIL OAP competition with the play "Shakespeare in Hollywood" by Ken Ludwig. The cast began work in January on the script about a famous Hollywood producer who made a movie of a William Shakespeare play. It is set in 1934 and

Shakespeare's most famous forest fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialized on the set of a Warner brothers movie of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Smitten by the glitz and glamor of show biz, the two are ushered onto the silver screen to play who else - themselves. With a little help from a feisty flower, a blonde "bombshell" and a movie mogul, the results are raucous to say the least. The mischievous magic of moviedom sparkles in this hilarious comic adventure. Although the play did not advance to bi-district competition, a number of students received awards.



All Star Cast - Jackson Steele.

Honorable Mention All Star cast - Larrisa Boyd and Shane Wims

Crew - Monica Hodges

Larissa Boyd (Olivia), Ben Librado (Will), Kailani Brown (Louella), Stephen Castleberry-Owens (Max), Monica Hodges (Ensemble), Fabian Silvas (Jack), Jackson Steele (Oberon), Angela Terrazas (Lydia), Kylan Wooten-Smith (Lights), Shane Wims (Puck) and David Henderson (Daryl), Stephen Castleberry-Owens (Max), Fabian Silvas (Jack), Moses Rangel (Joe), Madisyn page (Ensemble).

*"Shakespeare's most famous fairies, movie moguls and blonde bombshells collide in an explosive comedy of epic proportion!"*





# HILL COUNTY FAIR



It is show season!



Houston Livestock  
Show &  
Rodeo

San Antonio  
Livestock Show  
& Rodeo







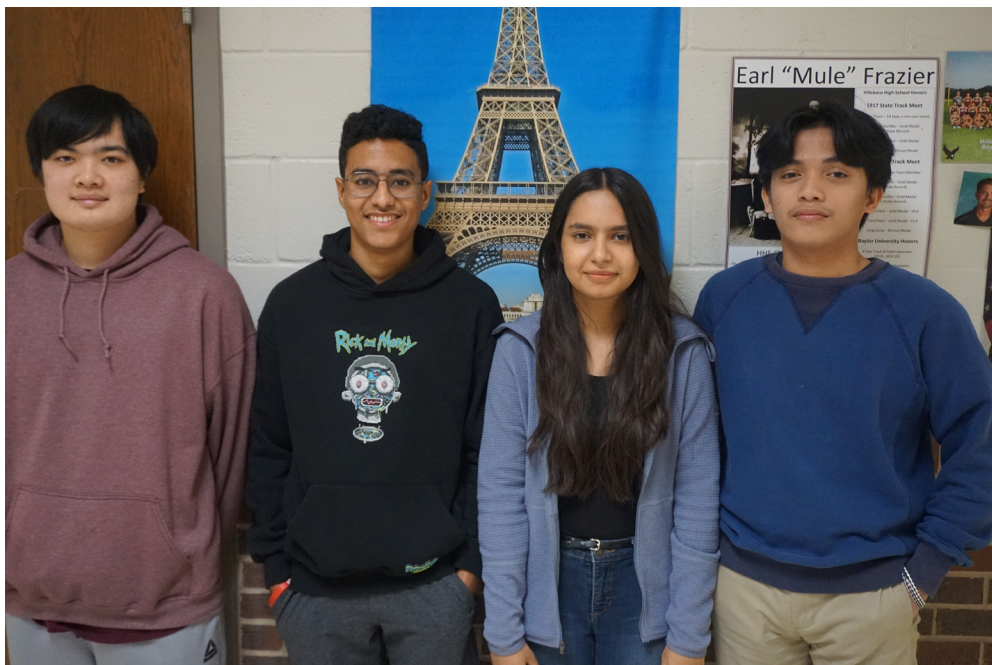
# Ag Mechanics & Skills USA







## Evan's **EVAN FAULKNER** *Editorials*



# Journey From Afar

Hillsboro High School educates many students--each unique in their experiences and backgrounds. This year, the high school student body includes four foreign exchange students: Mahmoud Ahmed, Rinnosuke Okamoto, Ayob A. Saidamen, and Rumaisa Mughal.

