



7:30pm

Arrival / Dinner

8:00pm - 9:00pm

Student Photos

9:00pm

Awards for Excellence Video Presentation
on the Big Screen





Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Suzan Allison
Larisa Bairamova
Amy Barnes
Todd Berridge
Nancy Campbell
Kristin Carter
Cheraldin Celis
Romina Dimock
Naomi Fuentes
Christa Galvan
Eric Garcia
Manuel Garcia
Damian Gaytan
Robyn Hernandez
Ryan Jackson
Allen Jones
Lee Jordan
Rocio Leon
Maria Lopez
Dr. Lyndsay Eiben
Joshua Martinez
Ray Mata

Mende Mays
Cindy McCord
Jeanette Miller
Erika Nading
Oumi Ndiaye
Bryan Nelms
Velma Nunez
Denise O'dell
Joshua Payan
Yoana Picazo
Christina Portillo
Bridgette Profit
Stacie Pruitt
Lydia Roundtree
Ricardo Santiago
Cheryl Sellars
Katherine Thomas
Ariel Thurber
Emilee Trammell
Jesus Valeriano
Monica Ybarra-
Contreras



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Excellence

This is the 34th 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.



Award for Excellence Athletics

Clifford Gordon is the son of Yolanda Gordon.

He is in National Honor Society, is an Usher at Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, a Cengee Art assistant, and a former manager of the Odessa High School track team.

He made 2nd-Team Academic All-State in football, and earned the Texas Tech University Presidential Merit Scholarship.

He likes playing sports, videogames and movie watching.

Clifford wants to become an IT computer specialist, and will attend Texas Tech University.

His favorite teacher is coach and social studies teacher Ryan Jackson.

“Coach Jackson has always held me accountable for my grades and pushed me to be a better man and athlete.”



Clifford Gordon
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Odalis Lujan is the daughter of Dalila Carrasco.

She is a member of National Honor Society, and the Odessa High School cross country and track teams. She is in Biology, Calculus, Macroeconomics and Government.

She enjoys running.

Odalis plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and study to become a doctor.

Her favorite teacher is Ricardo Santiago.

“I chose Coach Santi because he was one of my first coaches in high school and without him I wouldn’t have gotten to where I am at. He is the one who made me love the sports that I do even when I hate them due to hard workouts. He never doubted me and always wanted the best for me and it showed. He always had faith in me even when I didn’t. He knew what I could become and he turned me to one of the best runners in our district”



Odalis Lujan
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Harper Terry is the son of Kim and David Terry.

He is a member of the Permian Student Senate.

He was a unanimous 1st Team All-District selection in football, won the Josh Batte Memorial Award for Most Valuable Player, and the Ed Gray Outstanding Contribution to the team award.

He likes playing video games, working out, hanging out with friends, eating, and sleeping.

Harper will attend Eastern New Mexico University on a football scholarship, and wants to pursue a coaching career while focusing on nutrition and strength and conditioning.

His favorite teacher is Denise O'dell from 5th grade.

“Coming into fifth grade, I had been home schooled since I was in kindergarten. I had no clue what to expect but Mrs. O'dell brought me in as one of her own kids. She was always making sure that I was doing good in not only school work but socially, making sure I was fitting in with everyone. In the 5th grade I struggled the most I ever have with my dyslexia and Mrs. Odell stayed back with me after school for 1-2 hours almost every day to make sure that I was understanding the material. She always treated me as one of her own children and would always drop anything that she was doing to make sure that I was great in every aspect and what she did for me will be something that I will never forget.”



Harper Terry
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Monica Hinojos is the daughter of Sulema Sias.

She is in National Honor Society, AVID, and the Permian High School Volleyball program.

She earned Academic All-State honors. Her hobbies include baking, gardening, and working out.

Her career plans are to pursue a BSN to become a registered nurse, then specialize as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse, and lastly, after a few years become a travel nurse.

She plans to begin that journey at the University of Texas El Paso.

Monica selected PHS AVID teacher Robyn Hernandez as her favorite teacher.

“I picked Mrs. Hernandez because she is one of the few teachers who genuinely cares about her students. Both inside and outside the classroom. She treats you as if you were her own kid. Not only that but she pushes and encourages you to make your dreams a reality. You can tell that she loves what she does and is passionate about her job as a teacher.”



