

*The latest news and updates from Preparatory Academy*



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Fall sport seasons have wrapped up. Recap the Volleyball, Cross Country, and Flag Football seasons.

### **STUDENT INTERESTS**

A look into student opinion on the use of metal detectors.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON:**

U.I.L. Academics competitions have begun. What is the benefit of joining UIL?

## **8TH GRADERS GET A PEEK DOWN THE ROAD**

*by Julissa Saenz & Daneen Baba*

With the end of the final semester for 8th graders at Preparatory Academy nearing, thoughts of the future are growing. During the first week of November, Spartan eighth graders had the opportunity to experience a tour and presentation about the curriculum, after-school activities, and the overall opportunities at the high schools STISD has to offer: World Scholars, Science Academy, Health Professions, and Medical Professions.

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*Preparatory Academy students watch on as Medical Professions students conduct a demonstration.  
Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net*



Preparatory Academy students listen actively during a presentation at World Scholars.  
 Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net

## CONT'D FROM PG. 1

Most 8th graders felt a sense of excitement as they embarked on the high school tours. When asked what they think of the high school visits, eighth grader Kaylee Mendoza said, "I'm very excited about it (the high school visits). I've been wanting to see how they are."

Similarly, Mariah Rand, an 8th grader, says, "I'm very excited, I feel like it's a good opportunity for us to see what school we want to see, so we can get an idea of what we want to be in the future." Mariah said after the visits, "I feel like some of the school's presentations were good, but others did not compare. I like how there are different opportunities available at STISD high schools."

Another student said, "I thought it would be more boring, with fewer activities, but moving around and experiencing it in person was fun and learning what is available." Students said that the biggest factor influencing which high school they choose is comparing the extracurriculars and electives offered at each school. Valeria Casas, an eighth grader said, "I think it's mostly the extracurriculars and the different electives. You have to take the core classes everywhere, but the extracurriculars vary, and you can do different things related to what you want to do later in life."

Students at STPA often feel excited about their future high school as they're getting closer and closer to leaving middle school and going to high school. This excitement often multiplies with anticipation, which transfers over to the younger grade levels at Preparatory Academy.

Some 6th and 7th graders also anticipate or look forward to the high school visits. Seventh grader Grace Vela said, "I'm excited for the high school visits because I get to see what I can do in the high school."

### *Which high school do 8th graders prefer?*



## SPOTLIGHT ON: U.I.L ACADEMICS

*by Anayed Sandoval & Valeria Casas Ortiz*

UIL, or the University Interscholastic League, is an academic-based competitive organization that provides students with opportunities to challenge their skills through rigorous competition. UIL is important to have in schools because it socially and academically helps students engage in areas/subjects they enjoy.

Isabella, a student at Stpa, said that "It [UIL] gives me something to do after school, and it lets me hang out with my friends." While some students have less experience with UIL clubs, they still enjoy the overall experience. "It challenges my knowledge academically, and it gives me an opportunity to be more involved with my school," Alexa Curry stated. "This is my first year doing UIL because my mom told me I should be doing more things outside of school. I didn't think UIL would actually be that interesting, but it was actually really cool. I had fun. It [UIL] also opens up more doors for you in the future because it's academic."

UIL helps you further engage in subjects you enjoy to open up more doors for your future. Not only do you get to work with a group of people who are also driven to put their best efforts in a select subject, you also have help from teachers who help you pave the road to success. Working in an environment that you can really expand and gain knowledge on a subject of your choice is what the main purpose of UIL is.

While there are competitions and awards you receive, the real award received is the knowledge and experience gained from exposing yourself to these academic clubs.

# CROSS COUNTRY: THE ROAD TO STATE

by *Natalya Padilla and Joaquin Rodriguez*

The journey to state has been concluded for the Boys and Girls Cross Country team, but both have had successful campaigns for the 2022 school year. The girls and boys team traveled to Webberville, TX on October 29th to compete against teams across the state. Qualifiers for Preparatory Academy Girl's Cross Country were: Annie Almaguer, Belen Berrocal, Belicia Hernandez, Amelia Humphreys, Ily Lopez, Renata Lugo, Devani Martinez, Ava Thomas, Elisha Trujillo. The team placed 3rd at the State meet with Annie Almaguer earning an 8th place finish, Amelia Humphreys finishing in 9th, and Ily Lopez rounding out at 20th place.

