

enlighten. inspire. achieve.

CONNECTIONS

A Publication from Hillsboro Independent School District



Summer 2023
Accolades Edition



In the issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Legacy Banquet | Page 4 |
| Teachers of the Year | Page 6 |
| Butterfly Release | Page 6 |
| Spring Relays | Page 10 |

Val and Sal Spotlight



Hillsboro High School's valedictorian for the 2022-2023 school year is Misael Alvarado. He will attend Abilene Christian University this fall to study Kinesiology.

Misael was involved in a number of activities including varsity athletics, student council, National Honor Society, and band. During his athletic career at HHS, he received a number of awards and recognitions. He was the senior captain of the football team, earned all-district honors for football, and received 1st Team Academic All-State honors from the Texas High School Coaches Association. Misael was also a member of the tennis team where he received the MVP award and was a regional qualifier his senior year.

Hillsboro High School's valedictorian also earned A-Honor Roll throughout high school, the Principal Scholarship, the President's Award, multiple Eagle Excellence Awards, and the title of Rotary Club Boy of the Year.

Misael's goal is to earn a Master of Science in Athletic Training. In five years, he hopes to work with a sports team in a good environment and help as many people as he can.



Hillsboro High School's salutatorian for the 2022-2023 school year is Ryan Volcik. He will attend Texas A&M University-Commerce in the fall to pursue a degree in Nursing.

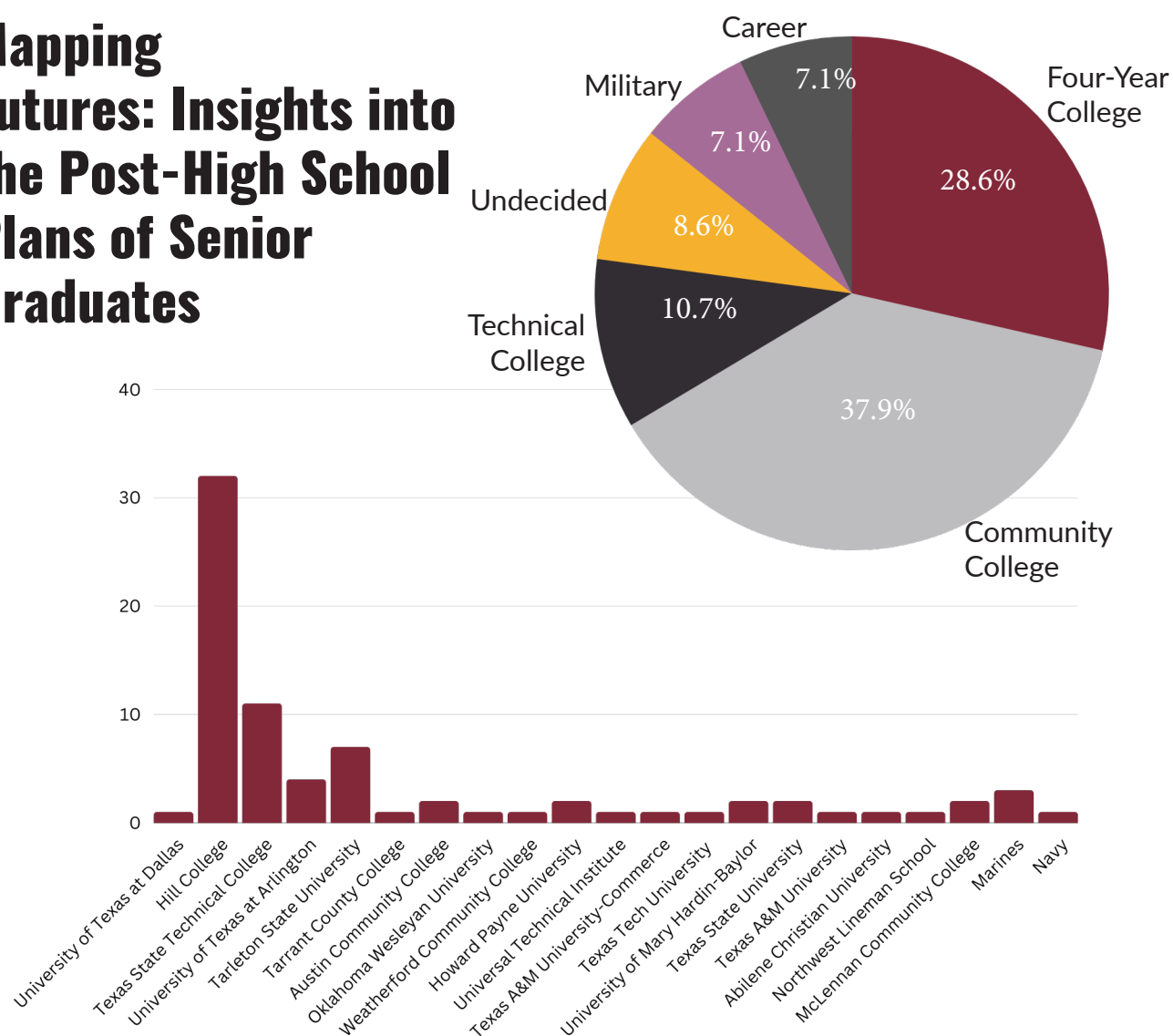
During his high school career, Ryan participated in Academic UIL, National Honor Society, and Eagle Scouts. He earned many academic awards including the AP Calculus Award, Anatomy and Physiology Award, A Honor Roll Award, and the CNA Award. He also competed at UIL competitions in 2022 and earned the title of Regional Champion in Ready Writing. Ryan also earned the Hill College President's List Award for maintaining a 4.0 while enrolled as a full-time student.

