



OUR students THE future

# Awards for Excellence 2023



Honoring Our Outstanding  
High School Students

Presented by

**SEWELL**  
FAMILY OF COMPANIES





Welcome..... Scott R. Muri, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Master of Ceremonies..... Mike Adkins  
Chief Communications Officer  
Invocation..... Dr. Steve Brown  
President, Board of Trustees  
Dinner Served (6:45p.m.)..... Performance by  
Odessa High School Harps  
Awards for Excellence Presentation.... ECISD Board of Trustees,  
Superintendents Leadership Team (SLT) & Sponsors



# Favorite Teachers

of the

## Awards for Excellence Recipients

Todd Berridge  
Cheraldin Celis  
Jennie Chavez  
Elsa Cocker  
Brandon Cook  
Mikal Crowder  
Lornalyn De Leon  
Rowena Dolino  
Alicia Dominguez  
Jeb Harris  
SFC Bernard Hooper  
Natalie Jones  
Karina Ligon  
Maria Lopez  
Veronica Mateus  
Jesus Muniz  
Brandon Murray  
Bryan Nelms  
David Newman  
Jimmy Olague  
Corina Ortiz

Terri Pate  
Mark Perales  
Adelle Perez  
Yoana Picazo  
Ramon Rivera  
Melissa Roth  
Lydia Roundtree  
Kimberly Sanchez  
Cheryl Sellars  
Kenneth Sieloff  
Annie Sieloff  
Linda Subia  
Troy Thomas  
Ariel Thurber  
Teysha Tindol  
Barbara Tyler  
Samuel Valerio  
Christina Villaloboz  
Shelley Wagner  
Clint Wilson



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## Thank You!





# Excellence

This is the 36th anniversary of the Awards for Excellence. It began in 1988 as a vehicle to recognize outstanding students in their academic areas of study.

Students who receive these awards demonstrate that excellence is not only a goal to be attained but an attitude that exudes commitment. It is through this attitude that goals are truly realized and multiplied. Individual excellence benefits both self and society, perpetuates the growth of our democracy and ensures the continued yield of its fruits. As others before them, this year's 44 students charted a course to do their best. Along the way, the standards they set serve as daily examples for their peers.

This very special award honors students for their accomplishments in 9 categories. Award winners were selected by a consensus of teachers from each particular category for academic standing, consistent outstanding performance over a period of years, participation and commitment to excellence within the activities of the discipline and long-range goals of the students.



# Awards for Excellence Athletics

Parent: Thalamarla Madhavi

He is in National Honor Society.

He received the Most Valuable Tennis Player award in 9th and 10th grade, won the West Texas Tennis Tournament - Singles in 11th grade, as well as earning District MVP for all high school players 6A in 11th grade. He has also won United States Tennis Association (USTA) and Universal Tennis Rating tournaments, has a Universal Tennis Rating of 8.13, has an ACT Score of 34, SAT Score of 1510, and ranks #11 in his class of 875.

His hobbies are chess, photography, tennis, and the stock market.

He is undecided on a college but is considering the University of Texas where he will major in finance or become a medical professional.

Jesus Muniz, his senior Spanish teacher is Nithin's favorite teacher.

"Mr. Muniz created a new perspective on how I view Spanish. Mr. Muniz's creative teaching style and fun personality helped me no longer see Spanish solely as a language that I am trying to acquire but as a vibrant culture with unique traditions and people I can immerse myself with."



Nithin Reddy  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence Athletics

Parents: Jamie Cherry, and Lorraine Rutledge (grandmother)

She plays for the OHS softball team, attends Odessa Christian Faith Center, and volunteers at the St. John's Food Pantry.

She earned 2nd Team All-District in 2022.

She enjoys softball, singing and painting.

Her college plans include playing softball and earning a degree in child psychology.

She is going to attend Odessa College.

Diveli's favorite teacher is OHS assistant softball and volleyball coach Elsa Cocker.

"I selected Coach Cocker as my favorite teacher because she has always given me the motivation to be my best along with always being fun and supportive no matter the situation! I am so grateful for her and all the OHS softball staff!"



Diveli Cherry  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Athletics

Parents: Erica and Javier Juarez

She is a member of the Lady Panthers Basketball Team, and is in the medical assistant program.

Her hobbies are playing basketball and hanging out with friends.

She is planning to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio to pursue a career as a petroleum engineer or forensic scientist.

Caytlen's favorite teacher is Brandon Murray, her 8th grade coach and now a coach and teacher at PHS.

"I've chosen this teacher as my favorite because of how much he has influenced my life. He was there when I first started playing basketball and was there when I finished. He helped me eventually take charge of a team my senior year after teaching me all the fundamental strategies for becoming a point guard in middle school. He had an impact on my sports career, but he was also the person I turned to for assistance with any academic subject. He assisted me with education and encouraged me to become a better person every day. I would also describe him as my favorite coach and role model in addition to being my favorite teacher."



Caytlen Juarez  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Athletics

Parents: Tatiana and Sergio Helguera

He is in National Honor Society, and is a volunteer for Impact City Church Kids Ministry.

