



## **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.

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**Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora**



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**Board of Trustees**



Pictured: (Back Row, L-R) Mark Lewandowski, John E. McStravick, Matt Schiel, Dr. Michael Pratt  
(Front Row, L-R) Justin Unser, Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Lee McLeod, Tina Salem

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## District Leadership

# **Tomball ISD Cabinet**



Pictured: (L-R) Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Michael Webb, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent; Dr. Amy Schindewolf, Chief of Staff & School Leadership; Zack Boles, Chief Financial Officer; Holly Sherman, Legal Counsel

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**TOMBALL ISD**  
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

From the Board of Trustees & Dr. Salazar-Zamora

*Happy Holidays*

December 21, 2023 - January 8, 2024

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# Congratulations, Spelling Bee Champions!

## Read All About It!



### Feel Good Story: 2023-2024 Tomball ISD Spelling Bee Champions Crowned

Tomball ISD students compete in District and Spanish Spelling Bee competitions.

📄 [tomballisd.net](https://tomballisd.net)

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## District Spelling Bee

- 1st Place: Ishika Varipilli (CPJHS)
- 2nd Place: Maanit Patel (WWJHS)
- 3rd Place: Brendan Nguyen (TIS)

Ishika Varipilli is now a 5-time Tomball ISD Spelling Bee winner. She won the 2023-24 competition in Round 16, spelling the word “cauterize” correctly. Ishika will now represent TISD at the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee!



## Spanish Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5

- 1st Place: Oriana Pineda (OIS)
- 2nd Place: Elena Vargas Almodovar (CPES)
- 3rd Place: Hector Hinstroza Faria (NIS)

Oriana Pineda won the Spanish Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5 competition after 38 rounds, spelling the word "anglohablante" correctly.



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## Spanish Spelling Bee, Grades 6-8

- 1st: Linda Farias (GLJHS)
- 2nd: Alejandro Alvarado Moya (GLJHS)
- 3rd: Isabel Jerez Weir (WWJHS)

Linda Farias won the Spanish Spelling Bee, Grades 6-8 competition after 18 rounds, spelling the word “pealada” correctly.



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## **Tomball ISD Campuses Recognize & Celebrate Veterans Day**

From a student-led ceremony, hosted by a LOTC program to a breakfast and gathering, to a special tribute from our youngest learners at EEA, Tomball ISD campuses continued their tradition of honoring our Veterans in a big way. Student leadership and patriotism continues to shine bright in Tomball ISD!









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**ConnectED Podcast with Dr. Z**



# CONNECTED

## Podcast with Dr. Z

Tomball ISD is fortunate to have strong student leaders that provide a voice for their campus as Superintendent Student Ambassadors. Students from THS, TMHS, and Tomball Star Academy join Dr. Z in a conversation about school, their interests and future plans along with the importance of having a student voice.

### Listen Below to Latest ConnectED Podcast



#### ConnectED: Superintendent Student Ambassadors on Apple Podcasts

Tomball ISD is fortunate to have strong student leaders that provide a voice for their campus as Superintendent Student Ambassadors. Students from THS, TMHS, and Tomball Star Academy join Dr. Z in a conversation about school, their interests and future plans along with the importance of having a stu...

[podcasts.apple.com](https://podcasts.apple.com)



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## **Principal Partner Day!**

In Tomball ISD, we enjoy the opportunity to welcome in community members, business leaders and parents for Principal Partner Day!

Thank you to our community members for showing interest in learning more about our campuses from our amazing campus Principals.





## In the News



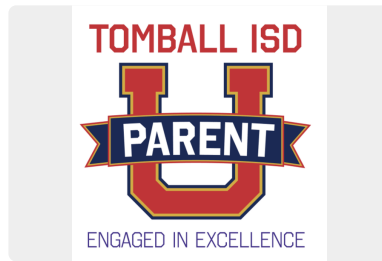
### DPES Teacher Named Tomball Chamber Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to kindergarten teacher Meghan Cooney from Decker Prairie Elementary for being named the Tomball Chamber of Commerce December Teacher of the Month.



### Hanigan + Johnson Orthodontics Gives Donation to Support TEF

Thank you, Hanigan + Johnson Orthodontics, for putting education first by providing our weekly folders & supporting our school district and the Tomball Education Foundation with a generous donation.



