

# Tomball ISD

October 2020 eNewsletter



Tomball ISD: Not Just a District, a Destination

## **VISION**

Tomball ISD students will lead in creating the future.

## **MISSION**

Tomball ISD educates students to become responsible, productive citizens by providing innovative, individually rigorous, and personally valuable educational experiences.

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora



Tomball ISD Cabinet



Pictured: (L-R) Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Amy Schindewolf, Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent, Jim Ross, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Jeff McCanna, Chief of Human Talent

## Tomball ISD Board of Trustees

Tomball ISD is governed by an elected seven-member board. School Board members are guardians of the public trust and, through the policies they make, are ultimately responsible for the success or failure of local public education. The board serves as the advocate for educational excellence for the community's youth and puts those interests first.



Pictured: (Back L-R) President Michael J. Pratt, John E. McStravick, Vice President Matt Schiel, Mark Lewandowski; (Front L-R) Justin Unser, Assistant Secretary Kathy Handler, Secretary Lee McLeod

## Return To Excellence

*Change of Learning Environment*  
**October 2 - October 11, 2020**

[Learn More: Change of Learning Environment Process](#)

Tomball ISD families now have the opportunity to make a change to your child(ren)'s current learning environment (F2F/TVS) for the second grading period, which begins the week of October 26 and runs through the end of the fall semester.

This process is now open as of Oct. 2 and will remain open through Oct. 11. During that 10 day window, families will log in to [Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) to make any necessary changes.

***Please note: This process only applies to those families that want to make a change to their current instructional environment either in person (face-to-face) or virtual. If families want their child to continue in the environment they attended for the first grading period, you will not need to take further action.***

If families choose to make a change, they must make the change **for each child** through the [Home Access Center](#).



Schoolology (pronounced: *Skool'uh-jee*) is our first ever learning management system in Tomball ISD which offers a platform for organization, collaboration, communication, discussion boards, multimedia lessons, as well as a place to submit assignments and allows for easy teacher feedback/grading. Schoolology has a simplified navigation and a similar layout to social media. It is also iPad compatible and fully integrates with *Google Apps for Education*.

**Students have been provided instructions on how to gain access to their Courses by logging into ClassLink.**

To learn more about how Schoolology works, visit our [Schoolology webpage](#).



**We Appreciate Our Principals!**

**NATIONAL  
PRINCIPALS  
MONTH**



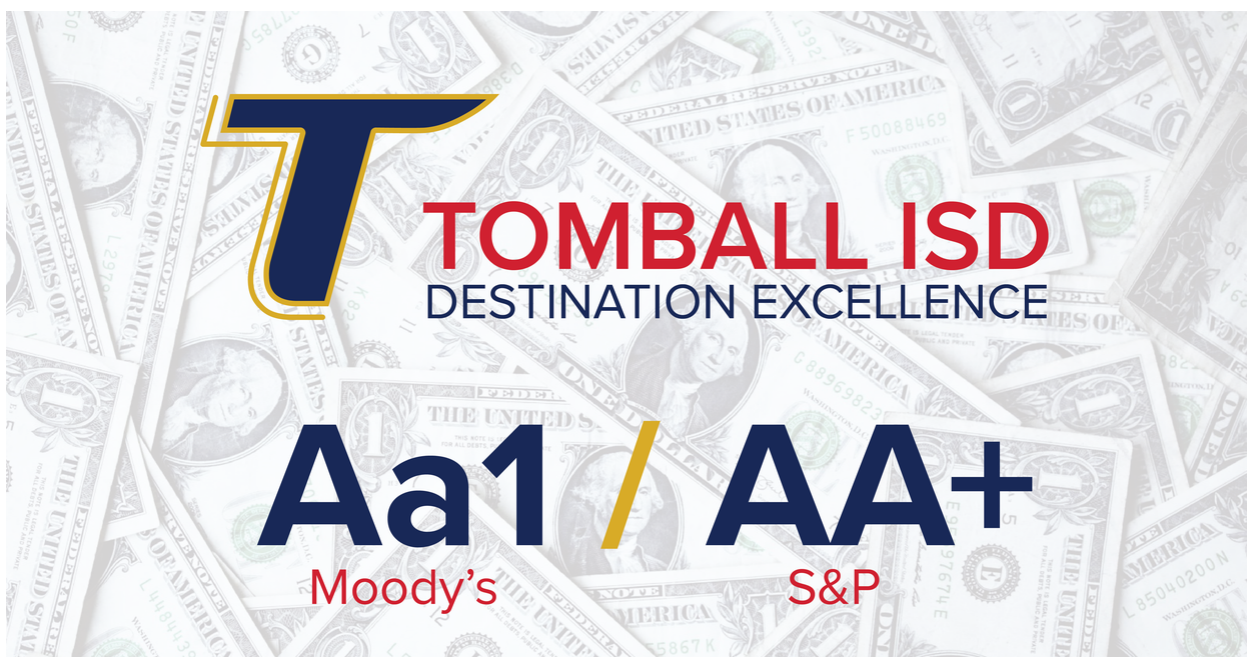
**TOMBALL ISD**  
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