He earned All-District football honors two times, made 2nd Team Academic All-State Football, won the George Manly Memorial Award from the PHS football team, was a two-time Regional Qualifier in powerlifting and an All-Region Choir selection.

Working out is among his hobbies.

Andrew is going to Texas Tech University with plans to become a mechanical engineer.

He chose his 1st grade teacher, Jennie Chavez as his favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Chavez instilled the love of learning and helped me excel as a student. She has encouraged me and been supportive throughout the years. She has been such an amazing teacher and role model. I appreciate everything she has done for me and I am so grateful to have had her as my teacher."



Andrew Helguera  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Career & Technical Education

Parents: Dondi and Jason Kahm

She has been in Business Professionals of America (BPA) for three years.

She took 3rd Place, and is a National Alternate, in the BPA Administrative Support Team state contest.

Her hobbies are drawing, writing, and games.

She is planning to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to study business management, and eventually own her own business.

Andrya chose business teacher Alicia Dominguez as her favorite.

"She has always been a person who I have respected and aspired to be. She helped me even if I didn't know I needed it, and would go out of her way to see me succeed. She has had, and will always, have a place in my heart. I'm glad I met her in my freshman year, otherwise my whole life might have been drastically different. Out of all the teachers I have ever had, she is by far, the greatest of them all."



Andrya Kahm  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Career & Technical Education

Parent: Leyda Ramírez

She is in National Honor Society, and is president of Business Professionals of America (BPA).

She is state and national qualifier in the BPA Intermediate Word Processing contest, has taken Honors, Dual Credit and Advanced Placement courses, and U-T Onramps.

Her interests include dance and gym.

Alondra is deciding between Odessa College and the University of Texas Permian Basin and considering a degree in architectural engineering and working toward her real estate license.

She chose her 2nd-grade teacher from Cameron Elementary, Karina Ligon as her favorite teacher.

"She was a great teacher to me at a young age. She taught me many things that are useful to me nowadays and in the future. She made an impact on my life and she was patient with me in teaching. Her personality with me has been stuck with me since then."



Alondra Montoya  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Norma and Tony Valles

He is National Honor Society, and is the recipient of ECISD's Award for Excellence for Career and Technical Education.

His interests include being with friends, driving and reading.

Antonio wants to be an accountant or financial manager, and plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

For his favorite teacher, he selected PHS business teacher Natalie Jones.

"[She] is always understanding that nobody is the same, tailors to every student's individual needs and wants, she gets work done and keeps us motivated all the while keeping us happy."



Antonio Valles  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parent: Alma Prieto

Maria's hobbies include drawing and painting while listening to music.

She has been accepted to the University of Texas Permian Basin and one of her goals is to get a graphic design degree and open her own business.

Maria's favorite teacher is Bryan Nelms, PHS digital graphics teacher.

"Ever since I entered [Mr.] Nelms classes I have learned so much and I feel he has helped expand my creativity."



Maria Frausto Prieto  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Carolyn and Oruc Karais

She is a writing center tutor, treasurer of the Peace Academy of West Texas, a member of the National Honor Society, President of National Art Honor Society, a Junior Volunteer for Medical Center Hospital, and a Texas Scholar.

She is NTO's valedictorian, received \$500 from a Texas Art Education Association event, \$500 from the National Math and Science Initiative scholarship, advanced to Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) state competition, will earn an associate's degree while in high school, holds her certification as a phlebotomist technician and is working on certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

She loves drawing and writing small fictional stories, reading, learning about new cultures, sculpting with clay, playing the piano (although I am not very good, she says!), but I will try anything new once!

She wants to become a biomedical engineer, specializing in designing prosthetics. This will use her engineering and arts skills together. She will be attending the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Nisabella's favorite teacher is Cheraldin Celis from her junior year.

"Her class brought back a creative part of me that I almost lost during COVID. Her projects were fun and creative and interactive. I loved them compared to the countless slide presentations we had to do. I also believe they made me more confident in my presentation skills. She also helped me prepare for college a fair amount. My college essay would have been nowhere near as good as it was if not for her. Overall, her class made coming back to school a lot easier and brought back a part of me that I value a lot and I can't thank her enough."



**Nisabella Karais**  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Claudia and Carlos Nunez

She is a Texas Scholar, a member of National Honor Society, a member of Student Council, and a member of the Spirit Club.

She is on the A-Honor Roll, has Perfect Attendance, and earned Outstanding AVID student for 2021-22.

Her hobbies are volunteering, learning history, watching movies, and listening to music.

She has chosen the University of Texas at Arlington and wants to pursue a degree in human resources to become an HR manager.

Yvette's favorite teacher is English teacher Shelley Wagner.

"I choose Mrs. Wagner as my favorite teacher because of her passion and engagement with teaching her students. She never fails to share a smile, motivate, and teach me throughout my four years of high school. Mrs. Wagner is a remarkable teacher that inspires me to greatness."