Monica Hinojos
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Sasha Gutierrez is the daughter of Billie Jo and Pablo Gutierrez.

She is a member of Business Professionals of America, and has received her certification in Microsoft Word.

She enjoys going on vacations and spending quality time with family and friends.

Sasha wants to pursue a career in Civil Engineering. She is undecided on a college but has been accepted to Texas Tech University, Angelo State University, and University of Texas Permian Basin.

Elementary teacher Manuel Garcia is Sasha's favorite teacher.

"I selected [Mr. Garcia] as my favorite teacher because he has always encouraged me to do everything to my fullest potential and to do it with the best of intentions. He has had a tremendous impact on the person I have become today. He not only was a teacher but a role model, he respected each of his students and treated us as a child of his own. He was empathetic, patient, and dedicated to make a positive impact on his students."



Sasha Gutierrez
Odessa High School



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Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Julia Butler is the daughter of Celina Aranda and Rhett Butler.

She is in National Honors Society and the Senior Board.

A few of her favorite things to do are playing with her niece and nephew, painting and building.

She plans to attend The University of Texas, graduate with her nursing degree and enter a two-year Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program.

Julia's favorite teacher is health sciences teacher Christina Portillo.

Julia says, "Mrs. Portillo showed me that I can do anything I put my mind to. She is supportive and the most loving human being ever. I couldn't wait to go to her class because it was always exciting. She has shown me how to be a great leader. Without Mrs. Portillo, I wouldn't have the skills I have now."



Julia Butler
Odessa High School



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Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Hailey Webster is the daughter of Corie Olague and Bryan Webster.

She is a member of National Honor Society, the Permian High School band, Business Professionals of America (BPA) and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

She won 1st Place Regional BPA/ State Qualifier for Graphic Design Promotion, 1st Place in Regional BPA/ State Qualifier for Website Design Team.

Hailey likes drawing, listening to music, hanging out with friends, and spending time with family.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to pursue a business degree, and open her own business.

Her favorite teacher is digital graphics teacher Bryan Nelms.

“He has made a positive difference in my life and makes me enjoy the class. Always encouraged me to always do my best and tells funny jokes.”



Hailey Webster
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Micheyla Smith is the daughter of Rebecca Hoffman-Kovach.

She is in Future Farmers of America (FFA), National Honors Society, and a member of the Permian High School swimming team.

She has been named Outstanding Student in Animal Science Pathway, Most Dedicated Female Swimmer 2017-2021, Most Outstanding Swimmer, and earned the Academic Achievement Award Permian High School Swim 2020-2021.

She likes to swim and volunteer at the vet clinic.

Micheyla will attend Texas A&M University to become a veterinarian and study exotic animals.

She chose Katherine Thomas, her 8th grade teacher, as her favorite.

“She always put her students first and you could really tell that she cared,” Micheyla said of Ms. Thomas. “She always had a positive attitude and a smile on her face every day when you walked into her classroom. She was always very welcoming and always there if you needed her. She truly is the definition of an amazing teacher.”



Micheyla Smith
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence English

Eden Orjinta is the daughter of Petrina and Seth Orjinta.

She is her church keyboardist, a piano teacher, National Honors Society inductee, and Academic Decathlon member.

She won 2nd place in Essay and 3rd place in Literature in Academic Decathlon, earned a spot on the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, garnered recognition by the City of Odessa for Texas Scholars Hours.

Eden enjoys playing the piano, reading, watching movies and tv shows, writing scripts, making short films, and sleeping. While she has not made a final decision on a college major, she plans to be a pediatrician.

She has been accepted into the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Eden's favorite teacher is Nancy Campbell, from 7th and 8th grades. "She encouraged me to have an open mind and be kind to everyone," Eden said about Ms. Campbell.



Eden Orjinta
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Award for Excellence English

Andrea Wall is the daughter of Corina Leyva and Malcholm Wall.

She is a member of the Odyssey of the Mind team, is a Decathlon member/coach, a Writing Center tutor, Texas Scholar, and Vice President of National Honor Society.

She is on the A/B Honor Roll and ranked in the Top 10 of the senior class. Her hobbies are running, sleeping, eating, listening to music, and photography.

