



Welcome..... Scott R. Muri, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Master of Ceremonies..... Mike Adkins
Chief Communications Officer
Invocation..... Tammy Hawkins
President, Board of Trustees
Dinner Served (6:45p.m.)..... Performance by Satin Strings
Permian High School
Awards for Excellence Presentation..... ECISD Board of Trustees,
Superintendents Cabinet & Sponsors



Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Zulema Alvarado
Yesenia Barajas
William Bess
Laura Box
Pamela Burkhauler
Cheraldine Celis
Elizabeth Cleveland
Alicia Dominguez
Lyndsay Eiben
Jose Escalante
Christa Galvan
Alejandra Garcia
Damian Gaytan
Hilda Gonzales
Rick Green
Connie Grewell
Jerimie Hernandez
Dawn Johnson
Paul Jones
Jessica Jordan
Lee Jordan
Cecilia Kellar

Chyree LeMaster
Maria Lopez
William Marsh
Joshua Martinez
Ray Mata
Cindy McCord
Gayla McMurrian
Anthony Newberry
David Newman
Mark Perales
Yoana Picazo
Holly Powell
Bridgette Profit
Melodi Rivera
Ramon Rivera
Melissa Roth
Lydia Roundtree
Brenda Salgado
Michelle Thomas
Shelly Wagner
Janet Weyant
Karen Wilson

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Excellence

This is the 35th 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

Parents: Sandra & Donald Ramirez.

She was captain of the soccer team and a member of National Honor Society. She earned 2nd Team All-District in 2019, District Offensive MVP in 2020, and 1st Team All-District in 2021. Her hobbies are soccer and baking. She is going to the University of Texas Permian Basin to study and play soccer, with the goal of going to veterinary school.

Cassandra chose OHS soccer coach Cecelia Kellar as her favorite teacher.

"She pushed me to be the best version of myself, not only in the classroom or on the field but in my everyday life."



Cassandra Ramirez
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Oralia & Armando Garcia

He made 2nd Team Academic All-State in football, and won Most Conscientious Player of the Year. His hobbies are playing sports and video games. He will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and major in mechanical engineering.

Ezequiel's favorite teacher is Alejandra Garcia from 8th grade.

"Mrs. Garcia helped me a lot during my 8th grade year to be prepared for my future, and made my 8th grade year a year to remember."



Ezequiel Garcia
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Carrie Thurmond & Jessika Pirtle and Valeria & Benjamin Thurmond Sr.

Her hobbies are track and field. She plans to run track in college, and pursue a career in secondary education. Raegan will attend New Mexico State University.

She chose Coach Gayla McMurrian as her favorite teacher.

"To most educators, being the favorite isn't the goal, being the greatest is. The person I have chosen today is an educator, a wife, a coach, and most importantly, a friend. She showed me that change is okay. She was able to unlock my full potential in the matter of seven months. I am so grateful to have endured the treacherous journey that I call my senior year with a person who saw the best in me."



Raegan Thurmond
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Belinda & Simon Martinez

He is a Texas Scholar, member of the National Honor Society and active in Athletics. He earned National Math + Science Initiative Award (AP Biology), recognition as College Board National Hispanic Scholar, AP Scholar, the George Manly Award, Ed Gray Award, and captain of 2022 football team. Jonathan likes working out, running, drawing, reading, and hanging out with friends and family. He will attend Texas A&M University, and wants to become a P.A. or an anesthesiologist.

His favorite teacher is Laura Box from his junior and senior year.

"Throughout my last two years of high school she has supported and been there for me. Not only through academics has she supported me, but she has taught me valuable life lessons. She has made learning fun and it is always a blast when we are in her class. She engages with us and helps us prepare for our future which I believe is very important."



Jonathan Martinez
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Mother: Ana Yazmin Bringas Baez

She is vice president of Business Professionals of America. She has 3 years leadership conference for Business Professional of America, A-B Honor roll, dual credit through the University of Texas, and ranks in the 10% of her class. She enjoys working out, photography, spending time with family and traveling. She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and is considering majors in accounting or surgical nurse, medical assistant, or travel nurse.

Ana's favorite teacher is Alicia Dominguez.

"Because she is the one that has help me with anything I need it help through all my high school years. She is so noble and compressive."



Ana Noriz Bringas
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Yolanda Loya-Sotelo & Saul Venzor-Chaparro

He is the sergeant at arms for Business Professionals of America, and is listed on the A and A-B Honor Rolls. He likes to spend time with family, play video games, watch movies, and enjoys the company of friends. He is still deciding between the University of Texas Permian Basin and the University of Texas at Arlington. His goal is to allow his parents to retire as early as they can, so they can enjoy their years to come together.

Uriel selected Lee Jordan as his favorite teacher.

"It was a new school year for me, but also a new school entirely, and in his class I met new friends that made me feel more comfortable in the new environment, as well as them making the process of learning actually fun and rewarding. He was a main reason why I wanted to come to school and look forward to the rest of my day."