**Yvette Nunez**  
OCTECHS



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# Awards for Excellence English

Parent: Justin Clark

She is a member of the OCA Academic Decathlon team, and National Honor Society.

She is a two-time Academic Decathlon state champion.

Her hobbies are playing guitar, reading, video games, and discovering new music.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and become an English teacher.

Cielbi's favorite teacher is Mikal Crowder, who teaches world geography and coaches the Academic Decathlon team.

"Mr. Crowder has had such a huge impact on my life since I started high school. He sees so much potential in me and has helped me recognize some of that potential myself. He's helped me get through some pretty difficult times, and I could only hope to be as much of an inspiration for others as he has been for me."



Cielbi Clark  
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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# Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Aron and Tom Byford

She is Odessa High School Chorale vice president, secretary, and section leader.

She is a two-time TMEA All-State Choir selection, earned Division 1 State Solo and Ensemble, two-year All-State Track honors, four-year Academic All-District Volleyball and three-year Basketball, and TGCA Academic All- State Volleyball Team. She is on the President's list at Odessa College, and ranked #8 in her class.

She enjoys Bible study, quality time with family and friends, exercising, and singing.

She is going to Lubbock Christian University to major in sports psychology while running on a track scholarship with a goal of formulating a program allowing athletes to better balance their mental, nutritional, and physical well-being.

Paige selected senior English teacher Cheryl Sellars as her favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Sellars knows what greatness is and how to achieve such a feat, she will never accept less than a personal best on any assignment. She intellectually challenges her students to go beyond the written text and has allowed me to have a deeper understanding of the world, myself, and literature through connections."



Paige Byford  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Guadalupe and Mario Alvidrez

He is president of the Spanish National Honor Society and Permian High School Orchestra, and is in Spanish Honors classes.

He enjoys studying and reading of Stoicism and philosophy, practice of music, and playing instruments like violin, cello and guitar.

He plans to study physiology at the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Said's favorite teacher is PHS social studies teacher Samuel Valerio.

"He made me get interested in school again after the pandemic and made me interested in the study of history and geography. He even made me consider teaching History at one point. A good teacher and a good man that loves what he does and makes you love what he teaches you."



Zaid Alvidrez  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Hilaria Madrid and Juan Villa

He is Student Council President, a member of National Honor Society, a Jr/Sr Board Member, a Writing Center Tutor, and a Texas Scholar.

He is on the A-Honor Roll, ranked #3 in his class, and is a National Math and Science Initiative scholarship recipient. He likes to read, watch videos and solve puzzles.

He plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin, major in business management, minor in marketing and become a real estate agent.

Juan's favorite teacher is Ariel Thurber, his Student Council Facilitator, in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

"Mrs. Thurber has helped me so much. I ran for vice president of the student council for my Junior year because she encouraged me to do so. I won, and we had a year filled with amazing memories. When I was overwhelmed, she would reassure me that I was doing more than enough. Then, when I became the president of the student council, she continued to help me more. That is why I chose her."



Juan Villa  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Rosanna Cruz Torres and Luis Rodriguez Sanabria

She is president of National Honor Society.

She is on the A-Honor Roll, and earned Outstanding Core Values: Integrity and Outstanding Core Values: Initiative campus awards, is on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, and has Perfect Attendance.

She enjoys traveling, shopping, weight training, and volleyball.

She is going to continue her education at Odessa College, get a degree in criminal justice, work with the police and later join the FBI.

Alanis's favorite teacher is Troy Thomas, Odessa College Criminal Justice department chair.

"I chose Mr. Thomas as my favorite teacher because he helped me see the opportunities ahead of me and always supported me through the way with every decision I made. He made me feel like myself and always had something funny to say. He was very caring with all his students and was a father figure to all of us. Mr. Thomas has been a very great teacher and I thank him for motivating me and being there for me through these last few years."



Alanis Rodriguez  
OCTECHS



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Eimy Aguirre & Elco Enrriquez

She is in Student Council.

She is Faculty Ambassador Award for Excellence honoree, is on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, and earned Distinguished Eagle at Ector College Prep.

Her favorite hobbies are working out, dancing, and organizing.

She is planning to attend the University of Texas at Arlington to pursue a bachelor's degree in real estate.

Ashley's favorite teacher is Odessa College Associate Professor II for Business Professions Clint Wilson.

"I selected Mr. Wilson as my favorite teacher because I've known him for a long time and I loved his teaching style. I also chose him because he was very nice to everyone and he made everything very interesting to learn. He taught me all of the following courses; Change Management, Supervision, Principles of Management, Communication in Change Management, etc."



Ashley Enrriquez  
OCTECHS



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Valeria and Carlos Vasquez

He is Glee Club president, a member of the Academic Decathlon Team, and in National Honor Society.

He placed in the state Speech competition, is on the A-Honor Roll, and earned medals in Academic Decathlon.

His hobbies are singing, football, basketball, guitar, and cooking.

He plans to study biomedical sciences and pursue a master's degree, then hopefully start his own firm or join one for developing prosthetics.

He's been accepted to the University of North Texas.