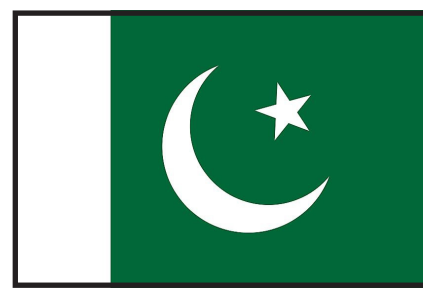
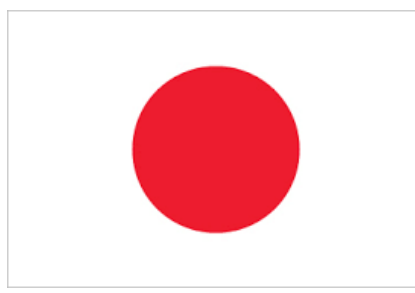
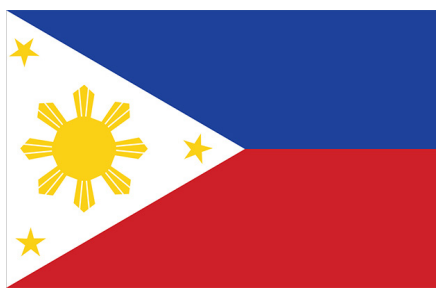
Mahmoud Ahmed is an exchange student from Giza Egypt. Mahmoud always wanted to come to America to learn about the culture and traditions and is the reason he joined the student exchange program. After coming to Hillsboro, Mahmoud realized just how different his new town is from his home in Egypt. First, Giza is a massive metropolitan city while Hillsboro is a small rural town. An additional difference is school. In Giza, uniforms were part of the school dress code and the teaching structure was different. Instead of the kids moving from class to class, it was the teachers who moved. Mahmoud has enjoyed his time in Hillsboro so far but has begun to feel a bit homesick--missing some of the food they eat, as well as his friends and family.

Another exchange student here at high school is Rinnosuke Okamoto from Nara Japan. She decided to join the exchange program because she wanted to live in a different environment and to learn more about American culture. She has enjoyed her time in Hillsboro, describing it as "calm and cozy." Definite differences, however, exist between Hillsboro and Nara in common modes of travel and terrain. Transportation in Japan is mostly trains for the general public while here people travel from one place to the next by car or truck. Rinnosuke's home in Nara is surrounded by a lot more hills and in Nara, there are no churches. When asked about how school is in Nara, Rinnosuke said, "Electronic devices are not allowed in class at all in Japan and some classes here in Hillsboro are clubs there in Nara, such as theater, graphic design, and cooking." Even though Rinnosuke has enjoyed her time here she does miss the traditional fish meals of her home.

The third student is Ayob Saidamen from the Philippines. Ayob decided to join the exchange program because he wanted to study out of his country, learn about different perspectives, cultures, and languages, and witness how people from different nations interact with each other. Ayob said that his first month here was hard. He found it a bit difficult adjusting to how new everything was to him, but as time went on everything became more "clear and normal." The exchange student from the Philippines has even helped photograph some of the football and basketball games. Similarly to the schools in Giza Egypt, the teachers in the Philippines, not the students, change classrooms. Also in the Philippines, attendance directly affects your grade while here it does not. Despite how well Ayob has adapted to Hillsboro, he still misses some aspects of his home such as his family and traditional food such as adobo.

The final exchange student at HHS is Rumaisa Mughal from Khairpur Pakistan. When asked about why she decided to join the exchange program she said, "It was always my dream to experience America and its culture and it happened through this wonderful exchange program." Rumaisa stated that she has enjoyed her time here. She has left her comfort zone, tried new things, participated in volunteer work and even learned how to snow ski. Rumaisa even joined the Hillsboro Lions Club as a junior member. When asked about how her home compares to Hillsboro she said, "Hillsboro is comparatively smaller than the city I live in and the population is less." Despite enjoying her time here, Rumaisa misses her friends and family back home and the aromatic and spicy food of her homeland.

Welcoming and educating students from other countries and cultures definitely has broadened the knowledge of the world for HHS and has shown that we all have more in common than differences.







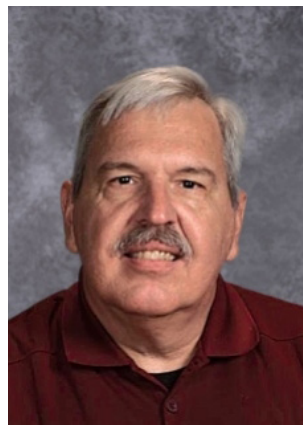
## UIL & Our Eagles Academics

Hillsboro High School (HHS) offers many different educational programs that allow students to learn, grow, and showcase what they know and academic UIL is the perfect activity for all three. At Hillsboro High School over 25 different UIL programs that cover a broad range of topics such as journalism, mathematics, computer science, and social studies are offered. Any student interested in the programs can participate and be on an academic team. UIL competitions in academic events give students an opportunity to learn about a new subject or to learn more about a subject they already know. It also teaches students about how to compete and persevere when faced with a tough situation. Student successes in academic competitions also reflect well on the high school. This year Hillsboro High School hosted UIL in the Franklin Elementary School building. This unused district venue creates a great competition environment for HHS students by creating less distance to travel and hopefully resulting in a better UIL performance.