Uriel Venzor
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Birt Tinkishu & Getnet Aberra

She is in UIL Academics: Math, Science, Number Sense, and Calculator; and Business Professionals of America (BPA): Health Administration Procedures and Global Marketing Team. She is also a member of National Honor Society, National African-American Merit Scholar, a member of the Permian Academic Hall of Fame and the Permian High School Hall of Fame. She placed 2nd in UIL Mathematics, qualified for the state competition in BPA Health Administration Procedures, placed 3rd in UIL Science, 2nd in UIL Number Sense, and 2nd place in UIL Calculator.

Sara enjoys learning languages, painting and drawing, and making jewelry. She plans to attend Texas A&M university studying biomedical engineering. Her interests are in the field of radiology and wants to become an interventional radiologist.

Sara chose Jose Escalante as her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Escalante's class has been the highlight of my high school days. Mr. E has been my teacher for all four years of Biomed and is my coach for UIL Academics. Over the years I have learned so much in his class such as human body systems, medical intervention, and innovation. Everything I have learned in his class has guided me into what career I would like to have in the future. He has the funniest stories and motivates all of his students to do their best. I'm grateful to have had him as a teacher."



Sara Aberra
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Albert & Maria Rios

She is a member and President of National Honor Society. She also received graduation cords for both National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. Sierra enjoys drawing, baking, playing piano, and dancing. She plans to attend Odessa College as an art major and perhaps pursuing a career as a veterinarian.

Sierra's favorite teacher is Pamela Burkhalter.

"I selected Mrs. Burkhalter as my favorite teacher because I've always been able to talk to her about anything. She inspires me to be the best person I could possibly be and she's never given up on me no matter what I do. Mrs. Burkhalter has never once made me feel like an idiot or made me feel like I couldn't make it in life. She is an inspiration to so many people and she's always been so kind by providing me with food on days I stayed after school. Therefore, that is why I chose her as my favorite teacher."



Sierra Rios
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Traci Dennison and Octavio Garcia

She is a member of Teen Leadership Council, and the Writing Center at NTO.

She was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Silva Law Firm.

Her interests are her cat, named Sushi, and going places with her sisters. She works at Jason's Deli on the weekends. Accepted into UTPB, Rebecka will graduate from NTO with an associate degree from Odessa College, too. Then she will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin for her bachelor's and teacher certification in English. She wants to teach in ECISD until she is ready to move away.

Her favorite teacher is Cheraldine Celis.

"When I first met Mrs. Celis, it was my sophomore year and I was taking French. Later on, after quarantine, I had her for English III as well as French II. During these two years, it has been rough. Here we are, my senior year, and things are still hard, from personal situations, to just the thought of graduating. However, despite all the hard things I was going through, I knew that there was always someone who would be there for me, Mrs. Celis. If there is anyone in this world that I know I can turn to about anything, without fear of judgment or fear of not being heard, it is Mrs. Celis. She has helped me through the hardest time in my life, high school, and has offered me the best advice numerous times throughout these last four years. Not only was Mrs. Celis my English teacher, but she is one of my best friends and has inspired me tremendously. I hope that even as life goes on and I am no longer in high school, I will still be able to reach out to her in any tough situation, as she has allowed me to throughout my time at New Tech Odessa."



Rebecka Farr

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Awards for Excellence

English

Mother: Ruby Dominguez

He is vice president of National Honor Society, and member of the student government. He likes reading, writing fiction and poetry, and drawing. He wants to be a writer, and will attend Drake University.

Nathan's favorite teacher is Mark Perales. 6th, 11th, and 12th

"Mr. Perales has always been approachable, an easy person to confide in. Ever since meeting him in 6th grade, I knew I could always talk to him. He made me feel welcome from the moment I stepped into his classroom, striking easy conversation and actually listening to what I had to say. He is smart, and his sense of humor always saves the day. He talks passionately of the subjects he teaches, and somehow always finds the perfect moments to crack a joke that sends the whole classroom into fits of laughter. He creates a fun environment to learn in. All these things are the reason I think of him as my favorite teacher."



Nathan Peralta
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Margarita & Tomas Rios

She is in National Honor Society, serving as the historian for two years. She is in Student Council, and Phi Theta Kappa. She is the Valedictorian of Odessa Collegiate Academy Class of 2022, made the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, maintained a 4.0 GPA in all college classes, competed in UIL Art and had one of her pieces showcased at the Ellen Noel Art Museum. One of Lizeth's favorite hobbies is making art, especially painting. She also enjoys reading and playing volleyball and biking. Her future goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner delivering health care to kids. She has committed to Texas Tech University, and the Texas Tech Honors College.

Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Salgado. 9th-11th grade

"Mrs. Salgado is my favorite teacher because she is like a second mom to me. She has shown me nothing but love and support as long as I have known her. She gives the best advice, and is always ready to listen when you have something you want to get off your chest. She has never failed to make me laugh or smile."