Andrea's career plans and goals are to get a Bachelor degree in Art History and Archaeology at the American University of Rome, and later pursue a Master's degree.

Andrea's favorite teacher is math teacher Yoana Picazo.

"I have selected Ms. Picazo as my favorite teacher for all the support, faith, and absolute understanding she has shown me in my years of high school. I really had a guiding hand, and without her sarcasm and witty remarks, or her push for me to strive for greatness, I would have given up a long time ago. Ms. Picazo is my favorite teacher for all that she has given back to me and my peers as a teacher of advanced math and a coach of improv, and for that, I am forever grateful and in debt."



Andrea Wall
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Award for Excellence English

Clarice Carrasco is the daughter of Maria and Luis Carrasco.

She is in National Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and is ranked in the Top 10 of the senior class.

She likes listening to music and spending time with her horses. She is going to attend Texas Tech University and her goal is to become a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Clarice's favorite teacher is Mende Mays, her 8th grade math teacher at Crockett Middle School.

"She taught my favorite subject, I never had a bad day in her class. She made me work hard and realize that I am capable of doing anything I set my mind to."



Clarice Carrasco
OCTECHS



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Award for Excellence English

Amaris Ramirez is the daughter of Kim and Jesse Ramirez.

She is in National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, is Captain of the Showgirls dance team, a member of Kingdom Youth Church, and a volunteer at the church cafe at Odessa Christian Faith Center.

She was awarded Showgirls freshman and sophomore MVP, and awarded best facials in Showgirls two years in a row.

She enjoys dancing on the team and off. When not dancing she likes to watch movies at home or at the theater; hang out with friends, go out to eat, shop and read: fiction, romance, and dystopian novels.

Amaris is going to major in biochemistry to become an anesthesiologist or, potentially a marine biologist. She is going to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Cheryl Sellars, her English teacher during her freshman and senior years, is her choice as her favorite teacher.

"I selected Ms. Sellars as my favorite teacher because she has made an impact on my academic journey as a high school student. As a freshman in high school my first impression of her was a negative impression. I felt intimidated by her presence and the way she was teaching. She was an advanced teacher and made us do a lot of work. At first, I questioned to myself why she made us do all of the things that she made us do. I felt like a failure because I was getting A's in all my classes except for hers and I would try my best which I knew that's all I could do. I never understood why she was so hard on me the way that she was. I can say that I was sensitive as a freshman so everything she told me I took to heart and it would make me re-evaluate the person that I was. As a sophomore anything that she taught me I would let it stick with me in my English classes. I made sure to grow every year as much as possible without her guidance. Now as a senior she pushes me way harder than ever. She expects more from me and is still bold with me. Because of her my writing has grown to become better and my ideas are more well developed. Anything she tells me I take it as it is, I know that her expectations are high for me and that all she wants is what is best for me. I am now confident to go into college because I feel stronger in my education and know what professors are expecting from their

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Amaris Ramirez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence English

Bindika Patel is the daughter of Anish and Hetal Patel.

She is Vice President of National Honor Society, and volunteers at Medical Center Hospital, serving as secretary of the Junior Volunteer Leadership program.

Her hobbies include playing the violin and piano, dancing, teaching dance to younger children and playing tennis. She plans to attend Texas Tech University and her career goals are a degree in biological sciences, medical school and becoming an anesthesiologist.

Bindika chose PHS Orchestra Director Todd Berridge as her favorite teacher.

“Mr. Berridge has been a big part of my high school years and he has pushed me harder than ever because he knows what I’m capable of and without music in my life I don’t know where I would be. He taught me to express my emotions and talent in a different way and I can’t thank him enough. He has taught me so much not only about music but about life and what it means to have goals and dreams.”



Bindika Patel
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Christine Arlynn Campos is the daughter of Vanessa and Jose Campos.

She competed in Academic Decathlon as a junior and senior, is President of AVID Action Team, is a member of National Honor Society, Junior Leadership, Phi Theta Kappa and Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME).

She has made the President's List, Dean's List, A Honor Roll, and A/B Honor Roll.

She enjoys painting, reading, being with family, watching movies, and baking. Christine wants to become a Criminal Investigator working for the FBI, and plans to attend the University of North Texas.

She chose Erika Nading, her school's clerk as her favorite.