## Thank You for Your Service

The teaching staff of Hillsboro ISD (HISD) comes from many different backgrounds and walks of life. One prior work experience that is shared by three HISD teachers is being in the military. The District proudly employs three military veterans, Ralph Gawehn, Darius Young, and Amanda McCreery.



Coach Gawehn is a social studies teacher at the Hillsboro High School, but he was once a member of the US Air Force. When he was in high school, he became interested in enlisting because he lived near a military installation and was inspired by seeing planes flying by everyday. While serving in the Air Force, he traveled extensively to areas such as the Islands of Skiathos, Saudi Arabia, and Greece. Gawehn stated that it was a great feeling “Doing America’s business”. After serving for 22 years he retired from the military, eventually taking

up teaching and working for Hillsboro ISD.

Another Hillsboro ISD teaching veteran is Mr. Darius Young, who is a math teacher at Hillsboro Intermediate School. Young was a member of the U.S. Army and comes from a long line of veterans. While a junior in high school, he decided to sign up for the army through the Delayed Entry Program, meaning he would officially join after graduation. Mr. Young stated his time in the army was some of the best of his life, having learned values such as professionalism, leadership, accountability, and a strong work ethic. Mr. Young eventually left the military on an Honorable Discharge to go back to college full-time. Fortunately, he saw an opening for a 5th grade math position here at HISD and was hired. Young enjoys his time here, calling his campus a “tight-knit community”.



Mrs. Amanda McCreery is another HISD teacher who has donned a military uniform. McCreery, a teacher at the Hillsboro Elementary school, was also a member of the U.S. Army. She enlisted during her



senior year of high school. While serving, her Military Occupational Speciality (MOS) was military police. She was stationed at Fort Hood here in Texas for five years and did three deployments, two to Kuwait and one to Afghanistan. Through these she saw the world and experienced new things that the average person doesn’t get the opportunity to see and do. Mrs. McCreery eventually left the Army to spend more time with her family and go back to college to become a teacher. She eventually moved to Whitney

to be close to her kids’ school which led to McCreery working in Hillsboro as a pre-kindergarten teacher where she “enjoys working with an amazing team”. Mrs. McCreery was also named Hillsboro ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2021.

Salute to you, Hillsboro ISD military veteran teachers!



# Showing Your Support



## Athletic Booster Club

The Hillsboro Athletic Booster Club is a parent-run organization that benefits all sports. The club's support begins with fundraising through membership fees and activities at all athletic events including sporting event concession stands and spirit merchandise sales.

Fundraising efforts help purchase athletic equipment that has not been budgeted by the district. For the 2021-2022 school year, the booster club purchased basketball travel bags for both girls and boys teams, a tennis ball machine, new pom poms for cheerleading and powerlifting suits. Equally as important as equipment, the club's funds provide scholarships to students at the end of the school year.

Everyone is invited to attend club meetings in the HHS cafeteria on the first Wednesday of each month. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or have a local business, anyone can join to support Hillsboro ISD athletics. To get more information contact Susie Campos at [Susie.Campos@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.Campos@gmail.com) or visit the Hillsboro Athletic Booster Club Facebook page.



## Band Booster Club

The Hillsboro Band Booster Club supports students enrolled in band classes from 6th through 12th grade.

The group raises money by running the concession stand and selling football programs at home football games. Money netted at these fundraisers provides band meals at football games and UIL competitions as well as specialty training before contests throughout the year. Band boosters also assist in contributing to HHS band's trip to Disney Imagination Campus Workshop at DisneyWorld in Florida this June, in addition to funding summer workshops.

Monthly band booster meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the band hall at the high school. If you are interested in joining, contact Christopher Moix, Hillsboro High School band director at [moix@hillsboroisd.org](mailto:moix@hillsboroisd.org).



## Ag Booster Club

The Ag Booster Club was created to support the district FFA chapter by providing resources to send students to competitions, events, state and national conventions, purchasing equipment for the different show teams, and endowing scholarships.

The two main fundraising events each year are the annual progressive raffle and dinner and the Fall jackpot show. Money raised at these events is used to purchase projects at the Hill County Fair or add-ons for projects that do not make the sale. Additionally the club supported FFA officers' travel to the National Convention in Indianapolis and also purchased a lamb and goat treadmill for the show barn.

President, Brandi Foster expressed, "We were proud these students participated in the National Convention. We had attendees who had never been on an airplane or even out of the state of Texas."