Lizeth Rios
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

English

Mother: Rosa Palomino

She is in National Honor Society and Teen Leadership Council. She earned College Board National Hispanic Recognition, and National Small Town and Rural Recognition. Her hobbies are painting, sketching, and reading. She plans to attend the University of Dallas to study architecture and film.

David Newman is her favorite teacher.

"He was among the first and only teachers that was willing to go to the lengths of nurturing my growth as a writer in addition to improving my self-perception."



Melany Coss
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Mikayla & Paul Heard

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Honor Society, and National Society of Leadership and Success. She enjoys playing the violin, reading, writing, hanging out with friends, origami, and many others. Alison will attend Sam Houston State University and wants to study to become a Forensic Toxicologist.

Her favorite teacher is Melodi Rivera from 7th grade.

"She has inspired me to be the best version of myself. She fueled my enjoyment of reading and writing as a child. She is a very important person in my life and I am grateful for the opportunities that she offered me."



Alison Blount
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Melissa & Thomas Aguirre

She is a pianist and youth leader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, student body president 2020-2021, and a member of NTO's Academic Decathlon team 2019-2022. She was invited to play in LPGA Volunteers of America Golf Tournament, will graduate with an Associate of Arts in General Studies from Odessa College; is ranked #7 in her class, placed 2nd individually in the 2-6A District Golf Tournament shooting 77-75, on Permian High School's 2-6A District Champion team. Angela's interests are watching all movies, including each of their sequels, until she has finished them. For example, all of the Rocky movies, the Saw movies, and the Rambo movies. She also likes playing music with her band at gigs, at her house, or at church; and playing golf with her family, for PHS, and in the fall, Schreiner University. Her career plan is to get her doctorate to be a psychiatrist. While studying for this, her goal is to also do well in college golf and enjoy those years learning discipline, patience, and courage.

Her favorite teacher is Damian Gaytan who taught her Geometry in 9th grade, Algebra II in 10th grade and was her Decathlon coach in 11th and 12th grades.

"Mr. Gaytan is my favorite teacher because he has always been fun! He has been a teacher I have always been able to get along with and even as a plus, he teaches information well enough to understand. Math is a subject that takes time to learn and he has taken the time to teach each of his students and I appreciate that. In Decathlon, the journey of learning about cancers, to the Cold War and Space Race, to the subject of Water has been mind-bending and a bit stressful at times, but Mr. Gaytan has made it all worthwhile. He has made the effort to make sure I have learned the information and found the best approach to understand it effectively. He makes the school day better, but the time nearing towards graduation harder to handle."



Angela Aguirre

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Rosalinda Martinez and Eduardo Lopez

She is vice president of Student Council, Leader of the Energy and Environment Committee, a Texas Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member, National Honor Society member, and part of Be the Change, Creators Club, and Book Club. She received the Odessa College Award of Excellence, has been on the A-Honor Roll, and was the Texas Scholar Junior Volunteer for my school's grade. She enjoys reading, exercising, playing video games, and practicing MMA. Jenifer plans to earn a bachelor's in biology and enter the medical field. She has been accepted to the University of Texas.

Her favorite teacher is Bridgette Profit. 10th-12th

"Mrs. Profit is more than good enough. The school wouldn't be the same without all her efforts to make the students and teachers happy. She has the power to motivate growth, responsibility, and kindness. She wants the best from all her students. Mrs. Profit has taught me the importance of having a growth mindset and to dream big. Thanks to her I feel readier to tackle on the trials of life."



Jenifer Lopez Martinez
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Mother: Melissa Bidwell

He is ranked in the Top 10 of his class, and is on the A Honor Roll. His hobbies include working out and playing video games. He wants to be a personal trainer. Chance is going to Texas Tech University.

His favorite teacher is Shelly Wagner.

"Taught me for multiple years and I've learned a lot in her classes."



Chance Bidwell
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Minerva & Hector Sanchez

She has served as president and vice president of Student Council, two-year president of National Honor Society, an Odessa College Phi Theta Kappa member since 2020, and served as co-vice president of fellowship for the organization. She is also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success at Odessa College.

Arleen is ranked number 3 in her class, has a 3.96 GPA, has been on the President's List at Odessa College for four years, is on the A Honor-Roll, and is a Texas Scholar. Her hobbies consist of drawing, working out, spending quality time with family and friends, reading the Harry Potter books, listening to music, dancing, and playing Dungeons and Dragons. Accepted to several colleges, Arleen plans on attending The University of Texas Permian Basin. After graduating with her bachelors in chemistry, she plans to become a forensic science technician and build her own forensic clinic here in Odessa.

She chose Lydia Roundtree, her Algebra I and II teacher during her Freshman and Junior year, as her favorite teacher.

"I chose Ms. Roundtree as my favorite teacher, for she has treated me as the older sister I wish I had. She's made me feel welcomed every time I'm in her presence and have felt comfortable to open up with her about anything. I remember I would eat in her class back in my Freshman year even though it was forbidden to do so. I thought I was good at hiding it, but Ms. Roundtree knew since the beginning and won't let me live it down. She also has the same awkward humor as I do, which is a plus. I know I can always count on Ms. Roundtree to be there for me."