"I selected Mrs. Nading as my favorite teacher because I can always count on her to make my morning better every time I see her and I always feel welcomed and accepted whenever I walk into my school's main office when she is around. I know I can rely on Mrs. Nading if I am having trouble with something school related or personal."



Christine Campos
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Jamie Masey is the daughter of Jennifer and Russell Masey.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Council as a Student Representative, Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering (TAME), and Texas Scholars. She enjoys reading, cooking, and baking. Jamie is planning to attend Angelo State University to pursue Nursing or Travel Nursing.

Her favorite teacher is math teacher Lydia Roundtree.

“[Ms. Roundtree] has always been there for me, and made me feel like I was supported. In tenth grade I was transferred to her class and she caught me up and since then has always been there for anything I have needed. I no longer have her in class but when I was taking college math she would always help me solve any problems I needed at any time and it tremendously helped my grade. She also sponsors TAME and would always communicate with us and sometimes even bring snacks when we were hard at work.”



Jamie Masey
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Brissa Yuliette Hinojos is the daughter of Olga and Johnny Hinojos.

She is active in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, coaches a Permian Basin Youth Football League mini cheer squad coach, and is a member of the Odessa High School Cheerleading squad.

She is on the A-Honor Roll and was selected All-American Cheerleader. Brissa likes attend church organizations, practice skills for cheerleading, shopping, enjoying my time with family and friends, and meditating and enjoying nature.

She plans to study at Texas State University, with a major in Fashion Marketing and Design and a minor in Business Administration.

She chose art teacher Jesus Valeriano as her favorite teacher.

Saying this about him, "Mr. Valeriano is an amazing, kind, helpful, and loving teacher. He always welcomed me into his classroom as if it was my own home!"



Brissa Hinojos
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Mark Ornelas is the son of Asucena and Efren Garcia.

He is Student Council President, member of Phi Theta Kappa, member of National Honor Society, and a Texas Scholar.

He received the President's Honor Award, made the A-Honor Roll, Magna Cum Laude.

He enjoys drawing, writing, reading, and working out.

Mark's goal is to be a judge and comic book artist. He is going to attend Angelo State University.

He chose Bridgette Profit as his favorite teacher.

"Because throughout my high school career Mrs. Profit had been a source of help for me as we've worked together in student council for close to three years now. She's someone I'd consider a friend as she has been someone I could talk to and not necessarily have to act any different. She's a source of motivation for me to not take any time to laze around and make sure I can do something with my time. Lastly, she's helped me explore my money-making ideas and what is morally right in the pursuit of funds."



Mark Ornelas
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Iris Jimenez is the daughter of Araceli and Francisco Jimenez.

She is a member of AVID, National Honor Society, Be the Change, Student Council, Texas Scholars, and The National Society of Leadership and Success. She is also the secretary of the National Honor Society at OCTECHS.

She has earned spots on the A Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance.

Her hobbies include playing video games, cooking/baking, and spending time with family and friends.

Iris has been accepted to the University of Texas Permian Basin and has plans to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering.

Her favorite teacher is Christa Galvan, AVID teacher at Bowie Middle School.

“I selected Ms. Galvan as my favorite teacher because she gave everyone hope of success. She was always there to help out with anything. She always encouraged us to do the best we could. Ms. Galvan did much more than just teach the class.”



Iris Jimenez
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Aakash Angirekula is the son of Mohana & Manohar Angirekula.

He is President of National Honor Society, Woodwind Captain of Marching Band, and a volunteer at Medical Center Hospital.

He is a National Merit Commended Scholar; took first place at the Jack Hendrix Piano Competition, a was a member of the freshman All-Region band.

He likes watching basketball, spending time with friends, and traveling with his family.

Aakash plans to become a physician, and will attend the University of Texas. His favorite teacher is OHS social studies teacher Lee Jordan.

“Throughout my three years with Mr. Jordan, his classes have always been engaging and meaningful. He is truly passionate about teaching history, and he makes learning content enjoyable and interesting. While Mr. Jordan is a great teacher, he is also a mentor and someone who can be looked to for advice. He has not only taught us history, but has also given us real world knowledge that I know I’ll be able to apply throughout my life. Some of my most fond memories from high school come from inside of Mr. Jordan’s classroom, and I’m grateful for my time with him.”



