

SOUTH TEXAS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

PHOENIX NEWS

Issue no. 5 Vol. 2 | Valentines Issue 2024



"Veiled Embrace", colored pencils

by in-house creator Samantha E.

The Virtual Academy's first Violet Moon Faire

Hosted by the



Sponsored by Mr. Cellar





VA Club News

Keep up with the exciting things the VA clubs are doing



For more information on club meetings please contact your sponsor

War on Books

Texas is currently at war with publishers and how it impacts students

By: Alberto Zamora

Texas has recently decided to push for the R.E.A.D.E.R Act the Restricting Explicit and Adult Designated Educational Resources to be passed. What this R.E.A.D.E.R act is trying to do is target sex, lgbtq, race, etc. deemed inappropriate for children.

Additionally, this act calls for books sold to or in school possession to be reviewed for Sexually Explicit materials covered by the act. However, it has been halted and is currently under review by federal courts and has not been passed due to it being called unconstitutional. Some say it undermines or infringes upon the 1st amendment

This new law impacts books that are currently in the school and being used in curriculums. Many of these books have not been challenged prior. When laws ban books students and teachers lose their rights in this case they are losing the right to read. Schools only choose the books that are considered educational and would provide students with something to learn about. This new act does seem to only target the younger students now, but it is not certain that this will impact only the young students and might encourage restrictions on books used by students of a higher-grade level.

With Texas leading the nation in the amount of books being banned and stricter government regulations this is reminiscent of the books like Fahrenheit 451.

In the dystopian novel 451 the government bans and burns books as they do not want people to be reading certain subjects in order to control the population and prevent ideas from spreading. This is similar to what is currently happening, Texas is trying to limit what we can read and also limit what can be accessed by students.



Motion Pictures Recipes

Enjoy recipes from your favorite Movies/T.V shows

By: Angel. C

For valentine's day people go out and buy gifts and take each other out to special places for dinner, but I say that there is nothing more special than making a recipe from you spouse's favorite childhood movie "Ratatouille". For the main course you will learn how to make ratatouille and much like the dish in this film one bite and it will take them to childhood. Once your done serve them while you play "Le Festin" by Camille.



Ingredients

- 4 tbsp olive oil (divided)
- 4 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1/2 small onion (chopped)
- 1/3 cup carrot (shredded)
- 14 oz crushed tomatoes
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp dried parsley
- 1 small eggplant (sliced 1/8-inch-thick circles)
- 2 small zucchinis (sliced 1/8-inch-thick circles)
- 3 Roma tomatoes (sliced 1/8-inch-thick circles)
- salt (for flavor)
- black pepper (for flavor)



Instructions



1. Preheat the oven to 375F
2. In a large nonstick pan, heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil over medium high heat.
3. Add in the onion, garlic, and carrot and cook until tender, about 5 minutes.
4. Next, add in the crushed tomatoes and seasonings and simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper.
6. Once the sauce has thickened, pour into a 2-quart baking dish.
7. Arrange the sliced vegetables in a circular pattern standing upright in the dish over the sauce.
8. Brush with the remaining olive oil.
9. Cover and bake for 30 minutes, then uncover and bake until vegetables are tender.





Virtual Academy Student Feature

What do virtual academy students do outside the virtual setting?

by: Brandon G.



Beckah V. is a 7th grader at South Texas ISD Virtual Academy who has a passion for music and strives to be a musician one day. Beckah shared her musical journey with singing and playing guitar when she was just 7 years old.

She was inspired by her dad, who taught her how, and her passion for music grew. She started attending Elevate School of Music in August of 2022 and has been attending for 2 years now.

Further into her music classes she started gaining more passion for singing, “singing is not just a skill; it's a language of the heart” she expressed. She states that a way her singing skills started developing was her joining school of music and the time, dedication, inspiration, and confidence that she practices. She has performed at the Weslaco Public Library and 4 churches. Beckah practices 4 days a week which is a lot on her voice so to prevent raspiness she usually drinks something warm beforehand.

One important thing she has learned is that timing is important when performing, knowing when to come in during a song and counting the beats helps her stay in rhythm and contribute to the music effectively.

One technique that has helped her and that she learned is that skill allows a musician to perform with facility which refers to a musician's ability to play their instrument or perform music with ease, skill, and fluency.

Although she loves singing, she wants to improve her guitar skills, something she's eager to explore further as a musician.

Overall, her journey as a young musician has been shaped by her dedication, the support of her dad, and her desire to learn and grow in both singing and playing the guitar.





Rounding Up RGV Events

Check out these local events that will be happening during the month of **February**



March 2nd

Pot O' Gold Flea Market

Where: 500 N Bryan Rd Mission

Time: 7 am - 12 pm

Price: Free



March 7th to 17th

Mercedes Livestock Show

Where: 1000 North Texas, Mercedes

Time: Daily. Rodeo times on website at rgvls.com

Price: Prices vary on ticket type, age, presale, and daily admission (Ranging from 10\$ for admission, to 30\$ for access to unlimited rides) more info at rgvls.com



March 30th

McAllen and Brownsville Farmer's Market

Where: 4001 N 23rd St (McAllen) - 1534 E 6th St (Brownsville)

Time: 9 am - 1 pm

Price: Free entry (products vary in price)



March 9th

Cultural Food Exploration

Where: McAllen Library. 4001 N 23rd St

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Price: Free

Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team



Raziel is a Junior at Virtual Academy. He likes to play video games and guitar in his free time. His favorite subject to learn about would be Egyptian Gods.

David enjoys weightlifting, video games and anime. In addition to these things he also enjoys meeting new people, going out and the cold weather. Some of his favorite games are Party Animals, Call of Duty, Roblox and Garry's Mod.

Andrew's favorite hobbies are collecting Neca figures and Shoes. He also enjoys playing games, watching movies and playing football. He enjoys reading *Dog Man* and *Captain Underpants*. His favorite movie series are Lord of the Rings and Star Wars, His favorite game is Insomniacs Spiderman.



Juan is an outdoor person with too many hobbies and interests. He likes to watch the stars, fish, and play video games. He is also guitarist and loves to listen to all sorts of rock.



Alberto enjoys watching movies, and series shows. Mr. Iglesias is his favorite show on Netflix. He has two black cat's that he has named kitty and stella.



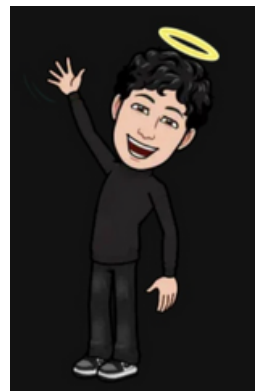
Angel's favorite hobbies are collecting Neca figures, Reading graphic novels, drawing, listening to music and his favorite anime is Naruto Shippuden. He enjoys playing *Red Dead Redemption 2*, Assassins Creed franchise, *We happy Few*, *High on Life*. He also enjoys reading about Greek mythology.



Samantha enjoys being within the confines of art and is in constant turmoil by the concept of it. She also heavily indulges in listening to music and talks over anime with her sister. *Mob Psycho 100* remains her favorite topic to discuss presently.



Brandon G. enjoys working out and hanging out with his friends on the weekend. He also enjoys working and spending time with his family. His favorite food is wings and in his free time he likes to spend money.



If you are interested in contributing to the Phoenix Newspaper please contact roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net