Arleen Sanchez
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Raquel & Luis Silva

She is treasurer of National Honor Society, historian for Student Council, treasurer of the Chess Club, involved in Texas Association for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), a member of Odessa College Student Patrol, and the mascot during student events. Through TAME she earned Judges Favorite, 6th Place in Math, and competed in the Student Choice Design Challenge. Through the Odessa Music Teachers Association she won the Jack Hendrix Award 1st Place (2020), tied for 2nd Place (2021), is on the A/B Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance list. She loves to read, bake delicious pastries, play piano, and volunteer. Maria received acceptance to several universities, and plans to attain a medical degree from Texas Woman's University's pre-med program.

She selected Christa Galvan as her favorite teacher.

"I picked Ms. Galvan because she has always been there for me. She helps me overcome so many obstacles. She has patience with me even when I'm not tolerable. We laugh and cry together. When she is mad at me, I know it is not from the heart and has good intentions. She is just like my second mom. I wouldn't be the person I am today without her."



Maria Silva
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Guadalupe Ramirez and the late Sergio Ramirez

She is in National Honor Society, AVID, and a co-captain of the Showgirls. Her hobbies are dancing, baking, and spending time with her loved ones. Thamara has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship (full tuition and fees for four years) to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin. She plans to earn her bachelor's degree in science nursing to become a labor and delivery nurse, and someday a practitioner.

Her favorite teacher is Janet Weyant.

"Ms. Weyant not only taught me, but also both of my older siblings. Within not even a month of being in her class she stepped out of her way to be there for my family and I in our most challenging times, and she continues to do so. I am so grateful to have such a kind and caring teacher to look up to. Ms. Weyant is one in a million, and forever my favorite because of her selflessness and generosity."



Thamara Ramirez
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Mother: Mavis Appiah

She is a member of National Honor Society, and a co-captain of the track & field team. She has been named on the A-Honor Roll since her freshman year. Her hobbies include reading, running, crocheting, watching Disney movies and hanging out with my siblings. Princess is going to attend Texas Christian University and has plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.

She chose Karen Wilson as her favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Wilson is my favorite teacher because she is extremely passionate about her job and her love and support for her students goes beyond the classroom."



Princess Frema
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Jennifer & Victor Bustamante

She is a Girl Scout, a member of the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest advisory board, and a national delegate for GSDSW. She is also an executive board member of the PHS Student Senate, Color Guard senior lieutenant dance captain and the Wagner Noel Youth Volunteer of the Year. Her hobbies including spinning (Color Guard), making balloon decorations for parties, and crafting. Vanessa plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to pursue her master's degree, and eventually her doctorate, in marketing. She wants to start her own marketing consultant firm to help grow smaller businesses, and obtain her commercial real estate license, too.

Vanessa's favorite teacher is Zulema Alvarado from her 9th grade year.

"I selected Ms. Alvarado as my favorite teacher because she not only helped me grow in my academic performance but she helped me grow as a person. When I struggled in her class, she was more than happy to help me in whatever I needed. Freshman year was a hard year for me, personally, and she would make sure to let me know that if I needed to talk to someone I could go to her if I needed support. She is the best teacher I have ever had and I enjoyed learning from her."



Vanessa Bustamante
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Stephanie & Douglas Fife

He is student body president of Permian's Senate Executive Board, a 2-year captain of The Crew, a 3-year member of Permian choir's varsity ensembles Kantorei and Cantus, a Black Magic (choir) vocalist; Business Professionals of America state qualifier, a member of National Honor Society, Odessa Symphony Guild Beaux, Mr. PHS, induction into the Permian High School Hall of Fame and a Texas Scholar. He earned AP Scholar honors, was elected 2021-22 PHS Homecoming King, named Most Outstanding PHS Choir Member Freshman and Junior Year, and is a UIL Solo and Ensemble State Qualifier. His hobbies include playing guitar, snowboarding, and wakeboarding. Kyler is going to Texas A&M University to pursue a bachelor's degree in communications.

He chose Allen Jones as his favorite teacher.

"Throughout my scholarly career, Mr. Jones has undoubtedly been my favorite teacher due to his passion for teaching, understanding of students, and friendly attitude to all. I would not be anywhere close to the leader I am today without the guidance and wisdom provided by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones provided me with several opportunities that helped me discover myself, and the passion I have for Permian High School. I will forever be grateful for the role model and friend that I have in Mr. Jones."



Kyler Fife
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Mother: Claudia Crowder

She is varsity Theater Production president, National Honors Society secretary, International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, actress for Permian Playhouse, stage manager for Broncho Legacy Choir and UIL English team. Among her honors are Outstanding Performer for UIL One Act Play (OAP), UIL OAP All-star Cast, UIL OAP honorable mention, Texas VASE Art competition Highest score of 4 (2018-2021), 1st place in ECISD ART Showcase, and the Blooming Rose award in Theater Production. She loves to paint, learn about Korean language and culture, help with technical theater, analyze film, and practice digital illustration. She wants to create designs that would help benefit medical equipment that would make it easier to use. Katelan is going to the University of Texas.