Aakash Angirekula
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Sejal Yadalla is the daughter of Sanchita P. & Praveen K. Yadalla.

She is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidate, Vice President of National Honor Society, Team Captain of Academic Decathlon, Spanish Honor Society Senior Member, Competitive Dance Team Leader at Rachael's Dance Unlimited, Junior Volunteer at Medical Center Hospital, Odessa Junior Leadership Member, and Junior Scientific Researcher at Texas Tech Physicians.

She earned distinction in the National Merit Scholar program, Female Leading Light in Odessa Junior Leadership, placed 3rd in State Competition for Speech Category at Academic Decathlon, 8th Place in the International World Dance Championships, 1st Place Dance Soloist in East Coast Region, 3-year Highest Team Scorer at Academic Decathlon, and Innovative Award at Regional Pennsylvania STEM Robotics Competition.

Her hobbies are competitive and recreational dancing, Zumba, volleyball, playing piano, building Lego Landmark sets, and reading psychological thrillers.

She plans to pursue a career in medicine, and then earn a doctorate degree in genetic research. She is undecided on a college.

Her favorite teacher is Ray Mata.
"Mr. Mata told me that the first day I walked into his classroom sophomore year, he knew I was special. When I moved here, I had nobody, not a single friend. I was at the darkest point of my life and I couldn't feel any lonelier. But, when Mr. Mata began to notice the tiniest things about me, like how I spent our review days circling the class to help the other kids catch up, I felt reassured knowing someone as great as him appreciated me. Mr. Mata taught me more than just my love for math; he taught me that life isn't about dwelling on my future, but relishing the joys each day brings. He sees not only the good in me as a student, but as a human being, something that nobody else has ever seen in me. People like Mr. Mata keep the world spinning; everybody needs somebody that gives them a reason to smile, and Mr. Mata is that for not only me, but each and every one of his students. If I make half the impact on the world Mr. Mata has made, I will consider my life an undeniable success. I know he sees this remarkable luminance in me, and I want to spend my life becoming the person he believes me to be. Mr. Mata is not the greatest teacher I've ever had. He's the greatest person I've ever known."



Sejal Yadalla
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Bethani Fierro is the daughter of Maria and Gabriel Fierro.

She is President of Senate Executive Board, Permian Varsity Volleyball Captain, Vice President of National Honor Society, Secretary of Senior Board, a Texas Scholar, and Odessa Symphony Belle.

She is a member of the Permian Hall of Fame, a 2nd Team All-District volleyball player, Academic All-State for volleyball, and earned the PHS volleyball team Highest GPA award.

She likes to play volleyball and spend time with friends and family.

Bethani is planning to attend Texas A&M University, get her master's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders to become a Speech Pathologist.

Her favorite teacher is PHS Student Senate sponsor Allen Jones.

"Mr. Jones has been a great teacher throughout my years in Senate. He has taught me so many great skills I will use even after his class, such as leadership, confidence, accountability, and team work. From the best times to the worst times, Mr. Jones continues to work to better the school and I am so grateful to have been a part of Student Senate for the past 3 years."



Bethani Fierro
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Averi Temple is the daughter of Jennifer and Lance Temple.

She is Treasurer of Permian Executive Board, Permian Junior/ Senior Class Vice President, Crossroads Odessa Middle School Small Group Leader, Permian High School Track and Field Varsity Athlete, member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, and a member of Permian 2021 Principal Search Committee.

She is a candidate for the 2020-21 Permian Hall of Fame.

She likes working out and shopping. Averi is going to Texas Tech University and looks to major in education or human development.

Her favorite teacher is Suzan Allison, from kindergarten.

“Mrs.Allison was my first teacher, as well as the first teacher my family ever interacted with, and did a remarkable job helping me grow beyond my first year of school. Every year, she makes sure to check in on how I am doing in school and is still invested in my life.”



Averi Temple
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Savannarath Thong is the son of Vuthy Thong and Leangang Khuth.

He is in National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, Librarian of Symphony Orchestra, Director/Choreographer and Dancer in Dance Company: Grv and Gravy Babies.

He has twice won Solo and Ensemble Awards, earned UIL Sweepstakes, the Musical Understanding Award, and took 1st Place in Body Rock Dance competition.