To join the Ag Booster Club, no membership fee is required. Meetings are held once a month. For more information contact Brandi Foster at [BFoster@txfb-ins.com](mailto:BFoster@txfb-ins.com)



## Teacher Recognized With Student Choice Award

Since 2002, Educators Credit Union has teamed with KXXV News Channel 25 to honor area teachers with the Educators Credit Union Student's Choice Award.

A Hillsboro Intermediate School 5th grade social studies teacher was a recent Student's Choice Award Winner. A representative from Educators Credit Union and KXXV presented the award to Dr. Matthew Short. His student, Tucker Anderson, nominated his teacher. Anderson wrote "Dr. Short is amazing. His class is so fun and I learn so much from him. I love Dr. Short!"

The award gives students an opportunity to recognize their favorite teacher. Students are asked to send in a nomination telling why they think their teacher should receive the award. One award is presented each month during the school year and the presentation is aired on KXXV News Channel 25 the entire month they are selected.

Short received a plaque and gift card from Educators Credit Union and was featured on KXXV News Channel 25. Congratulations Dr. Short on being chosen for this honor.



# STUDENT COUNCIL



What is Student Council (StuCo)? At Hillsboro High School (HHS), StuCo is a means of student expression, community service, and assistance in school affairs and activities.

This organization allows students to experience student leadership, work with faculty, and learn community relations.

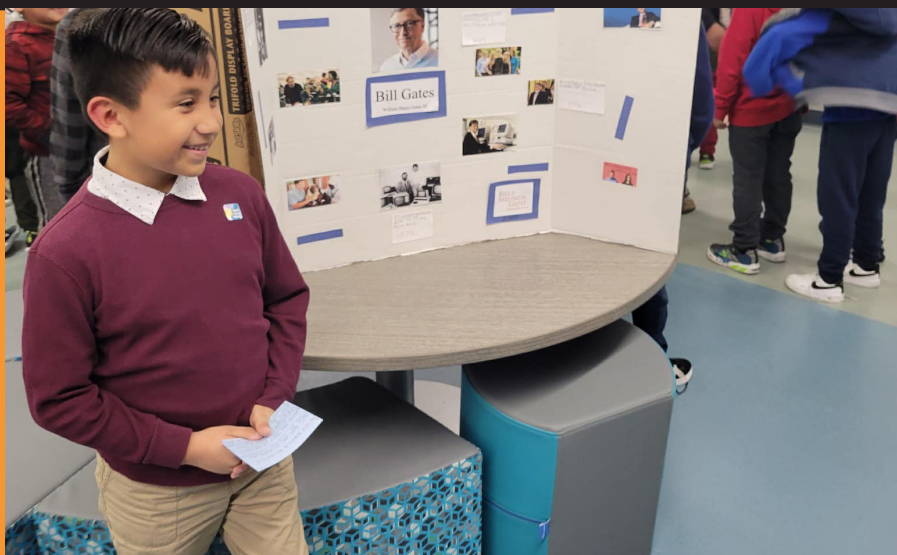
So far this year, StuCo has

- hosted a blood drive,
- planned Red Ribbon Week activities,
- organized pep rallies for elementary and intermediate campuses,
- organized homecoming events,
- collected bottle caps for the Tapitas Foundation in Mexico to pay for a child's chemo treatment,
- donated and volunteered for the Good Samaritan Shoebox Project,
- helped with Christmas gift wrapping,
- rang bells for the Salvation Army red kettle

Moreover, StuCo has teamed up with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Officer Lynelle Sparks, HISD School Resource Officer, to plan Shattered Dreams, a two-day, school-based program that promotes responsible decision-making among high school students regarding underage drinking and impaired driving (driving after drinking or riding with a drinking driver) by showing how irresponsible choices can end all dreams.

Any student can join student council at HHS by filling out an online application and maintaining a 2.5 GPA.

Students benefit from StuCo as they gain leadership and citizenship skills. In addition to real-world skills, participation in StuCo develops lifelong friendships too.



## History Comes to Life

Learning history can be fun as witnessed through Hillsboro Elementary School's (HES) presentation of their Living Museum. Also known as a living history museum, third grade students recreated historical settings to simulate a past time period, providing an experiential interpretation of history.

To prepare for their Living Museum, students researched information about historical figures that impacted America. Once students had chosen their character, they read articles from different search engines to answer questions regarding their personality from history. Students then created a biography poster that contained interesting facts, timelines, and pictures for their person. Students then dressed as their chosen historical personality and presented their projects. Personalities seen at the HES Living Museum were figures such as Mary Kay Ash, Harriet Tubman, Louis Pasteur, and even Bill Gates.

HES teachers and students as well as parents learned about many impressive historical characters as they walked through the student-led living history museum. Tours through the HES Living Museum can be seen through the HES Facebook page.