Her favorite teacher is OHS theater teacher Chyree LeMaster.

"When I first met her, I thought to myself, "Wow she really loves William Shakespeare. She also has a lot of energy in the morning." My first impressions of Mrs. LeMaster made me realize that she has so much love for what she does. As the years have gone by, I have started to realize the individual brush strokes of care she places in her craft. She has allowed for me to not only grow as an actor, but into a more nurturing person. She not only taught me how to play different characters, but also how to become more emotionally intelligent. I wish I could repay her as she has given me the motivation to keep going. I thank her for being my director, someone I can look up to, therapist, and one of my biggest fans for so long all wrapped up into one person. Mrs. LeMaster if you are reading this, yes, I am being safe and making wise choices."



Katelan Crowder
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Juliet & Jorge Ituarte

She is a member of National Honor Society, a violinist and vocalist on varsity Mariachi, and a member of the varsity tennis team. She earned 1st Chair All-Region Mariachi, State UIL Violinist (2019-21), and Division 1 State UIL Vocalist (2021). Jazmine will graduate from Odessa High School with an associate degree from Odessa College. Then she plans to pursue her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Texas Permian Basin, and transfer to Texas Tech University for medical school to become a general doctor.

Her favorite teacher is Mariachi director Jerimie Hernandez.

"Mr. Hernandez has taught me for 4 years. He taught me the style of mariachi and to love something that is a part of my culture. He has also always been there for me when I'm feeling upset and even when I'm happy. He never fails to make me feel accomplished, and always makes sure to let me know how proud he is of what I do. We also have several inside jokes and I will most definitely miss him when I graduate because he has watched me grow into the woman I am today and I have taken so much advice from him that has, too, allowed me to become who I am now."



Jazmine Ituarte
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Maria & Tito Brito

She is a three-year member of varsity cross country and track, a marching band flute section leader for two years, a four-year member of the Symphonic Band, and a member of National Honor Society. She is a TMEA All-State Band honoree, earned College Board Hispanic National Merit recognition, AP award, Texas Music Scholar, and is ranked #6 in her senior class. She is also a regional qualifier in band, orchestra and cross country.

Her interests include coloring, drawing, running, riding bikes, baking, attempting DIY projects, and reading poetry. Nydia's plans are to become a landscape architect and either continue in her dad's business or work for a national company and travel around the world. She plans to attend Texas A&M University.

She chose Dr. Lindsey Eiben, assistant band director as her favorite teacher.

"I selected Dr. Eiben as my favorite teacher because she has shaped who I am as a musician and has been there every step of a way, through every milestone. Dr. Eiben has taught me how much hard work it takes to pursue something you are very passionate about and that if you really want something, then you will get it. She has been my teacher since sixth grade and has seen me grow into the senior I am today. Along with that Dr. Eiben has seen me go through the ups and downs of being a young musician and aided in my goal of making state in All-Region for flute, which I finally achieved this year, and I don't think it would have happened without her help, knowledge and passion for what she does."



Nydia Brito
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Jitti & Kevin Reyes.

She is the president of Permian High School Production. Theatre and dance are two of her hobbies. Kylie wants to become a dental hygienist, and will attend Odessa College.

She chose PHS theater teacher Elizabeth Cleveland as her favorite teacher.

"Ms. Cleveland has always been there for me through high school. She has taught me how to be a better person and actor. I've learned life skills from her and I will always appreciate her pouring time into my life the past four years."



Kylie Reyes
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Kim Robertson and Kerry Vore

Stevie will graduate having also her Associate of Arts and Humanities from Odessa College. She is ranked #4 in her class, received a National Math + Science Initiative scholarship, made the Odessa College Deans List, was on the A Honor Roll 2019-2022, and the A-B Honor Roll 2018-2019. Although unsure of her future career, she plans to get her bachelor's degree in business from the University of North Texas, and eventually live somewhere beautiful.

Stevie chose Michelle Thomas from Nimitz Middle School as her favorite teacher.

"I selected Mrs. Thomas because of the lasting influence she and her class had on me during a tough time in my life. I often felt out of place throughout middle school. Looking back, I don't have too many fond memories of those years. However, her classroom was the one place I felt accepted and heard. I was comfortable to be myself and express my creativity, without restraint, through my writing. Not only that, but I was appreciated for my efforts. Mrs. Thomas did more than just grade a paper and give it back, she made the effort to admire, show off, and help me build confidence in my academic abilities. The success I found and the kindness she showed to me in her English class inspired me to always do my best! Thank you for everything Mrs. Thomas!"