His interests are dance, orchestra, and Decathlon.

He wants to pursue a career in dance/choreography and to teach dance internationally.

He is choosing from the University of Texas San Antonio, Texas Tech University or University of Texas Permian Basin for his college.

Savannarath chose Romina Dimock, OHS Assistant Orchestra Director, as his favorite teacher.

“I selected Mrs. Dimock as my favorite teacher because she has been with me through everything. For all of my failures she was there to comfort me and for all of my successes she would always express how proud she was, and not just for me, but for everyone within the OHS Orchestra. Mrs. Dimock pushes me to become the best musician, and overall a better person and for that I am immensely grateful.”



Savannarath Thong
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Idalis Lopez is the daughter of Linda Coss and Steve Magallanes.

She is an officer in National Honor Society, President of Orchestra, and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. She is an International Baccalaureate student.

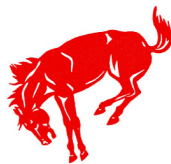
Her hobbies are running, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. She plans to attend Odessa College and study cosmetology.

Larisa Bairamova, her orchestra director at Crockett Middle School, is her favorite teacher.

“I selected her because she is the reason why I do so well in my fine arts classes. She encouraged me to always do my best and always believed in my talent and passion for orchestra. I am humbled and grateful to have had such an amazing teacher who has impacted my life like the way Dr. B has.”



Idalis Lopez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Dillon Martin is the son of Mary and Chad Martin.

He is a member of the Permian High School band and the PHS Black Cat jazz ensemble.

He is a two-time Texas All-State Musician (only 1.3% of people who audition make it out of about 80,000 people), Band Captain, and 1st Chair saxophone in both the top band and jazz band for all years participated.

He likes to play his saxophone, play video games, and a little bit of basketball.

Dillon wants to be a saxophone professor at a college and also perform around the world.

He has been accepted into the saxophone studios at West Texas A&M, the University of Texas, and Ithaca College in New York.

Dillon's favorite teacher is PHS assistant band director Dr. Lyndsay Eiben.

"[Dr. Eiben] has helped me develop as a musician, wanting only the best for me, and always willing to help me better myself to set me up for future success in my career goals. I couldn't have achieved what I have without her help. She constantly works much harder than required and always goes above and beyond, setting a great example for us to follow."



Dillon Martin
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Emily Hill is the daughter of Lisa and Stephen Hill.

She is Captain of the Permian High School Panther Paws, student at Tammie Locklars Dance Studio, a member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Odessa Symphony Guild, Odessa Crystal Ball Foundation, and Crossroads Student Ministry.

She is an AP (Advanced Placement) Scholar, Permian High School Hall of Fame, Senior Superlative Winner: Most Talented, Odessa College President's Honor Roll, Ranked #4 in Senior Class of 2021, and recipient of University Scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.

She enjoys dancing, baking, and drawing. Emily will attend the University of Oklahoma to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Her favorite teacher is Panther Paws Coach Kristin Carter.

“Coach Carter made a big impact in not only my dancing but also helped me grow into a respectful, responsible, and mature young lady. She has prepared me for college and life after high school and has helped me learn countless life lessons. She has been a huge role model in my life throughout high school and made a significant difference in my life. I would not be the person that I am without Coach Carter. She taught me to be an amazing leader and has supported me in all that I have done. I will forever be thankful for the wonderful impact she has made in my life.”



Emily Hill
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Eduardo Garcia is the son of Cristian Renteria.

He is a member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church.

His hobbies are boxing, movies, and sports.

Eduardo will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin to become a mechanical engineer and own a business.

His favorite teacher is science teacher Maria Lopez.

"I picked Mrs. Lopez because she always pushed me to take a step forward to go above and beyond, she would often push me out of my comfort zone to do better at working with others and doing my best."



Eduardo Garcia
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Causicaa Chandramohan is the daughter of Kayal Chandramohan.

She is in National Honor Society, is a Junior Volunteer at Medical Center Hospital, and a member of the Odessa High School band.

She has won awards in Latin, and is in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Honors classes.

Some her favorite things to do are reading, baking, and dancing.

Causicaa hopes to be a neonatologist. She is still deciding on her college having been accepted to the University of Texas San Antonio, University of Texas Dallas, University of North Texas, and Texas Tech University.