Carlos's favorite teacher is 10th grade history teacher Brandon Cook.

"Mr. Cook has been the definition of support when it comes to my education and goals. He is constantly encouraging me and congratulating me in all I accomplish. He helped me make the dream of Glee Club come true and he is consistent in keeping my standards and opinions of myself high. Overall, he is someone that has helped me overcome so many different challenges and gave me a person to come to for anything. Words can't even begin to capture the extraordinary effect he has had on me."



Carlos Vasquez  
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Estelita and Calvin Marcelo

She is on the Academic Decathlon team, secretary for the Student Council, historian of the National Honor Society, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

She is the valedictorian of her class, an Odessa College Student Excellence Awardee, and on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll.

She enjoys making YouTube videos, watching Korean dramas, listening to music, reading books, and learning dance choreographies.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to become a nurse anesthetologist, and then, one day, open her own café.

Mikal Crowder, world geography teacher and Academic Decathlon coach, is Nadine's favorite teacher.

"As we roam the hallway during passing periods, Mr. Crowder always sits there, prepared to cheer us up with his witty dad jokes. He never fails to check up on us, and when I need his advice, he is always present. He is a brilliant Academic Decathlon coach as he always comes up with solid strategies supported by data. Mr. Crowder epitomizes an exceptional teacher because he challenges his students and gives credit where credit is due. Aside from looking like Dr. Strange, he is considered our hero at school."



Nadine Marcelo  
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Nancy and Arthur Montoya

He is captain of the Wild Bunch and the gymnastics team, and part of Community in Schools.

He likes hanging with friends and family, making the best of every moment.

He wants to major in physical education and history, and eventually become the head gymnastics coach at OHS.

He plans to start college at Odessa College then transfer to the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Sean's favorite teacher is Veronica Mateus.

"Ms. Mateus pushed me to my limits and when I thought I couldn't get past those limits, she motivated me and just has been there for any difficult time in my 1st semester of my senior year."



Sean Montoya  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Rhonda Haley

He is the Odessa High Drumline drum lieutenant.

He is the 2023 OHS salutatorian, and a 2023 Honors Performance Series Finalist.

He enjoys reading; Horology (watchmaking/collecting/studying); thrifting; and film watching.

He will attend Columbia University, with a goal of publishing research while in college.

Gabriel selected English teacher David Newman as his favorite teacher.

"In a federal public schooling system that protects the oversimplification and standardization of education, David Newman is a pillar of freedom. In a community that has condemned critical commentary in the classroom with censorship, harsh public comments, and reprimands, David Newman will always teach to protect the freedom of complete intellectual inquiry, allowing students like me to find themselves, their truths, and their worth through the many epiphanies that accompany complex literature and critical thinking. In a time where many teachers are feeling their classes become bureaucratically led, David Newman protects the foundation of education by instilling an idea in his students: the love of learning."



Gabriel Haley  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Cami and Greg Simmons

He is president of Student Senate, part of the Permian Flag Crew, spirit officer of the Permian Choir Council, a member of the First Baptist Youth Group, the Odessa Symphony Guild, and a Texas Scholar.

He is in National Honor Society, is a TMEA-All State Choir honoree, State Solo and Ensemble, and Mr. PHS.

His interests are singing, hanging out with friends, traveling, and playing video games.

Mason plans to major in finance and minor in music. He will attend Baylor University.

He chose Jeb Harris, assistant choir director at PHS, as his favorite teacher.

"I have selected Mr. Harris as my favorite teacher because he puts his students before himself. Every day I see how much he cares for his students and his desire to help them grow as people. He has had a major impact on my life since I was a freshman. This is because he has pushed me to not only be the best musician I can be but to also be the best version of myself in AND outside of school."



Mason Simmons  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Jennifer and Gary Douglas

She served as head drum major and was a four-year member of the Permian Band. She also served as both the Choir Council president and the vice president of Logistics of the Choir Program. She is a three-year Kantorei and Voca Lyrica (Varsity Choirs) member, and a two-year Black Magic member. She is also heavily involved in Stonegate Odessa and serve on the youth leadership team.

She is the valedictorian of her class, a National AP Scholar with Honors, and a National Math and Science Initiative Environmental Science scholarship winner. She is in the Permian Hall of Fame and Academic Hall of Fame, and was voted Homecoming Queen, Class Favorite, and Miss PHS.

She enjoys hanging out with friends, exploring, and traveling.

She is going to attend the University of Texas at Austin and will be double majoring in Plan II Honors and Environmental Engineering with a minor in Spanish on a Pre-law track.

Her favorite teacher is former PHS choir director Kenneth Sieloff.

"I've decided to bring Mr. Sieloff here with me today because of his dedication, imposed passions, and his choice to intentionally build relationships with all of his students. As my choir director for my 10th and 11th grade, Mr. Sieloff created a space at the school that I could truly feel myself in and relaxed because of the fostered community that he grew. Not only as a singer, but as a human, and a Christ Follower, Mr. Sieloff is easily one of the greatest role models of my life.