Stevie Vore

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Jose Leyva and Graciela Mijares

Alexandra says reading is her most precious hobby. Immersing herself in a fictional world with characters that she can relate to and make her mind want to go out seeking adventures. Combining this experience with a pleasant playlist could be her ideal afternoon. She is going to the University of Texas at San Antonio to get her nursing degree, while before going on to medical school.

Her favorite teacher is Yesenia Barajas.

"Mrs. Barajas is a person who is always enthusiastic and makes you feel welcome at every moment. Also, she is spontaneous, and she has something to teach you every time, and she does it in a way that marks you for life."



Alexandra Leyva
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Rafael Uribe and Layla Serrano

She is treasurer of the National Honor Society, secretary of the Hispanic Honor Society, treasurer of the Science club, and a member of Communities in School. She earned First MOJO Student of the Six Weeks, and a National Math + Science Initiative Stem Star Award. Her hobbies are dancing, helping her school community, volunteering, and listening to music. She plans to attend the University of Texas to study biochemistry and then attend physician assistant school.

Paulina chose Ramon Rivera as her favorite teacher.

"Throughout this past year he has had the biggest impact in my life. Mr. Rivera convinced me to join the Hispanic Honor Society at Permian at the end of my Junior year, and I was able to become an officer my Senior year. Thanks to him I was able to win a scholarship through LULAC, grow as a person, influence others, motivate them to achieve their goals, become more involved with my community, and become a better leader."



Paulina Uribe Magaña
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Erika & Damian Vasquez

He is recipient of an Academic Excellence Award in Mathematics.

He is a supervisor at Starbucks. He enjoys volleyball, anime, video games, basketball, and football. He will start his college career at Midland College, then plans to transfer to Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in petroleum engineering.

Sebastian chose Yoana Picazo as his favorite teacher.

"An absolute inspiration to succeed. A humor that reminds me of my great family and ultimately the same kind of passion that a teacher should have."



Sebastian Bejar-Vasquez

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Chelsea & Michael Curnutt

She is in Phi Theta Kappa, and National Honor Society. She ranks in the Top 10 of her class, earned Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA in college) honors, has been on the A Honor roll since the second semester of freshman year, holds a 3.6 GPA, and is on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll. She enjoys cooking, shopping, playing chess, and hanging out with friends and family. Mallory will continue at Odessa College and get her bachelor's in criminal justice. Then she plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and get a master's in criminal justice. A career in criminal justice, maybe cybercrimes or a career with the FBI are possibilities.

William Bess, 9th through 12th grade, is her favorite teacher.

"I selected Mr. Bess as my favorite teacher because he has always been someone that I could go to whenever I need help, whether that be for school or any personal advice. He's been a great mentor and a wonderful professor. I have always enjoyed his classes and teaching."



Mallory McDonald
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Kelli & Joe Williams

He is secretary of National Honor Society, chaplain of Student Council, and has been patrol leader, senior patrol leader, and chaplain for the Boy Scouts. He earned the honor of Eagle Scout, and is on the A-Honor Roll. He likes to play piano, guitar, and sing. He enjoys listening to music and drawing in his free time. He will attend Texas Tech University and wants to become a mechanical engineer and pursue a career that makes him happy and makes a difference in the world.

He chose his 8th grade math teacher Connie Grewell as his favorite.

"I selected Connie Grewell as my favorite teacher because she was an amazing math teacher. She made learning fun and really enjoyable. She helped me when I didn't understand the question or I wasn't understanding the topic. She is a close family friend and it was an incredible experience getting to be in her class."



Lucas Williams

Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Ella Fogle-Weaver and Will Weaver

He is a youth leader/servant leader at Stonegate Fellowship, a member of the Odessa High School football and powerlifting teams, involved in Odessa Municipal Teen Court and a member of National Honor Society. He made 1st Team Academic All-State, THSPA Region 1 Division 1 regional qualifier, UIL Number Sense regional qualifier, and salutatorian of his class. He likes playing football, investing, and learning about business. James will attend the United States Air Force Academy, and pursue a career of developmental and electrical engineering.

He chose Anthony Newberry as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Newberry always went above and beyond for his students, attacked each day with a humbled attitude, and ensured that he taught us both mathematics and character to the best of his ability. Thank you."



James Fogle
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Amy Moya and Jesus Jimenez

Nikita earned an AP National Math + Science Initiative Stem Star Award. She enjoys practicing skills for her nursing clinicals, hanging out with friends, and shopping. She wants to be a family medicine nurse practitioner with her own clinic. Nikita will attend the University of Texas at Arlington.

She chose her 11th and 12th grade nursing instructor, Dawn Johnson, as her favorite teacher.

"I selected [Ms. Johnson] because she has been so inspirational and impactful in my challenges of continuing the nursing program. She lets me know that anytime I am struggling I can go to her and she will listen to everything I have to say. She is the most positive person who can make anyone feel better, so she has not only been my favorite teacher, but she is one of the people I look up to in order to strive to success with my goals."