Additionally, Ryan volunteered at blood drive events throughout his high school career. His donations earned him the Red Cross Award.

He was accepted into the honors program at Texas A&M University-Commerce and says he plans to spend most of his time studying. In five years, he hopes to become a trauma nurse while studying to get his doctorate to become a nurse anesthetist.



Mapping Futures: Insights into the Post-High School Plans of Senior Graduates



Senior Walk



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

Superintendent:
Dr. Darrell Brown
brownd@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro High School
1600 Abbott Ave.
Hillsboro, TX 76645
Phone: (254) 582-4100
www.hhs.hillsboroisd.org
Principal: Justin Vercher
vercher@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: Stephanie Tucker
tucker@hillsboroisd.org

Hillsboro Elementary School
1601 Abbott Ave.
Hillsboro, TX 76645
Phone: (254) 582-4140
www.hes.hillsboroisd.org
Principal: Kimberly Carter
carter@hillsboroisd.org

Connections is created by Leah Deniston, Designer/Writer/Photographer



Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation Honors Top 10 Percent of Graduating Seniors

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored this year's top 10 percent of graduating seniors with a reveal ceremony and Legacy Reception. During the reveal ceremony, each student recognized an HISD employee who served as their mentor and aided in their academic success. Students' families and recognized employees were invited to celebrate student accomplishments at the Legacy Reception on Sunday,

May 7th. At the event, the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation presented each top ten graduate with a certificate and a \$1,000 scholarship to help with their future education.

"The HISD Education Foundation is extremely proud of the top 10 percent of 2023 graduates," said Deb Hanson, the Executive Director of the HISD Education Foundation. "Their dedication to their grades is admirable considering the number

of sports and extracurricular activities they were involved in. Students, all of your late nights of studying, the fun you may have missed, and the lack of sleep have paid off. You are well prepared to handle whatever comes next on your journey ahead."



Lifetime Achievement Award

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored Marilyn Hill with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Legacy Reception. Mrs. Hill retired at the end of the 2022-2023 school year after a 30-year-plus education career.

Mrs. Hill grew up in Lawrence, Mississippi, and went to high school in Newton, Mississippi. She attended East Central Junior College and Mississippi State University where she earned her degree in Interior Design and Fashion Merchandising. Her first teaching job was in Clinton, Mississippi as a home economics teacher. Mrs. Hill began her teaching career at Hillsboro ISD in 1988 at Hillsboro Junior High School and transitioned to Hillsboro High School several years later.

During her career at Hillsboro ISD, she helped numerous students with their resumes, reference letters, and scholarship applications. She also helped cheer students on at basketball games, football games, track meets, stock shows, proms, cheer camps, board meetings, and UIL competitions. Mrs. Hill has also chaperoned many school field trips including ones to NASA and Washington D.C.

Hillsboro ISD would like to thank Marilyn Hill for her years of service, generosity, and positivity. She will be missed.



Eagles Off the Clock • • • • •

Donna Bower began her education career in 2001 at Hillsboro ISD. She was a teacher's aide for 10 years before transiting to the Eagle Nest Daycare Center for 12 years. In total, she has worked at Hillsboro ISD for 22 years. Her favorite memory during her time at Hillsboro ISD was watching the babies at the daycare learn to walk and talk. During her free time, she likes to travel to upstate New York to visit family. When she isn't traveling she likes to play board games with her daughter, watch TV, bake, and cook. Ms. Bower is looking forward to sleeping past 5:30 a.m. and not having to go to work.