Hannah Douglas  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Fine Arts

Parents: Nancy Nunez Cisneros and Sid Cisneros

He is the leader of the OHS Drumline, historian and archiver for the OHS Band, National Honor Society member, drummer for Broncho Legacy show choir, percussionist for the OHS Honor Band and Symphony Orchestra, and Business Professional of America (BPA) member for UX Design.

He is an All-Region and Area Qualifier in Concert Band for Percussion, Top 15 in All-State Jazz drumset, and played in Carnegie Hall through the High School Honors Program. He received a Division 1 in All-State Solo and Ensemble, was a Region Champion for BPA, and is in the Top 10% of his class.

He enjoys playing drums, guitar, keyboard, bass, and ukulele, and he composes electronic music and for live performances. He loves art, drawing, graphic design and UX Design.

He wants to compose for film, TV, video games, orchestras and bands, while also performing around the world. He also wants to be a UX Design as a backup career.

He is deciding between Berklee School of Music, the University of North Texas, West Texas A&M, and the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Ezaiah chose OHS Assistant Band Director Jimmy Olague as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Olague is the heart and soul of the OHS band, the reason why it's still the band that it's always strived to be for the past decades. Most likely the most influential percussion director in West Texas. Mr. Olague has not only been a teacher but also my mentor, teaching me not only to enjoy what I do every day but to never give up even when life kicks you down too hard. Every competition, whether it would be a region concert, audition, and even to going to New York he has been there at every moment in my musical journey. I am so incredibly grateful to have such an amazing mentor and teacher and I know that I wouldn't be where I am today without him."



Ezaiah Cisneros  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Fine Arts

Parents: Kristy and Phillip Marquez

She is National Honor Society secretary, Texas Association of Future Educators member, varsity harpist, varsity sprinter in swimming, and a Texas Scholar.

She also participated in the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Junior leadership program.

She likes to sew and craft; particularly sewing clothes and stuffed animals. She also loves to read, mostly fantasy books like the "Witcher" series.

She wants to be an early education teacher, then later get a master's degree in either guidance and counseling or library sciences.

She will be attending the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Natalie chose Terri Pate, her 4th grade teacher at Odessa Christian School.

"Mrs. Pate made me love learning. It was a joy to go to her class every day and we would play guess the word or mad libs. When we finished assignments for the day we would get to pull out our arts and crafts supplies and make desk pets and 3D paper houses. We would get to go out into the community to pick up trash and make art with it and more."



Natalie Marquez  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Fine Arts

Parents: Stephanie and Andy Burton

She has been secretary and treasurer of the Senate Executive Board, National Honors Society treasurer, a three-year Kantorei (top mixed choir) & Black Magic (auditioned pop ensemble) member, and president and vice president of Choir Council.

She earned selection to the 2023 TMEA All-State mixed choir, and was named the 2022 UIL State Outstanding Soloist.

Her hobbies include church activities, singing, and traveling.

Kendra wants to majoring in vocal performance with a business minor in hopes to not only perform, but to start and run her own music studio and teach private voice lessons. Her plans include a master's in vocal pedagogy and potentially a doctorate degree.

She has been accepted to Texas Christian University, Baylor University, and Texas Tech University.

Her favorite teacher is her 8th grade choir director, from Nimitz Middle School, Annie Sieloff.

"My favorite teacher, the person who planted the seed for my musical success, has to be Mrs. Sieloff. I was the new kid at Nimitz Middle School in 8th grade and joined choir for the first time. Mrs. Sieloff is a great example of teacher who can be kind, professional, authentically herself, and passionate about what she does. She is the ultimate girl boss! I wanna be like her when I grow up."



Kendra Burton  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Fine Arts

Parents: Tambra and Aaron Hale

She is in Permian's JROTC.

Her hobbies include reading, singing, going to work, and spending time with family.

Erin has been accepted to Tarleton State University, and she plans to become a counselor for children and adults; to be the person they need to just listen and guide them to the right path towards their own success; to help them with any trauma they may have, and help them become stronger.

Her favorite teacher is PHS JROTC instructor SFC Bernard Hooper.

"He has helped me become the person I am today and has taught me teamwork and leadership. He is someone who gives good advice when you need it and is one of the best teachers to have."



Erin Hale  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence Foreign Language

Parent: Antigone Nevill

Katlynn, is a member of National Honor Society.

She is a National Art and Science Initiative Scholarship recipient, she is Salutatorian of her class, has been ranked in the Top 10 all four years of high school, and is on the A-Honor Roll. Her hobbies are crocheting, drawing, and baking/cooking.

Katlynn plans to attend Odessa College, and wants to become a nurse practitioner and work in postpartum or with children.

She chose Christina Villaloboz, her middle school math and science teacher at St. John's Episcopal School, as her favorite.

"She helped me in the hardest time of my life and always had a shoulder to cry on. I consider her a second mom and she is one of the most important people in my life."



Katlynn Nevill  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence Foreign Language

Parents: Fatima Valdez and Juan Martin Salas

He is in Mariachi Broncho, and Honors Spanish 3.