Nikita Lugo
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Heather & Jonathan Haskins

He enjoys playing games, drawing, and working out. He plans to go into the field of quantum physics. He is deciding between several schools including Illinois Tech, Florida Tech, Embry Riddle, the University of Texas Permian Basin, and Santa Fe.

His favorite teacher is Ms. Lopez.

"She was a fun teacher to have and she helped me choose my major for college."



Quatre Haskins

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Kayla & Mike Shrum

She is in Student Council, Bridge Builders Youth Group (church The Bridge), and National Honor Society. She ranks among the Top 10 Students in her class, and is on the A-Honor Roll. She likes reading, painting, and listening to music. Chloe is going to start at Odessa College and wants to become an elementary teacher.

She chose Holly Powell as her favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Powell is someone that I have always been able to get advice from. There was never a boring day in her class. She always tries to make a connection with her students. I have enjoyed having her as a teacher because she always engages with her students. Mrs. Powell has always tried to help me with any problem I come to her with."



Chloe Shrum
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Said Masud & Svitlana Khan

She is president and a captain of the Odessa Collegiate Academy Volleyball club, two-year vice president of National Honor Society, and vice president of Student Council. She was an Academic Decathlon Gold and Silver Medalist, took 1st Place in the ECISD High School Student Art Show, she is named on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, is a state qualifier in Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), a medalist in the Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE), a state qualifier in Academic Decathlon, and is ranked #5 in her class. She likes volunteering in the community, traveling, playing sports, drawing/painting, baking, and spending time with family and friends. She is planning to attend the University of Texas to major in biology at the College of Natural Sciences. Her dream is to become a pediatrician and open a clinic where families who can't afford medical expenses are welcomed so their children can get the help they need.

Her favorite teacher is Cindy McCord, her sophomore Chemistry teacher.

"Mrs. McCord is my favorite teacher because she has always supported me from the very beginning. She continued to nourish my love for science by making the chemistry class very fascinating and enjoyable for everyone. Therefore, with her kind and amusing personality, she never failed to put a smile on the students' faces. I'm forever grateful to her for inspiring me academically and for always believing in my abilities and what I can accomplish."



Maryna Khan
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Mercedes Gonzalez and
Rigoberto Mendoza

He is vice president of National Honor Society, an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, a member of varsity tennis for the past four years, secretary of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (SHH) and vice president of the Orchestra for two years. He is a QuestBridge National College Match Recipient earning admission to Emory University, ranked in the Top 10, earned College Board National Rural Small Town and National Hispanic Recognition, and was chosen to participate in DLR Group Innovation Challenge. He enjoys playing volleyball with his friends, photography, and painting. Rigoberto is attending Emory University and will major in biology then attend medical school to ultimately be a pathologist.

His favorite teacher is Ray Mata.

"Mr. Mata has been there for me throughout all the bright moments as well as the dark ones. I am forever grateful to have someone that I could go to if I needed help with a math problem or personal problems that I have faced in my life. Mata is an amazing teacher, he constantly tries to better his lessons, attempts to get to know his students so they feel welcome in his classroom, and adapts to each person's personality. His door is always open for anyone that is seeking help. He has certainly left an impact on me and I want to thank him for being there every step of the way, for his not so funny jokes, and his wild heart."



Rigoberto Mendoza Jr.
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Dr. Pat and Nanda Kesavan

Swetha is the president of the Permian Orchestra, Business Professionals of America (BPA), and Science Club. She is in Satin Strings Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, National Honor Society, Communities in Schools, and the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Outside of school, Swetha is a part of the Junior Teen Leadership Volunteer Program at Medical Center Hospital and is a research assistant in the UTPB Chemistry Department and Permian Basin Research Foundation. She is the Valedictorian of the senior class, Finalist in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, AP Scholar, Texas Scholar, Permian Academic Hall of Fame, Permian Hall of Fame, State Qualifier in 6A CX Debate. In her free time, Swetha enjoys playing the violin, painting, photography, cross-stitch, and volunteering in her community. Swetha aspires to become a physician and to serve rural and small communities in the hope of closing the gap in healthcare accessibility. Swetha will be majoring in biochemistry, and is undecided on a college.

Swetha's favorite teacher is Joshua Martinez, her AP Calculus AB and BC teacher in 11th and 12th grades.

"Mr. Martinez has been a consistent presence in my life throughout the chaos of COVID-19. I always look forward to Calculus class because I learn more than just Calculus. Our easygoing conversations make school enjoyable even during stressful times. He has helped me grow into the confident, open-minded, and mature woman that I am today."



Swetha Kesavan
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Sarah Fanucci and Troy Dishon

She is vice president of National Honor Society, member of the Permian High School varsity gymnastics team, and a member of the NTO Academic Decathlon Team. She is NTO's valedictorian and received a Nation Math + Science Initiative Scholarship.

She enjoys exercising, reading sad books, watching funny sitcoms, and talking with friends. She will attend the University of Texas to major in social work before going to law school. She does not know which type of law she wants to study, she knows she wants to help those in need.