Her favorite teacher is Latin instructor Janette Miller, whom she had all four years of high school.

“Ms. Miller always goes out of her way to make sure I understand key concepts and always alters the lessons to fit the needs of me and my fellow students. I have enjoyed taking Latin and I believe that it has truly prepared me for college and equipped me with skills that I will need in the future. Ms. Miller is a very kind teacher and it has been absolutely amazing to have had the honor of taking her class these past four years.”



Causicaa Chandramohan
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Foreign Language

Ryan Kelly is the daughter of Olga and Jeff Kelly.

She is a member of the Permian High School orchestra.

Her hobbies include reading, writing stories, listening to music and playing the violin. She loves being outside.

Ryan plans to study psychology at either Angelo State University or Texas A&M University.

She chose Oumi Ndiaye, her high school French teacher as her favorite teacher.

“She is the one who made me excited about learning a new language. And she has taught me more about the French culture and she always makes lessons interesting. She made me excited to learn French and the French culture. She made lessons very fun.”



Ryan Kelly
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Math

Luis M. Leyva is the son of Betsy Lujan and Emmanuel Leyva.

He is on the Academic Decathlon team, participates in Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering (TAME), is a Texas Scholar, and member of National Honor Society.

He is on the A/B Honor Roll and the Dean's List.

He enjoys working out, spending time outdoors, and reading everything and anything about science.

Luis is going to the University of Texas to major in Environmental Engineering. He would like to become an entrepreneur.

His favorite teacher is Joshua Payan.

"Mr. Payan isn't afraid to challenge his students and always pushes them to think for themselves. Instead of giving you a direct answer to your question, Mr. Payan asks you questions that in turn help you figure it out. Also, Mr. Payan will do anything to help you learn, even if it means getting to school early, leaving late, or going on Saturdays."



Luis Leyva
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence

Math

Dolapo Ogunsola is the son of Olanrewaju and Oluwafunke Ogunsola.

He is a member of the Principal's Breakfast Club, Staff and Editor of the Writing Center, member of National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon team, Congressional Youth Advisory Council, and Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program.

His work took 3rd place in the Film Festival.

He enjoys basketball, reading, and playing video games.

Dolapo wants to become a physician or surgeon, and plans to attend Harvard University.

He chose Damian Gaytan, NTO math teacher, as his favorite.

"Mr. Gaytan is my favorite teacher because he always motivates me to work hard then play hard. This has influenced me to always put 100% of my effort into any activity I engage myself in so I can have leisure time afterwards. Furthermore, Mr. Gaytan has always helped me in times of need and supported my academics and extracurricular activities. I am grateful for his help and the maximum support he has offered."



Dolapo Ogunsola
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Award for Excellence

Math

Jasmin Seas Loya is the daughter of Berenice Loya and Manuel Seas.

She is President of National Honor Society, is in Student Council, Phi Theta Kappa, National Society of Leadership and Success, AVID, and Texas Scholars.

She is on the President's Honor Roll, Dean's Honor Roll, and ranked in the Top 10 of the senior class.

Jasmin will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and wants to become an orthodontist.

Her favorite teacher is math teacher Emilee Trammell.

"I want to recognize Mrs. Trammell for the hard work and dedication she puts into everything she does. She is always willing to help her students not only in school, but in personal life as well. Mrs. Trammell has made a positive impact in my life as a student and left valuable lessons that I will carry on as I progress on my own journey."



Jasmin Seas Loya

OCTECHS



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Award for Excellence

Math

Thomas Chavez is the son of Crystal and Thomas Chavez.

He is a Texas Scholar, a member of National Honor Society, the Odessa High School baseball team, and the OHS Percussion (band).

Thomas plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and his ultimate goal is to build a successful business while living a happy and sustainable life.

His favorite teacher is Rocio Leon, who was his prekindergarten teacher and has stayed active in his life since then.

He says, "I am fortunate enough to be able to say that my favorite teacher has stayed in my life and still, till this day, shows me the good and the bad. As I get older I get wiser due to the things she shows me and continues to show me. For example: learning that it is okay to fail, that the most important thing when failing is learning and knowing that you did your best."