## Tomball ISD Parent University Sessions Set

Parent University is designed to empower parents with knowledge and tools to become effective advocates for their children. There are a variety of sessions from Pre-K through High School Senior content delivered through cross-district collaboration. The events are free to attend and are open to our Tomball ISD community. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with our families throughout the school year and hope to see you soon.

[Learn more about Parent U.](#)

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**Learn More About District Zone Reset**





# Athletics

## Football

### Tomball High School

Area Champions  
8-5 Overall Record

#### POSTSEASON AWARDS

All-District Student-Athletes: 25  
Academic All-District Student-Athletes: 54  
Academic All-State Student-Athletes: 17



### Tomball Memorial High School

Bi-District Champions  
10-2 Overall Record

#### POSTSEASON AWARDS

All-District Student-Athletes: 29  
All-District Offensive MVP  
Academic All-District Student-Athletes: 22  
Academic All-State Student-Athletes: 14



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## **Volleyball**

### **Tomball Memorial HS**

Regional Semifinalists  
Undeclared District Champions (14-0)

#### **POSTSEASON AWARDS**

All-District Student-Athletes: 7  
All District Outstanding Offensive Player  
All District Outstanding Defensive Player  
All District Coach of the Year  
Academic All-District Student-Athletes: 13  
Academic All-State Student-Athletes: 7



## **Tomball High School**

2nd in District (12-2)  
Advanced to Playoffs

### **POSTSEASON AWARDS**

All-District Student-Athletes: 7  
Academic All-District Student-Athletes: 16  
Academic All-State Student-Athletes: 5



## Athletics Event Calendar

# Fine Arts

## TMEA All-Region, All-Area, All-State Musicians

Every year, student musicians across the state compete in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State process, which involves rigorous rounds of auditions that culminate in being named All-Region, All-Area, and All-State musicians. Many of our Tomball ISD students completed rounds of this competition this month! Our current standings heading into All-State auditions in January are (number of students):

### TOMBALL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

- **Band** – 2 All-District, 19 All-Region, 5 All-Region Freshmen, 1 All-Region Percussion Ensemble, 5 All-Region Philharmonic Orchestra, 2 All-Region Symphony Orchestra, 1 All-Region Jazz, 4 Advanced to Area
- **Choir** – 18 All-Region, 9 All-Region Treble, 8 All-Region Honor, 18 advanced to Pre-Area, 4 to Area, 2 Area Alternates
- **Orchestra** – 13 All-Region, 4 Advanced to Area, 4 ALL-STATE MUSICIANS (Program record!)



### **TOMBALL HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Band** – 4 All-District, 7 All-Region, 1 All-Region Percussion Ensemble, 4 advanced to Area
- **Choir** – 9 All-Region, 5 All-Region Treble, 8 All-Region Honor, 8 advanced to Pre-Area, 3 to Area, 1 Area Alternate
- **Orchestra** – 5 All-Region, 1 advanced to Area



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### **Tomball ISD 3rd Graders Experience The Nutcracker Performance**

Every third grader in Tomball ISD experienced a performance of The Nutcracker at Tomball High School put on by the Houston Repertoire Ballet. Students learned the story of The Nutcracker, how to behave as an audience member, and all about ballet.

There were 20 TISD elementary students who performed with the ballet as their culmination of the HRB Nutcracker Experience – a free opportunity presented to our students that allowed them to learn ballet, rehearse with the company, and be a part of last week’s production.



Register for the Superintendent's Fun Run

FUN RUN + FREE FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY APRIL 13, 2024  
SUPERINTENDENT'S

Fun Run



Register Early  
& Save \$5!



[TOMBALLISD.NET/FUNRUN](https://TOMBALLISD.NET/FUNRUN)

### Registration Open!

Tomball ISD MOVES presents the Tomball ISD Superintendent's Fun Run. The TISD Superintendent's Fun Run is a 5k (3.1 miles) timed race that will take place on April 13, 2024 at the Tomball Event Center.

Take advantage of early registration with a savings! Price increases after February 16, 2024.