**#ThankAPrincipal**

**Celebrate TISD Principals by Sharing a Kind Message**

Comment on our Facebook post with a kind comment about your campus principal!

**Tomball ISD Receives High Financial Ratings from S&P  
and Moody's**



**TOMBALL** - For its continued focus on financial stability and its robust financial position, Tomball ISD has once again earned high financial ratings of AA+ by S&P and Aa1 by Moody's, announced by the rating agencies on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Standard & Poor (S&P) Global Ratings and Moody's Investor Services provided ratings that are important prior to the sale of bonds on the open market. Both rating agencies use rating rationale for a credit overview that focuses on the local economy, finances of the district driven by property values, average daily attendance, a financial management assessment, and a review of the overall net debt of the district.

S&P affirmed Tomball ISD's 'AA+' underlying rating with an outlook on all ratings of stable. Moody's affirmed the 'Aa1' rating with a stable outlook.

"It is extremely important for Tomball ISD to maintain these high financial ratings because our District is growing rapidly and the need to sell bonds is ongoing," TISD Chief Financial Officer Jim Ross said. "These high ratings result in interest expense savings which is millions saved over the life of bonds sold."

Tomball ISD joins a short list of Texas school districts to earn such high ratings by both services. In the State of Texas, there are 1,246 public and charter schools that can sell bonds and are subject to financial rating reviews. Of those, only 23 districts are ranked as high as Tomball ISD with S&P and only 16 districts are ranked as high as Tomball ISD with Moody's.

It was indicated in the reports that "high reserves and liquidity provide a cushion to weather any unforeseen financial obstacles, such as responding to the pandemic." It was also stated in the reports that the rating "reflects the expectation that solid financial practices will continue to govern fiscal management, allowing reserves to remain favorable."

[S&P Rating Overview](#)

[Moody's Rating Overview](#)

Spotlight: Community Youth Services Specialist (CYS)  
Sam Promise



Now more than ever, Tomball ISD has really focused on the need to foster a culture of caring and compassionate educators that can help support the needs of its families, while still providing a high-quality learning environment.

While it is a team effort to truly build relationships and trust within the community that allows Tomball ISD to succeed in educating the whole child, it is the work done by its Community Youth Services Specialist, that really drives the intentional focus on assisting students and families in times of need.

Meet Sam Promise. She joined Tomball ISD as a contracted employee with Harris County Protective Services in November 2019, and has been a true asset to the District as its CYS Specialist since her arrival.

“As a CYS Specialist, our responsibility is to partner with school districts, government agencies, and local community resource organizations in order to assist students and their families in addressing their needs,” she said.

Along with assisting families in the Tomball community, Promise also advises district staff that may discover evidence of child abuse or neglect and assists students who are experiencing a crisis at home or have no home.

“CYS workers are able to converse with families about their situations and access community services and resources during regular business hours. We have more of a flexible schedule, which allows us to be accessible to resources and supplies from organizations that in turn, can be delivered to homes or campuses,” Promise said.