Overall, the girls were able to bring home the 3rd place trophy as a team. When asked about the success at the meet, assistant Coach Bonura said, "The girls did well. We're very proud of our team."

Amelia Humphreys, a new Spartan 6th grade runner, said "The meet was fun and I'm proud of all of our hard work that led us to this finish."

On the boys side, qualifying for the State meet were: Sebastian Carbajal, Eduardo Estrada, Oscar Garcia, Anthony Lara, Brady Lee, Emilio Montelongo, and Christian Moya. The boys' team came in strong and earned the 2nd place trophy overall as a team. Leading the team with the top finish was Anthony Lara earning 11th place.

Head Coach, Mr. Comple, said, "This season has been very successful for our boy's cross country team for many reasons. Firstly, we were able to compete at the state meet again and placed as runner-up, which was better than last year's 4th placed finish. Secondly we were able to defend the district's and regional's championships, and had Spartan runners getting top individual awards at both meets."



*The Spartan and Lady Spartan cross country teams prepare to leave for the State Cross Country meet on October 29th.*



*ABOVE: Amelia Humphreys, 6th grade student, races to the finish line at the State Meet.*

*BELOW: Both the girls and boys team celebrate their finishes with their coaches.*

*Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net*



LEFT: The girls' Cross Country team with their 3rd place trophy.



RIGHT: The boys' cross country team with their 2nd place trophy.

# FLAG FOOTBALL: ONE TEAM FOR ALL

by Ashley Chapa, Victoria Obregon-Mora, Camila Carreno

Now that Fall sports have wrapped up at Preparatory Academy, it's time to look back and reflect on the season. One unique aspect of this year's flag football season is the removal of the girl's flag football team. However, that didn't stop our Lady Spartans from joining in on the field. Sixth grade student, Ily Lopez, tried out and made the Boy's flag football team and was able to compete alongside 6th to 8th grade Spartan football players. Allowing for a co-ed football team brought with it a refreshing perspective to sports in the district.

Head football coach, Coach Mr. Monteagudo stated "The co-ed team was good because it allows everyone to play together regardless of their gender, their skills are what comes into place". Hearing from the first 6th grade girl Ily Lopez "It feels very nice to be a part of the team because I get to play football".



ABOVE: The Spartan flag football poses with their coaches, Coach Monteagudo and Coach Garza.

LEFT TOP: The flag football gets ready to make a place against their opponents.

LEFT BOTTOM: Coach Monteagudo strategizes during the team huddle.

Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net



The 2022 season concluded with the team finishing with a 5-3 record. Their final game was played away against Idea Elsa. Although the Spartans fell to Idea Elsa, there were many highlighted efforts. Top scorers for the game were 6th grader Rush Rodriguez and 8th grade student Gordon Schwartzaffel.



Sixth grade student, Liam Hernandez, said he is already looking forward to next year and his future in football. "I really liked that it was basically 7-on-7 which will prepare me for high school football. This year really prepared me for what's to come."

# VOLLEYBALL SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE

by Desirae Gonzalez and Giara Limones

The final sport to close out their fall season is the Lady Spartan volleyball team. The team faced many challenging teams through the season and had their ups and down. However, they maintained a steady record. Eighth grader, Shekinah Manubay said, “I think we all face a lot of challenges, not just as an individually but as a team. If a person is down or has a lack of confidence in themselves it effects the whole team, so i would consider that to be a challenge for not just for myself but for the team.”

Despite the challenges, the athletes became a united front throughout the season and relied on one and another, and their coaches, for motivation or support.



*Coach Muhammad motivates the girls in between sets.*

*Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net*



*The girls Volleyball team poses with their coaches, Coach Muhammad and Coach Bonura.*

*Photograph credit by preparatoryacademy.stisd.net*

The team finished their season with a record of 7-3. When asked about the goals for the season and to reflect on the final outcome, Coach Muhammad said, “I wanted them to play together as a unit, to work together and I think we accomplished what we set out to do.”