TOMBALL ISD  
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE



Feel Good

FRIDAY





## Students Giving Back this Holiday Season in a Big Way

Tomball ISD campus leaders and teachers continue to empower students to know the impact they can have on others, and as the holiday season approaches, meaningful moments have been captured as students and staff show their support for their local community through toy drives, angel trees, and being a part of local charities and events.

Every year, Tomball ISD schools show up big, and in 2023, the investment they have made in their local community has been immense and meaningful.

[Read more about TISD students giving back.](#)



## 2023-2024 Tomball ISD Spelling Bee Champions Crowned

Tomball ISD students representing campuses across the district took part in the annual District Spelling Bee and Spanish Spelling Bee Competitions, hosted at the Tomball Event Center. Three overall winners were crowned, representing the District Spelling Bee and both the Elementary and Secondary Spanish Spelling Bee.

[Read more about Spelling Bee success.](#)



## TSA Students Take Part in Adulting Day 2023 “Chart Your Course to Success”

In an effort to provide students a unique opportunity to cultivate essential life skills, explore potential career paths, and deepen their comprehension of civic responsibilities, Tomball Star Academy hosted its third annual Adulting Day on the Lone Star College-Tomball campus.

[Read more about TSA's Adulting Day.](#)



## TMHS Volleyball in Midst of Historic Season

“We are One. We are Wildcats!” has been the team motto the Tomball Memorial High School Volleyball team has been vocalizing since day one. But for this 2023 team, being One means so much more.

[Read more about TMHS Volleyball.](#)



## Tomball ISD Recognizes Its Own Through Student2Staff Initiative

Over 200 current Tomball ISD employees graduated from a Tomball ISD high school, and now give back to the school district they once were a part of as students.

In honor of these individuals, Tomball ISD has begun a new initiative called Student2Staff, recognizing those individuals with a coveted yard sign to showcase their pride and loyalty to this school district and community.

[Read more about the Student2Staff Initiative.](#)



## DPES Student Owen Crane Writes & Publishes First Book

His love for animals coupled with his dad’s leadership experience inspired Decker Prairie Elementary third grader Owen Crane to co-author his first children’s book, titled *Leadership for Little Humans* with his dad, Luke.

[Read more about Owen’s book.](#)



## THS, TMHS Marching Bands Continue Rich Tradition of Advancing to Area Competition

Tomball ISD was well-represented by both bands at the Region 9 UIL Marching Band Contest as they each received unanimous first division ratings from the judges (the highest possible score) to advance to the Area Competition!

[Read more about TISD's Marching Band success.](#)



## CPES Teacher Sandy Guillory Selected as ConocoPhillips Math Teacher of the Month Grand Prize Winner

Celebrations erupted at Canyon Pointe Elementary on Friday morning when fourth grade teacher and former ConocoPhillips Math Teacher of the Month Sandy Guillory was named the ConocoPhillips Math Teacher of the Month Grand Prize Winner through a random drawing.

[Read more about Ms. Guillory's surprise.](#)



## GOES Library Supported by Dedicated Volunteers

For Grand Oaks Elementary, its volunteers have proven to play an integral role in the overall success of the campus' library thanks to a supportive group of mothers who have joined together to provide consistent support in the library throughout the year.

[Read more about library volunteers at GOES.](#)



## CES Implements New Initiative to Support Learning

At Creekview Elementary, teachers, staff, and administration have continued to provide 'great learning for all in a nurturing and collaborative environment' through the implementation of a new intervention and extension initiative.

[Read more about CES' new intervention initiative.](#)



## **TMHS Students Lead Clean Up Effort After Home Football Games**

Tomball Memorial High School students have continued to lead in the area of community service. Spearheaded by TMHS Student Council a few years ago, the after-game clean up effort has grown to include many other student organizations and groups, who are all in to provide after-game support for the Tomball ISD Gameday custodial staff and event staff.

[Read more about TMHS student volunteers.](#)



## **Tomball ISD High Schools Rank in the Top 11% Nationally by U.S. News Rankings**

All three Tomball ISD high schools not only earned the coveted "Best High Schools in the US" ranking by U.S. News & World Report for the 2022-2023 academic year but were among the Top 11% in the United States. The U.S. News rankings include data on nearly 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Read more about US News' rankings.](#)



## **Timber Creek Elementary Fosters Relationships with Families through 'Games with Grands Night'**

In honor of Grandparents Day, Timber Creek Elementary hosted its annual 'Games with Grands Night', a family-fun night on campus for students to introduce their grandparents to their school in a relaxed environment, full of fun, food, and games.