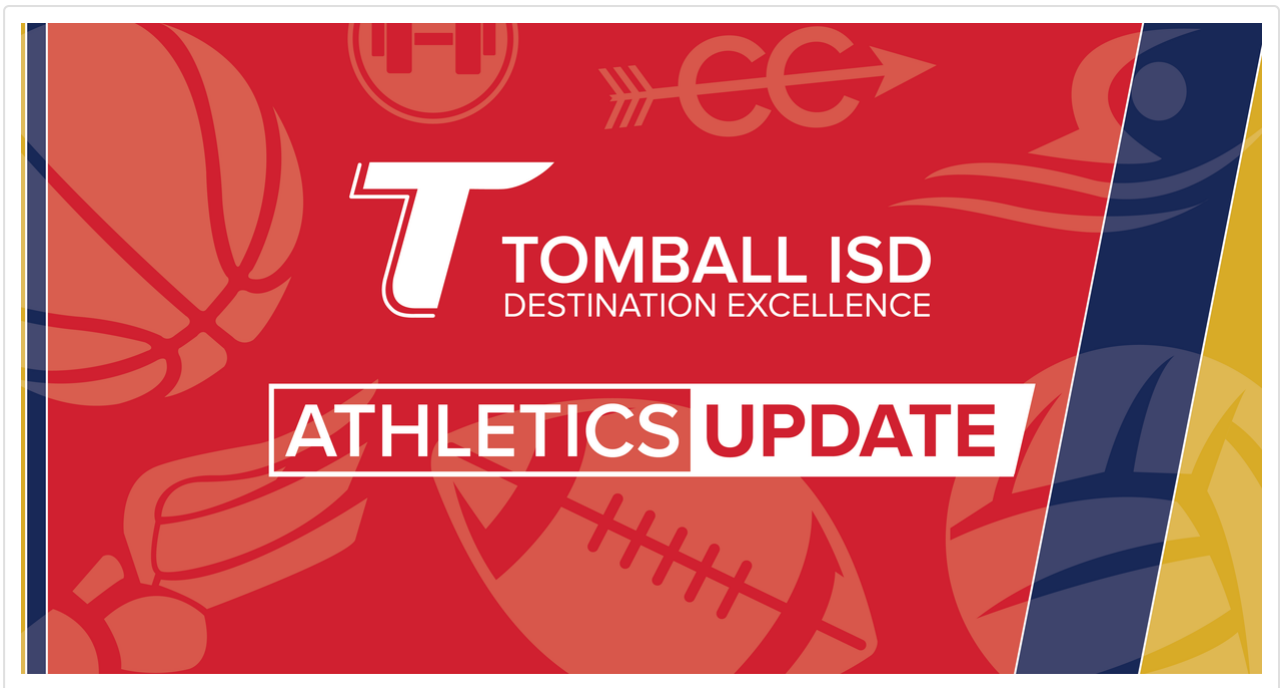
Promise brings eight years of school district experience to this role as she last served as a Social Services Specialist for seven years in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

When asked about why she chose this career path and what drives her to serve in this capacity, Promise was quick to mention her upbringing.

“I grew up in a household of social workers. Both of my parents worked in the social service field, assisting various populations, such as college students, elderly and families. Their work ethic molded my idea of serving the public,” she said.

As a valuable link between the schools and the community, Promise serves all 21 campuses in Tomball ISD. Since her arrival, she has solidified a connection through advocacy, education and personal empowerment.

“The most rewarding part about my job is being able to assist individuals in finding resources and resolutions while helping them reach peace of mind about their situation.”



Athletics Ticketing & Capacity Plan for Fall



## Save the Date: Patriotic Show 2020

When

Friday, Oct. 16th, 7pm

Where

756 Houston Street

College Station, TX

More information

More information regarding tickets, parking, etc. coming soon.



## Paul Leblanc Named New Oakcrest Intermediate Principal

Tomball ISD has named Paul Leblanc the new Principal at Oakcrest Intermediate School. Read more [here](#).



## TISD Students Attend Virtual STEM Camp at Rice University

Tomball ISD students, Akshita Santra and Jacob Wills, attended the prestigious STEM Camp, hosted by the Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity at Rice University this summer.

Read more [here](#).