# LIFE WITH METAL DETECTORS

by Nathan Cardona, Kaleb Lowy, Christopher Leo



Zeyad Allan, 6th grade, enters campus through the Salinas

Photographed by Mrs.

In addition to a new grade level at Preparatory Academy, students have also had to adjust to new safety protocols, including the introduction of metal detectors.

With the unfortunate increase in a need for metal detectors, South Texas ISD increased its safety policies including locked doors and clear backpacks. Now, STISD has required all of its campuses to use metal detectors every morning. When students arrive to campus every morning, they must first go through a metal detector.

The overall consensus of the students at Preparatory Academy is that the metal detectors are frustrating but necessary. Sixth grade student, Xamira Berges said, "It's frustrating because sometimes it will beep from my water bottle, but other days it doesn't." While some students deal with the worry of what will set off the metal detectors, other students are more concerned with what happens after something triggers the beeping. Sixth grade student, Avery Elizondo, said, "The detectors usually beep with our Thermos water bottles. But I think the search needs to happen every time it goes off to make sure its just a water bottle."

Most students feel that the metal detectors aren't the main factor that makes them feel safe at Preparatory Academy. Instead it is knowing that the doors to the campus and classrooms are always locked.

The metal detectors are here to stay and like most other policies, they will just be a routine that students will need to adjust to.

## FALL RECAP

by Aribella Lopez and Zeyad Allan

Although school started the earliest it ever has on August 8th, the fall semester is speeding towards its end. The transition into each student's grade level has been difficult at first but has finally settled into a routine. Many 6th graders have enjoyed the layout of the campus and the newfound freedom. Sixth-grader, Santiago Salinas mentioned, "I love the openness of our campus." Mia Galalac agrees, and says, "Walking outside from class to class is a good refresher. Its nice to get outside during the day."

While many students have struggled to adjust to the workload and rigor of their classes, they have still enjoyed the social activities offered at Preparatory Academy. From pep rallies to team sports, this Fall semester has been all about coming together and uniting as Spartans. Many showed their spirit by participating in the Red Ribbon Activities or supporting the Spartan sport teams. Ava Barrera, said, "I really liked the school spirit at the pep rallies. The craziness and cheering was really cool. I liked how everyone was included and each team showed their spirit. Even the teachers!"

Moving forward, Spartans are eager to experience their very first Spartan Olympics. Seventh-grade student, Brianna Lopez, "I'm really excited for Spartan Olympics and getting to be with my friends. I also like that we are raising money for the Food Bank of the RGV."

Stay tuned for The Oracle's coverage of the day.



## ASK ACHILLES:

*Dear Achilles,*

*What is the best way to travel through the hallways during passing period? No matter which direction I go it is always so crowded.*

*Please help!*

*From,  
A concerned student*

Dear Concerned Student,

Try to use the outside walkways when possible. For example, if you are coming from a class at the end of the hallway near the pick-up area and your next class is at the front of the building, use the outside walkway to cut time and avoid the crowds. Not only will you have the space to walk, but you will also get a chance to enjoy the fresh air. Just don't be late!

Sincerely,  
Achilles

Need advice? Having trouble adjusting to school? Don't know how to solve an issue? Well, have no fear, Achilles is here. Submit your questions or concerns to The Oracle Editor, Mrs. A. Salinas at [annalisa.salinas@stisd.net](mailto:annalisa.salinas@stisd.net). Your question and Achilles's advice could be featured in our next issue. Submissions will remain anonymous.

## MUSINGS

*by Erin Hou, Auron Mares, and Sophia Saenz*

There are many, hidden and talented artists and writers here at STPA. Many of them have a hard time expressing their creativity due to fear of judgement. For those who are willing, the musings section is their place where these creators can share their work, much to the appreciation of their peers.

We would like to feature different artists and musicians every issue, including samples of their work.

If you would like your artwork, creative writing, song lyrics, or poetry to be featured in the Musings corner of The Oracle, please email Mrs. Salinas at [annalisa.salinas@stisd.net](mailto:annalisa.salinas@stisd.net)

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