[Read more about TCES' event.](#)



## TISD Celebrates Opening of Early Excellence Academy with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

With the 2023-2024 school year off to a great start, Tomball ISD celebrated the opening of its first ever Pre-K Center, the new Early Excellence Academy, during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

[Read more about EEA Opening.](#)



## Character.Org Recognizes Creekside Park Junior High's Cougars 4 Kindness

Creekside Park Junior High's service-based organization, Cougars 4 Kindness, was recently recognized as a Promising Practice by [Character.org](#), a national advocate and leader for character in schools and communities.

[Read more about Character.org's recognition of CPJHS.](#)



## KPRC 2 and Shell Federal Credit Union Honor TMHS Teacher Canita Lee during Surprise Classroom Visit

Tomball Memorial High School teacher Canita Lee was honored with a surprise visit and gift basket, courtesy of Shell Federal Credit Union, as part of KPRC Channel 2's We Love Teachers! segment during the first week of school.

[Read more about Canita Lee's surprise honor.](#)

[Click Here for All Feel Good Friday Stories](#)

TOMBALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ALUMNI**

*Spotlight*

**Ashley Goar, THS '09**



**ASHLEY GOAR, Tomball High School, 2009**

Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education at Linfield University

Ashley Goar credits her passion for nursing along with building a successful career from the opportunities she was given during her time as a Tomball ISD student.

A 2009 graduate of Tomball High School, Goar now gives back as an educator at Linfield University's School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon as an Assistant Professor and the Director of Clinical Education.

Raised in Tomball, she attended Tomball Intermediate, Willow Wood Junior High and Tomball High School. Pursuing many passions while in high school, Goar was a member of the basketball team, played in the marching band all four years, while serving as Drum Major her senior year. She also dedicated time to HOSA-Future Health Professionals and earned her CNA certification upon graduation.

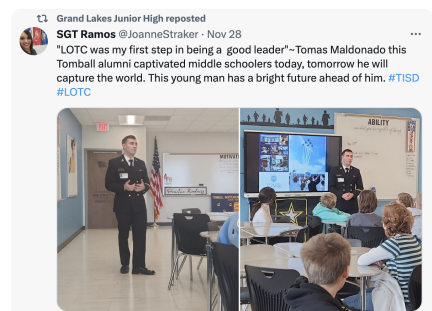
She found immediate interest while in HOSA, and through that organization, Goar made lasting friendships and memories that provided an avenue for success in her nursing career.

"HOSA allowed me to understand the hard work and compassion it would take to be a nurse," she said. "We would talk about different areas of healthcare and not just about the 'cool' stuff. I really enjoyed the friendships and learning about the human body. It was super interesting to me how the medical field truly helps people heal."

Goar acknowledges that being in activities like HOSA and band at THS gave her the discipline and time management skills needed to be successful. She also reflects on how her teachers made a difference in her educational journey. .... (continue reading)

[Read entire Alumni Spotlight.](#)

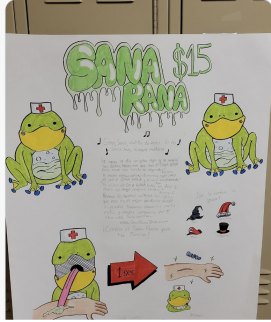
Follow @TomballISD



¡Nuestros estudiantes son tan creativos! Nos da alegría ver los frutos de su trabajo arduo.