Nancy Dabney's career started in 1983 as a registered nurse. She joined the Hillsboro ISD team in 2022 as the Hillsboro High School Nurse. When asked why she made the transition to school nurse she said she was looking for a job closer to home and something less stressful compared to working in surgery. Ms. Dabney says she was pleasantly surprised by the polite respectfulness of the students and will miss them. When she's not working, she enjoys outdoor activities, reading, latch hook projects, and watching movies at home. She is looking forward to not having scheduled work days and hours.

Harley Davis embarked on his teaching career at Malone ISD in 1994 as a 7th and 8th-grade teacher. He joined the Hillsboro High School team during the 2007-2008 school year as the health teacher, head girl's basketball coach, and assistant softball coach. He continued his teaching career at other districts before returning to Hillsboro ISD in 2022. His favorite memory of working at Hillsboro ISD was in 2008 when the Lady Eagles softball team was district champions, bi-district champions, and area qualifiers. Upon entering retirement, Mr. Davis intends to rekindle his passion for music through his talents with many musical instruments.



Marilyn Hill started her education career in 1986 at Clinton High School in Clinton, Mississippi. She began working at Hillsboro ISD in 1988 until 1996. After a few years away from teaching, Mrs. Hill returned to Hillsboro ISD as a school board member from 2001 until 2007. She missed the joys of working with high school students and returned to Hillsboro High School in 2010 until 2015. In 2017, she became a CTE teacher in the Education and Training pathway for students. After retiring, Mrs. Hill is looking forward to traveling and visiting family.

In 1984, Robin Ralston joined the Hillsboro ISD team as a teacher and coach at Hillsboro Junior High School. She continued her career at Connally ISD in the early 1990s before returning to Hillsboro ISD in 2008 as the District Lead Counselor at Hillsboro High School. In 2015, Ms. Ralston became the principal at Hillsboro Elementary School. Ms. Ralston officially retired in the summer of 2022 and returned part-time this year to Hillsboro ISD as a transition specialist in the special education department. Her favorite memory is the Hillsboro High School graduation in 2009. This was her first experience with graduation as a high school counselor. She says it was truly rewarding helping students prepare for their final evening of high school. During her free time, Mrs. Ralston likes to spend time with friends and family, participate in sports, ride horses, and go to the movies. She is looking forward to trying new things during her retirement.



Annette Underwood began her career in 1999 as a diagnostician clerk at Hillsboro ISD. In 2007, she transitioned to a computer, business, and technology teacher at Hillsboro High School. Then in 2013, she started teaching at the Eagle Academy. Her favorite memory from working at Hillsboro ISD was watching her son grow up in Hillsboro ISD schools and all the opportunities that were afforded to him. She also enjoyed being an involved parent in PTA and attending athletic events. Ms. Underwood says she is going to miss the fresh ideas and ingenuity of her high school students as well as the camaraderie of staff on campus. She is most looking forward to waking up after the sun comes up, seeing family and friends, attending church activities, and volunteering in the community.





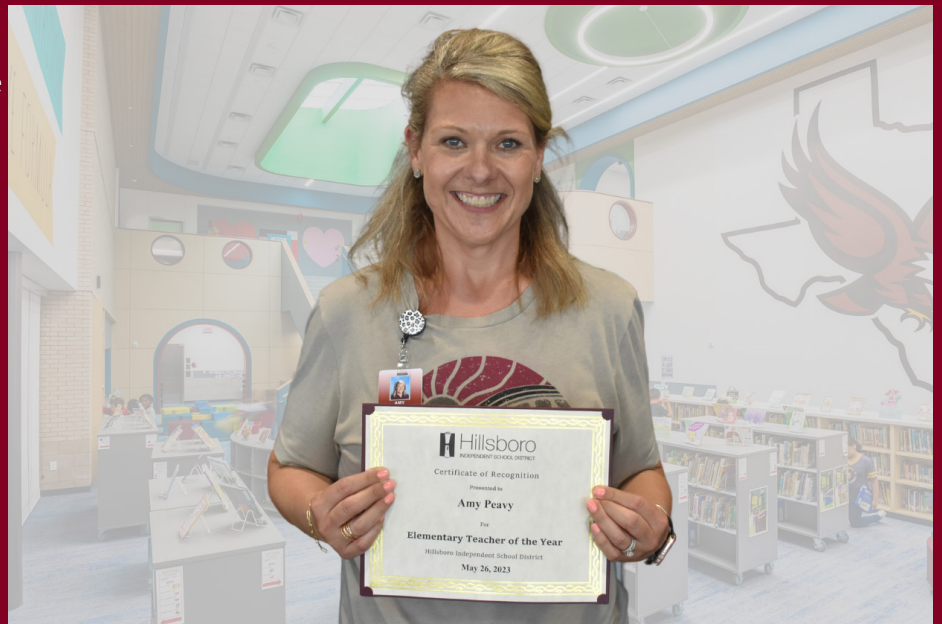
Inspiring Educators:

Amy Peavy is a first-grade teacher at Hillsboro Elementary School where she just completed her 18th year of teaching. When Mrs. Peavy became old enough to babysit, she learned she loved being around kids. Moreover, in high school, she worked at a daycare and that's when she realized she wanted to be a teacher.

When asked how her teaching has evolved over the years, Mrs. Peavy says she has become more confident in herself which has helped her become more confident in the classroom. "I would also say when I became a mom that really helped me see the students in a different way," said Peavy.

Something Mrs. Peavy's students find surprising about her is that she is an only child. "Most of my students have brothers and sisters, so it's hard for some of them to understand not having a sibling," said Mrs. Peavy.

Her favorite memory as a teacher was the parade around town during COVID-19. During this time, school was moved online so she says it was nice to get out and see everyone. Both the students and staff made signs and had a wonderful time. "It was a very special day," said Mrs. Peavy.



Student Council Sponsors Butterfly Release



On March 29th, hundreds of butterflies were released at Hillsboro High School (HHS) in honor of Mr. Grady Fulbright, HHS assistant principal who passed away on March 5 of this year. Hillsboro High School Student Council organized this event with proceeds benefiting a scholarship honoring Mr. Fulbright.

While Student Council officers and members attended the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) annual conference in Irving, Texas on April 22 and 23, they dedicated their table talk discussion to Mr. Fulbright's legacy and the butterfly release honoring him. The group received positive feedback from attendees and was notably one of the most visited tables at the conference.

"We are very proud of the commitment and dedication the HHS Student Council demonstrates every day through their actions,

leadership, and willingness to serve in the school or the community," said Deborah McMenamy, Ed.D., who serves as Student Council Co-Sponsors along with Damaris Nuuanu. "Student Council members at Hillsboro High School work diligently to create leadership opportunities and involvement in the community."

At the conference, TASC recognized Hillsboro High School for its outstanding achievement in leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community. HHS Student Council received the following awards in the areas of Outstanding Student Council: Drugs, Alcohol,

Safety & Health Education (D.A.S.H), Pride and Patriotism, and Energy and Environment. The group also received recognition as a Sweepstakes Council for its Community Service Report. Hillsboro High School is one of only 238 student councils statewide to receive this highly-esteemed honor.





Ultimate Student Food Truck Showdown

Hillsboro High School's Intermediate Culinary Arts classes engaged in a battle of culinary creativity when they revisited their food truck projects from last school year to learn the food production side of the business. On May 10, students tested their culinary skills applying what they learned this semester.

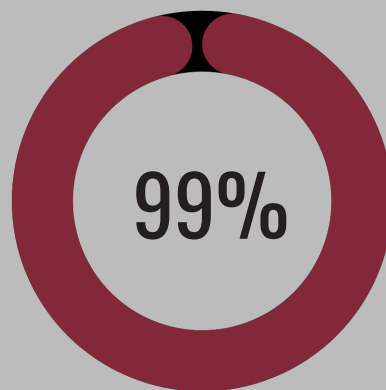
On the day of the competition, food truck groups prepared their signature menu items to sell including tacos, brownies, dumplings, pasta, and more.

HHS staff and students were invited to the Culinary Arts classroom to be customers where they were given fake funds to buy from food trucks. The food truck earning the most money won the competition.

The culinary arts project was an energetic, hands-on experience where students learned about the food truck business, interacted with customers, and gained new culinary skills. This significant project is one the students will savor for years to come.



CTE Data Insights: **EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS**



of Hillsboro High School students were enrolled in a CTE course during the 2022-2023 school year.

CTE Student Organizations:

- Future Farmers Association (FFA)
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- SkillsUSA

Mystery Box Cooking Competition



Cooking challenges aren't just for contestants on the Food Network. The Hillsboro High School Culinary Arts Program hosted its own Mystery Box Challenge. In this contest, students from two class periods were divided into groups and had one hour to make a culinary dish using four mystery ingredients revealed at the start of the competition. The first class had tilapia, shredded coconut, rice, and radishes from the campus garden as their mystery ingredients. The second class had pork chops, potatoes, broccoli, and honey.