Isabella's favorite teacher is William Marsh.

"I selected Mr. Marsh as my favorite teacher based mostly on his enthusiasm towards teaching. He comes in every single day with the goal of helping his students learn and it shows through the effort and creativity each student puts into his work. He is not the average teacher. Anyone who has met him could tell you that. He is passionate. He knows the material he teaches in and out and he presents it in a collaborative way that makes you want to get involved. He doesn't lecture - he converses with his students. He will always answer my seemingly never not raised hand without ever making me feel like an inconvenience. Simply put - he makes learning fun every day. He makes his students feel seen, feel smart, feel funny, and feel like they have a voice in his classroom no matter what. I can confidently say that I have never felt like I he did not adequately prepare me in the subjects he teaches and I do not believe that I have once left his class without him telling me to: "have a nice day" with a smile."



Isabella Fanucci-Dishon
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Ysela & James Ortiz

Liyah is in National Honor Society, a member of the Prom Committee, and part of the Creator's Club. She is on the A Honor Roll. Her interests include drawing, reading, and watching movies. Her goal is a career in art. She will attend Odessa College.

Liyah chose Jessica Jordan, as her favorite teacher.

"She creates a fun and safe learning environment that allows me to work closely with my peers and create strong relationships."



Liyah Ortiz
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Mother: Beatris Mata

She is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and is a Teaching Assistant/Volunteer at the Ellen Noel Museum. She is on the A Honor Roll, Dean's List at Odessa College, is a Texas Scholar, ranked in the Top 10 of her class, and received the Texas Tech Presidential Merit Scholarship. Her hobbies are spending quality time with family and friends and baking. At Texas Tech University she plans to major in animal science, minor in biology, and become a veterinarian.

Serenity's favorite teacher is Hilda Gonzales.

"Mrs. Gonzales really cares about her students and it shows. She has helped guide me through AVID and has inspired me to stretch my goals and to reach for excellence."



Serenity Quintela
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Christina & Michael Thompson

He is a Teen Court Teen attorney, a political organizer for the Odessa Young Dems, President of National Honor Society, executive officer for International Baccalaureate Ambassadors, in the Debate Club and a co-captain of the varsity tennis team. He also served on the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and as a panelist at ECISD's Leadership University. He won the Bright Inquisitor Award from Odessa Junior Leadership, qualified for Spring UIL Region for Lincoln Douglas and Fall UIL State for Congress (debate), and was on the UIL Social Studies team that placed 1st at Regionals. Matthew is active advocating for voting fights and criminal justice reform; reading philosophy, Critical Theory, and existential literature; writing opinion essays; and listening to podcasts such as "BBC in Our Time" and "Democracy Now." He has been accepted to UT Austin, Tufts, UC Berkeley, Rice, Harvard and Columbia. His career interest is in jurisprudence and social activism. His goal is to come closer to an ideal realm of truth by asking fundamental questions like "who we are? who we should be? who we will become?" to create the ideal conditions for justice, law, and human rights around the world.

He chose Melissa Roth as his favorite teacher.

Mrs. Roth is a floating teacher (a teacher without a permanent classroom), but she provides an unconditional space for discussion, reflection and endless questions, often without precise answers- my favorite. If there exists a self on the exterior, one for public-display and performance, and an authentic self where thoughts and feelings are confined to the chest and mind, Mrs. Roth's atmosphere invites me to examine my true self and embrace my imperfection. Mrs. Roth lives and teaches with meaningful soul, and relates to each student's experience as a peer with normal faults. Mrs. Roth understands the magnitude of her role when students begin to question their knowledge and become independent knowers. For me, the transition was uncomfortable; I distanced myself from fellow peers and my attained conception of the world. However, Mrs. Roth guided me through life's burdening questions and possible meanings, and most importantly reminded me: I was not alone... and that we are all uncomfortable from what is and yet to be known."



Matthew Thompson
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Arlene and Cuauhtemoc Rodriguez

He is a member of National Honor Society, a midfielder for FC Premier and the Permian High School soccer teams, and a College Board National Merit Hispanic Scholar. He was 2nd Team All-District soccer in 2020 & 2021, and made Popping Panther Pride A-Honor Roll for 2021-22. He enjoys playing soccer, mountain biking, running, traveling, and anything which involves getting out and enjoying all which nature has to offer. Noe aspires to major in neuroscience at the University of Texas, and attend medical school in either Texas or California to become a neurologist. After such he hopes to perform residency in Texas and finally settle in either Dallas or San Antonio.

He chose Rick Green as his favorite teacher.

"Having been taught by Mr. Green from 6th grade up and through 8th grade at St. Mary's Central Catholic School he was a very involved and enthusiastic math teacher who would always conjure up new methods for motivating his students to have an eagerness to learn. Through this he was the first teacher to have inspired and motivated me in my academic strive which I have carried on into my high school career with much success as I will be graduating in the top 20 students of my graduating class."



Noe Rodriguez
Permian High School