#DestinationExcellence #tellostory

@ReneeMiller0104



Dave Handal @handa\_dave · Nov 26  
Thank You @FootballTomball!!! @THS\_athletics @TISDTHS @TomballISD @TBLFLAN

2023 Tomball Football!  
What a ride! Words cannot explain how grateful I am for getting to go on this journey with you. The support that you have made on so many cannot be measured. The impact that this Senior Class has placed on this program, school, and community will always be felt. The games maybe over but all of the laughs, memories, and relationships will last forever. This is definitely "What We Do" I am so proud to be your Coach and to be a Tomball Cougar!  
I love you boys!  
Coach Handal!  
#FHFT #ItsWhatWeDo #TheTomballWay #CollinsStrong #WorstDayOfTheYear



Dr. Brenda L. Arteaga @DrBrendaArteaga · Nov 29  
Multilingual family night at @TISDTHS with @TISDTHS @TomballISD #DestinationExcellence



TMHS Wildcat Theatre, MFA @TMHSTheatre · Nov 29  
It begins again... read thru for MUSIC MANI This is going to be a big one!  
@FineArtsTomball @TomballISD @TISDTMHS



Jade Lopez @TMHS\_JLO · Nov 22  
Congratulations to Lishore Kumar for placing 1st in the Glenbrook Speech & Debate Tournament in Chicago this past weekend! You make us proud  
@TISDTMHS and @TomballISD!!! #GoCatsGo



Jonah Mobarak @THS\_JMobarak · Nov 18  
I am extremely thankful for @TomballISD's fabulous superintendent, Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora (@m\_salazarzamora) because of everything that she does for our state and district and for the amazing pictures we take everytime we see each other! Thank you for everything Dr. Z!!! ❤️👍🏻



Tiffany Tranchilla @mstranchilla2nd · Nov 18  
Book Character Dress Up Day mixed on with Thanksgiving bracelets and butter making! ❤️👍🏻 @TomballISD @TISDLES1



Nizher Diaz-Vela @NizherDiazVela · Nov 15  
All over Texas, students are finding their voices, and fueling the movement called #GenTX. @TISDTHS staff supports and promotes #GenTXweek amongst our Wildcats this and every week! #CollegisWhatsNext  
#RockYourFuture 🎓👍🏻 #Wildcats #Yearbook @tisdcareer @TomballISD



CPJH Choirs @CPJHChoirs · Nov 11  
Our Annual CPJH Choir sing-along at our community H-E-B, singing in the season! Thanks for the invitation, @HEB !! @FineArtsTomball @TomballISD @TISDCPHS #TellOurStory



N2Learning, thank you for all you do to help train teacher leaders! There is a pretty amazing person in the background! Thank you, Tomball, for investing in your teachers so much!  
@TISDDPES @TomballISD



Tomball Intermediate @TISDTHS · Nov 10  
What a blessing to honor our Veterans this morning! A huge shoutout to Ms. Gravesmill and 6th grade choir students for putting together such a meaningful program! Thank you, Veterans, for your service! 🇺🇸  
❤️👍🏻 @TomballISD



Dr. Martha SalazarZamora @m\_salazarzamora · Nov 9  
What a great day in @TomballISD for our community members, business leaders & parents to participate in our annual Principal Partner Day!  
All of you continue to make our district not just a district, but a destination! #DestinationExcellence #TeamTomball





JULY 2023							TOMBALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023-2024 Calendar							JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<b>2023-2024 Calendar</b> <b>First Day of School</b> August 15, 2023 <b>Last Day of School</b> May 23, 2024 <b>Staff &amp; Student Holidays</b> Independence Day - July 4 Labor Day - September 4 Thanksgiving - November 20-24 Winter Break - Dec. 21-Jan. 3 Martin Luther King Day - Jan. 15 Presidents Day - February 19 Spring Break - March 11-15 Good Friday - March 29 Memorial Day - May 27 <b>Staff Development/Workdays</b> <b>Student Holidays</b> August 2-4 (New Teacher) August 7-11 August 14 October 6 and 9 November 6-7 January 4-5 February 16 March 8 and 18 May 24 and 28 <b>Early Release Days</b> <i>All Schools: Dec. 20, May 23</i> <b>Make Up Days (if needed)</b> February 19 March 18 May 24 <b>Reporting Periods End</b> October 13 December 20 March 8 May 23	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
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Board Approved 2/8/2022 Updated 05/11/2023

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TOMBALL ISD  
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

*Stars of*  
**TOMBALL**

Tomball ISD students will *lead* in creating the *Future*.

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**Tomball ISD**

#DestinationExcellence



Tomball ISD students will lead in creating the future.