He likes playing soccer and the accordion.

He wants to be a musician and a mechanic, and he plans to attend Odessa College.

Juan's favorite teacher is Corina Ortiz, his senior Spanish teacher.

"Her class motivates me to learn a language as interesting as Spanish, as well as her activities and convictions among students."



Juan Manuel Salas Valdez  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Foreign Language

Parents: Rosario Saucedo and Jose Luis Rodriguez

He competes in Skills USA, placing 2nd Place in the district welding sculpture contest.

He enjoys playing soccer, and hanging out with his family and friends.

Jose plans to attend Odessa College or the University of Texas Permian Basin and become a successful welder or entrepreneur.

He chose Ramon Rivera, his senior Spanish teacher, as his favorite teacher.

"I selected Mr Rivera because of his way of being a teacher and his way of connecting with students."



Jose Manuel Rodriguez Saucedo  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Math

Parent: Miguel Madrid

He is in National Honor Society, and was member of Student Council.

He is on the A-Honor Roll, and is ranked in the Top 10 of his class. His hobbies are soccer, video games, and guitar.

He wants to be a civil engineer, and will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Edwin chose Yoana Picazo, his math teacher in 9th, 11th and 12th grades, as his favorite teacher.

"She is a great teacher that has always cared about me learning and always tries to get the best out of me. I've had her three out of the four years in high school and she has always been great teacher and friend. That is why she is my favorite teacher; she is very good and I wouldn't be here without her right now. Thank you, Mrs. Picazo."



Edwin Carreon  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence

## Math

Parents: Adriana Nevarez and Edwin Huerta

He is the Award for Excellence honor for his welding, he earned National Society of High School Scholars Recognition (NSHSS), was in Math Club 1st-5th Grade, and won a medal in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE).

He is part owner and manager of 3H Mobile Detailing, and is a welder's assistant for Mr. Abes Fabrication & Welding Services.

His hobbies are working out, lifting weights, listening to music, R&B, reading, 48 Laws of Power Sports, soccer, card games, and poker.

His college plans include Odessa College and the University of Texas Permian Basin to study business and engineering. He wants to continue as a welder, own his own welding shop, expand his business, and create more ways to earn profit.

Edwin chose Adelle Perez as his favorite teacher.

"I really like math, and whenever I have trouble she will always help me. She is an inspirational teacher and her class is always fun. She consistently finds more ways to make the class exciting. For example, she uses group work and Booklet activities that let us compete to win stickers that I put on my welding hood. She is a wonderful teacher to look up to. There will always be something good to say about Mrs. Perez. I have never heard anyone complain about her, her work, or her class. She has helped many students outside of class even if the issue wasn't about her class or math at all. She is very understanding and very outgoing, and I really like that about her. I'm glad to say that she is my teacher, and I don't think there is anyone who can be as good a teacher as she is."



Edwin Huerta Nevarez  
OCTECHS



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# Awards for Excellence

## Math

Parent: Alma Duran

She is president of Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering, and of National Honor Society.

Zairah earned 1st Place for Math in District TAME (Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering) Competition, 1st Place for Engineering Design in District TAME Competition, 2nd Place for Engineering Design in State TAME Competition, 2nd Place in ECISD Art Show, and four years on President's Honor Roll for Odessa College.

Her interests are baking, reading, doing puzzle games, playing tennis, and watching movies.

She is going to the University of Texas at Arlington, and plans to find a career in working with prosthetics or researching immune technologies. Her future goal is to work diligently in her job field and open a bakery when I retire.

Zairah's favorite teacher is Lydia Roundtree, Algebra teacher and TAME sponsor.

"Ms. Roundtree has repeatedly given me the courage to learn new things and expand my interests. She has also been a highly supportive figure throughout my high school years, and I'm very grateful to have gotten to be her student."



Zairah Duran  
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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# Awards for Excellence

## Math

Parents: Riva and Darrell Burnette

He is in National Honor Society, and is Secretary of Bad Ideas.

He is a National Merit Commended Scholar, as well as prettiest girl boss, coolest guy, and most evil gremlin.

His hobbies are making money, drawing, light fraud, and being androgynous.

He plans to attend Texas Tech University.

Edward's favorite teacher is Kimberly Sanchez, his sophomore English teacher.

"This was the first class I took where I felt I could express myself creatively and in a personal way. Taking this class helped develop self-confidence, and that was only possible through the positive environment and teaching prowess of Mrs. Sanchez. Also, she's really cool."



Edward Burnette  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Math

Parents: Rhodora and Norberto Velasco

He served as Permian Orchestra historian and secretary.

He earned All-Region Symphony Orchestra for four years, and All-Area Orchestra honors.

Rodbert likes playing instruments, listening to music, and writing poetry.

He is planning to earn a pharmacy degree at the University of North Texas.

His favorite teacher is PHS orchestra director Todd Berridge.

"Mr. Berridge has always taught his students life lessons, and many of them have stuck with me. Through his orchestra program, I was able to learn about dignity, camaraderie, humility, and the value of music."