## New School Hours for 2020- 2021

Tomball ISD announced changes to its 2020-2021 school calendar and with that, school hours were adjusted to accommodate those changes.

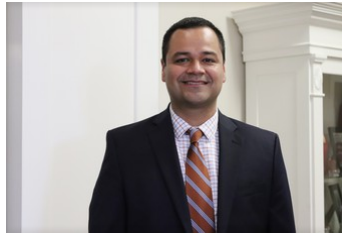
[Click here](#) for new start and end times for each school.



## Dr. Salazar-Zamora Honored by Harris County Commissioner's Court

For her instrumental contributions to education, Tomball ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora accepted the award of Outstanding Superintendent during Hispanic Heritage Month by the Harris County Commissioner's Court during its virtual meeting on September 29.

Read More [here](#).



## Steve Guerrero Named New Director of District Support

Tomball ISD has named Steve Guerrero its new Director of District Support. [Read More here.](#)



## Susanne Whitley Named ConocoPhillips' Math Teacher of Month Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to Susanne Whitley of Northpointe Intermediate for being named this season's ConocoPhillips' Math Teacher of the Month grand prize winner, presented by the Houston Astros.



# Nominate a Tomball ISD Alumnus or Alumna Today!

Tomball ISD is very excited to be able to recognize our accomplished Alumni throughout the years. We encourage you to nominate yourself or a graduate of a TISD high school.



## Curbside Communities

Tuesday's & Thursday's  
4:00 - 6:00 PM



Meals Charged by Eligibility (Free, Reduced, Paid)

Tuesday: (2) Breakfasts & (2) Lunches • Thursday: (3) Breakfasts & (3) Lunches

### Tomball Intermediate

723 West Main Street  
Tomball, TX 77375

### Oakcrest Intermediate

18202 Shaw Road  
Cypress, TX 77429

Families may visit their closest Curbside Community

## Curbside Meal Communities Continue for TVS Students

Tomball ISD continues to offer meals for Tomball Virtual School students but will now offer them at just two locations (Tomball Intermediate and Oakcrest Intermediate) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-6 p.m.

Families may visit their closest Curbside Community. Meals are offered/charged based on your student's meal eligibility, Free, Reduced, or Paid.

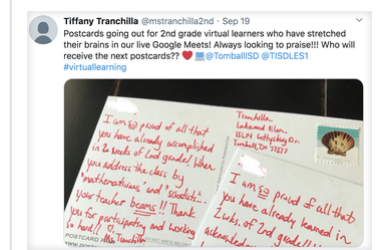
Tuesday's meal pick up will include 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches. Thursday's meal pick-up will include 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches.


More more information, visit the [Child Nutrition Curbside Communities page](#).

Follow @TomballISD on Twitter

Social Media Shoutouts: #TISDWeGotThis





<b>JULY 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 <b>2020-2021 Calendar</b> First Day of School September 8, 2020 Last Day of School May 27, 2021 <b>Staff &amp; Student Holidays</b> Independence Day - July 3 Labor Day - September 7 Thanksgiving - November 23-27 Winter Break - Dec. 21-Jan.1 Spring Break - March 15-19 Good Friday - April 2 Memorial Day - May 31 <b>Staff Development/Workdays</b> Student Holidays August 4-6 (New Teacher) August 11-31 September 1-4 November 3 (Election Day) January 4-5 January 18 February 15 May 28 <b>Instructional Days</b> Fall Semester: 68 Spring Semester: 94 <b>Make Up Days (if needed)</b> June 1-4 <b>Reporting Periods End</b> October 23 December 18 March 12 May 27	<b>JANUARY 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		<b>MARCH 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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<b>DECEMBER 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		<b>JUNE 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Board Approved 8/4/2020



**Return To  
Excellence**



**BACK-TO-BACK**



**2018-19  
2017-18**

\*new A-F rating system

**HIGHEST RATED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REPUTATION OF EXCELLENCE**

**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATIONS**

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**HIGHLY RATED**

**SMALLER SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

**A DESTINATION**

**ENGAGED FAMILIES**

**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION**

**STATE-OF-THE-ART STADIUM COMING SOON**

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