Many students had an opportunity to compete and challenge themselves in this competition," said Kyla Parks, Hillsboro High School senior. "Students really enjoyed this challenge and look forward to an opportunity to participate again."

When the hour timer went off, students had to throw their hands in the air and walk away from their culinary dishes. HHS teachers were selected as judges to determine winners of each class. In the end, two student groups were determined champions of the HHS Mystery Box Challenge.

5 State Champions



73 Industry Based Certificates (IBCs) were earned during the 2022-2023 school year



37 Welding IBCs



17 Serve Safe Manager IBCs



9 Certified Nurses Aid IBCs



7 Floral IBCs



3 Animal Sciences IBCs



Spring Relays Event for Students with Special Needs

Hillsboro ISD's Special Education Department hosted the 2023 Spring Relays on Wednesday, May 10th for students with special needs. Students from seven surrounding school districts were invited to participate in the fun at the Hill County Fairgrounds Exhibits Building.

The Spring Relays provide an opportunity for students with special needs to experience a variety of competitions in a fun, safe, adapted environment.

"This event gives students with special needs an opportunity to participate and compete as a team against peers from other districts," said Kathy Groppe, Interim Director of Special Education at Hillsboro ISD. "These are interactions they might not otherwise have."

On the day of the event, a rain storm hung over Hillsboro; however, it did not wash away any fun. The event was moved inside the Exhibits Building where students were



still able to participate in a number of exciting events including standing long jump, 25-meter walk, 25-meter run, ring toss, face painting, bounce houses and much more.

"To see the excitement on the student's faces when they cross the finish line makes my heart proud," said Groppe. "Each student receives some kind of tangible award for completing each event. It's not about winning or losing. It's about doing your best and being awarded for your accomplishments."

The Hillsboro Lions

Club, a sponsor of this event, used funds from their annual golf tournament to provide free t-shirts for all the students and volunteers. The students also received a free lunch and drinks from Brookshire's Grocery and Atmos Energy. Hillsboro ISD would like to thank the sponsors for helping make the event memorable and exciting for students.



State Qualifiers



FCCLA State Conference

Anabel Andrade, Grecia Cervantes, Thomas Creamer, Treasure Griffin, Alexa Manuel, Alisia Librado, Jocelyn Alferez, Karen Almazan-Compean, Dacy Garcia, Celeste Sandoval, Emily Campos, Daislyn Villegas, Harmony Williams, Brianna Martinez, Evelyn Mendoza, Victoria Portillo, and Juleisee Gonzales.
Not Pictured: Kelvin Eagans and Alva Garcia Zamora



UIL Congressional Debate and Academics

Jackson Steele placed 4th at State in Persuasive Speaking (pictured on the right).



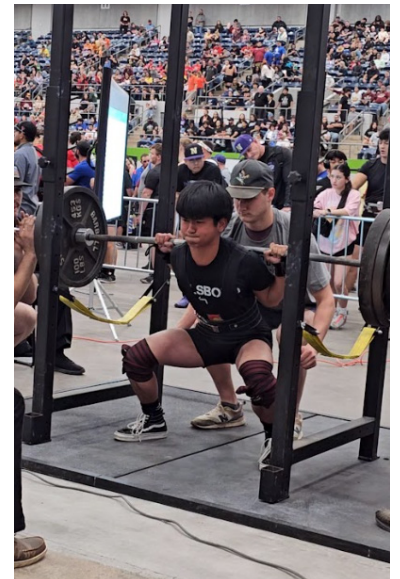
THSWPA State Powerlifting Meet

Ayleen Gonzalez, Jackelin Cuevas, Catalina Ramirez, Angela Terrazas, Natalie Monroy, Ayle Gonzalez, and Natalia Gallegos.



THSWPA State Powerlifting Meet

Kyle Robinson and Nguyen Tran.



A 30-Year Tradition Continues

The annual 5th Grade Department escorting the Bike Ride to the Park on May 19 was another success! This is a Hillsboro Intermediate School tradition dating back to the 1990s. This event was created for students to celebrate their completion of reading goals for the school year. Another long-standing tradition of the bike ride is the Hillsboro Police

Department escorting the bike riders to and from Hillsboro City Park. Once arriving at the park, students spend time playing kickball, soccer, volleyball, and enjoying the playground.

Families participate and celebrate with their students on this special milestone occasion.