Rodbert Velasco  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence Science

Parent: Jose Ramirez

He is the Secretary of National Honors Society.

He enjoys traveling.

He is going to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to major in electrical engineering.

Angel's favorite teacher is his 11th grade science teacher Maria Lopez.

"Mrs. Lopez has always been an amazing, caring teacher, you couldn't ask for anything more."



Angel Ramirez  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Sara and Joseph Donaldson

He is a member of Student Council, and carries a 3.94 grade point average.

He likes building with Legos.

Luke will attend Odessa College and with plans to go to law school and become a lawyer.

He chose social studies teacher Mark Perales as his favorite teacher.

"He makes it easy to understand the material, class is fun, assignments are manageable."



Luke Donaldson  
OCTECHS



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# Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Elisama and Benjamin Serrano

She is in National Honor Society, Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), Teen Leadership Council (TLC), and Academic Decathlon.

She is the Salutatorian of her class, and is on the A-Honor Roll and Odessa College President's List.

She enjoys tennis, knitting, completing puzzles, and playing board games.

She wants to be a cardiac surgeon, and help those in need. She will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Karen's favorite teacher is Rowena Dolino, her 11th grade science teacher.

"Ms. Dolino is my favorite teacher because she was always teaching in ways that would make us remember and learn the information. She made class fun. We had many fun projects in our class and I learned so much. She always encouraged me to try my best, and that everything I put myself to is possible. She definitely believed I could do anything, and because of her support and encouragement, she is my favorite teacher. Thank you, Ms. Dolino!"



Karen Serrano  
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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# Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Jieun and Eugene Pando

He is vice president of National Honor Society, section leader of OHS Marching Band, and a Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer.

He earned National Rural and Small Town and National Hispanic Scholar recognition from the College Board, a National Math and Science Institute AP Award, and is an AP Scholar.

His interests include piano, guitar, archery, and Taylor Swift.

He wants to become a dermatologist, and will attend Texas Tech University.

Anastacio chose his long-time piano teacher, Barbara Tyler, as his favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Tyler is my piano teacher, mentor, and friend. She has been an incredible, encouraging influence over the last twelve years. She has taught me discipline, perseverance, and has inspired a life-long, joyful pursuit."



Anastacio Pando  
Odessa High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Science

Parents: Casey and Rachel Waite

She is historian of Students in Philanthropy.

She is ranked #18 out of 775 students in her class with a 3.70 GPA, and an 1150 SAT score.

She enjoys playing softball.

Ashley is planning to attend Texas Tech University to study psychology and become a therapist.

She chose her kindergarten teacher, Linda Subia, as her favorite teacher.

"She helped feed my passion to learn and helped me start my education on the right foot. She continued to help me succeed even after I was no longer in her class."



Ashlyn Waite  
Permian High School



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# Awards for Excellence

## Social Studies

Parents: Vuthy Thong and Leangaeng Khuth

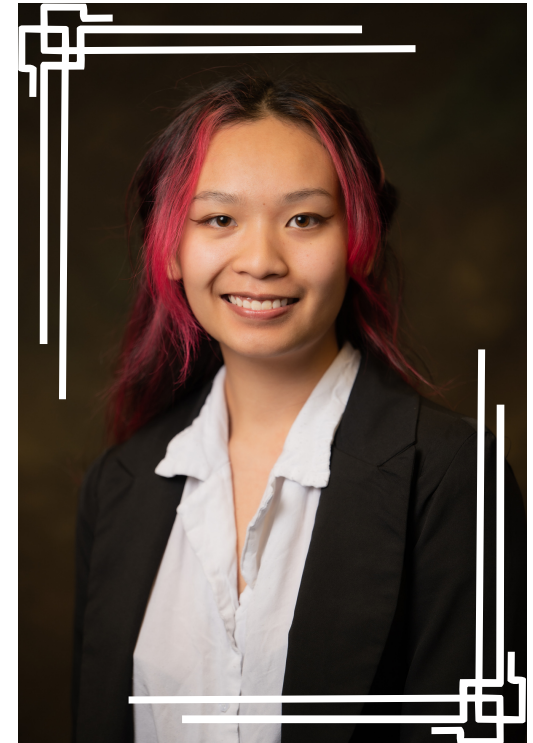
Khanica is a member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, National Arts Honor Society, Lions Club and Anchor Club.

She has challenged herself with Advanced Placement, Dual Credit and Honors classes throughout high school. She likes creating art, playing badminton, reading comics, and playing video games.

While she has not settled on a college or a course of study yet, she has been accepted to Texas Tech University, University of Texas Permian Basin, and Odessa College.

Khanica's favorite teacher is science teacher Lornalyn De Leon, whom she has known all four years of high school.

"I selected Mrs. De Leon as my favorite teacher because she's basically my school mother, she cares about us other than just teaching her students. She is there and supportive of her students, gives great advice on life and what will help us in our futures."



Khanica Thong  
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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# Awards for Excellence

## Social Studies

Parents: Krystal and Mark Barrera

He is a member of NSLS and National Honor Society.

He has been on the A-Honor Roll from 2019-2023, he was Geometry Student of the Year 2020, Biology Student of the Year 2021, US History Student of the Year 2022, made the Dean's List 2019-2023, and has a 4.0 college grade point average.

His hobbies are fishing, hunting, working on his car, and video games. Mark is currently earning an Associate of Applied Science in Automation, and aspires to earn a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

He plans to attend Texas Tech University.

He chose social studies teacher Mark Perales as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Perales has always been more than just a teacher. When you teach history, you are telling a story that really happened. He makes his subject interesting by telling stories, not listing random facts. He is someone I can treat as a friend and have a conversation with and is interested in what I have to say. Everyone in the class knows who he is and we can joke about our lives. Instead of telling his students to be quiet, his catch phrase is, 'Calm down, calm down, relax.' And he loves his turtle."



Mark Barrera  
OCTECHS



# Awards for Excellence

## Social Studies

Mother: Rhea and Alvin Costales

She is a Junior Volunteer at Medical Center Hospital, a member of Student Council and National Honor Society, and a Texas Scholar.

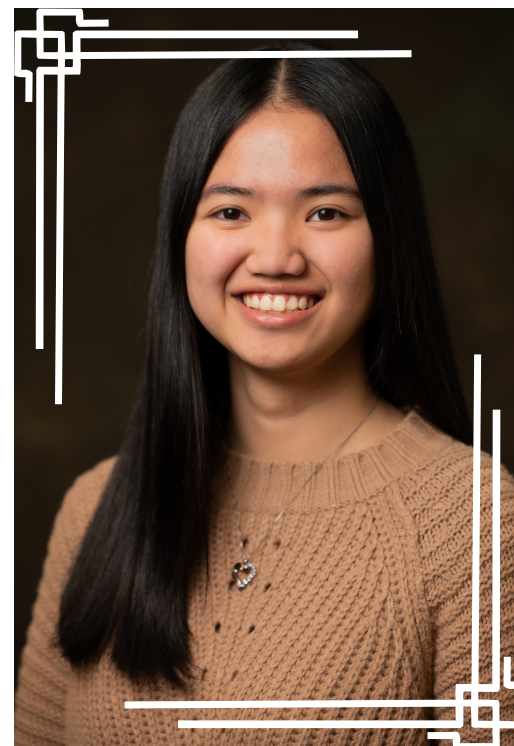
She is on the A-Honor Roll, Odessa College President's Honor Roll, and ranked in the Top 10 of her class.

She likes to play the guitar or the piano, solve puzzles, play chess, read books, watch movies and shows, and go roller-skating.

Her career plan is to become a nurse practitioner in family medicine. She will study nursing at the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Sophia's favorite teacher is 10th grade history teacher Brandan Cook.

"I chose Mr. Cook as my favorite teacher because he is a fun, cheerful individual who brightens your day. He taught me my favorite subject, history, and always makes class exciting and enjoyable. He also tells funny jokes, makes me work hard, and urges me to do my best."



Sophia Costales  
Odessa Collegiate Academy





# Awards for Excellence

## Social Studies

Parents: Madhavi and Subhash Nagalla

She is President of OHS Speech and Debate, International Baccalaureate (IB) student, National Honor Society member and Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer.

She is a UIL Congressional Debate Regional Champion (2022), UIL Current Events District Champion (2023), won the Association of Healthcare Volunteers award (2022), and captured 1st Place in the American Mathematics Competition 12 (2021).

She enjoys tennis, piano, volunteering, and traveling.

While still deciding on a college, she has been accepted into the University of Texas Plan II Honors Program. She aspires to become a medical doctor.

Priyanka's favorite teacher is Melissa Roth, her IB English teacher in 10th and 11th grades.

"Mrs. Roth, as not only my IB coordinator, but also my trusted mentor has been with me throughout my high school journey. She is an amazing teacher and kind person who I can always turn to for valued advice and guidance. For this I am forever grateful."



Priyanka Nagalla  
Odessa High School



# Awards for Excellence

## Social Studies

Parents: Santana Rodriguez and Melvis Pride

She played middle hitter for the volleyball team; competed in the 300 hurdles, 100 hurdles and high jump on the track team, and is in AVID.

She was voted Youth of the Year for her youth group, Oneighty; was volleyball's nominee for the homecoming court and is on the A-Honor Roll.

She is part of the West Texas Track club, and volunteers for the West Texas Food Bank, Keep Odessa Beautiful and Special Olympics.

Jaiah plans to pursue a degree in biology, then study to become a physician assistant.

She is going to Texas Tech University. She chose PHS track coach Teysha Tindol as her favorite teacher.

"Coach Tindol invests not only in our education but into us as young adults, reaching each of us on a personal level. It's not often we get to have a teacher for more than one year, but I have had the honor of having Coach Tindol as my coach, teacher and mentor for four years now. I thank her for how much she has taught me and I will always be grateful. Love, Jaiah Gene!"



Jaiah George  
Permian High School