Thomas Chavez
Odessa High School



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Math

Gio Renacia is the son of Jo Ann and Erwin Renacia.

He is in National Honor Society, the Filipino American Association of the Permian Basin (FAAPB), Junior Leadership Odessa, a Junior Volunteer at Medical Center Hospital, and a member of Satin Strings & Symphony.

He earned honors as an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, is ranked in the Top 10 of the senior class, won 3rd Place in Texas State Science Fair (2015), and Principal's Award (2016 - 7th Grade) at Nimitz Middle School.

He enjoys doing math for fun, learning new concepts, drawing, writing, and programming.

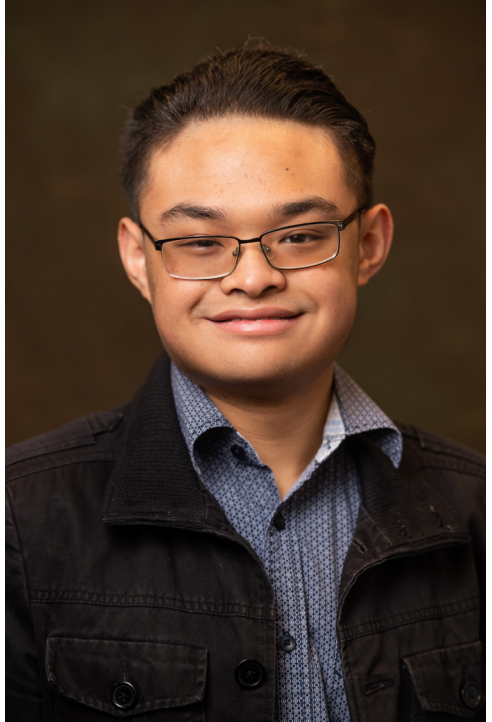
Gio plans to attend the University of Texas but is undecided on a career path; most likely either Biomedical Engineering, Research & Development, or Computer Science.

His favorite teacher is Joshua Martinez, his Algebra I and AP Calculus AB teacher.

"Throughout my high school years, I've come across teachers who influenced my life for the better. However, there is one particular teacher that made the greatest impact on my educational career.

He is none other than my math teacher, Mr. Martinez.

He is a math guru who taught me how to enlighten the dark areas of the fractal. He has a calm and kind demeanor of a mentor who helps his students learn the concepts, and he will gladly lend his assistance to his students who are struggling to understand the connections. But what truly makes him my favorite teacher is letting me enlighten my fellow peers. Seeing my potential, he allowed me to work with my classmates and share our knowledge with them. I felt appreciated seeing that the math master allowed me to be his assistant and work alongside him to explain and offer tools to refine the world of math for his students. Although I don't have him for this year, the memories will last. I will remember the time and his contributions he made that impacted my learning experience. I will remember my experience helping his students while still providing me resources and assistance whenever I need it. Most importantly, I will remember the tools he gave me to open my eyes to the interdimensional world of math.



Gio Renacia
Permian High School



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Victoria Davis is the daughter of Diana Davis.

She advanced to regional and state of Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering (TAME), Member of the National Student Leadership Conference, Duke TIP, VASE Art Competition, MESA Math Competition, earned a spot on the Odessa College Dean's List, and is a member of National Society of Leadership and Success.

She is in National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa.

Her hobbies are reading, journaling, and volleyball.

Victoria wants to pursue a Mechanical or Civil Engineering degree, become employed at a corporate job, and be successful. She is considering a number of schools: Abilene Christian University, Texas A&M School of Engineering, Baylor University, Pepperdine University, Texas A&M-Galveston, University of Texas Permian Basin, Midland College and Louisiana State University.

Victoria's favorite teacher is science teacher Cindy McCord.

"She encouraged me to participate in TAME and always supported me academically. She is a wonderful teacher and supporter."



Victoria Davis
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Amru Ramirez is the son of Isela and Eduardo Ramirez.

He is on the Yearbook staff and is a member of Student Council.

He won first prize in a Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest.

His interests are drawing, reading, video editing, writing, and D&D.

Amru is going to Odessa College and wants to be an animator.

Ariel Thurber, digital graphics teacher at NTO, is his favorite teacher.

“She is really nice and I have been in one of her classes for all 4 years of high school. She’s also the teacher who I learned to edit photos and videos from, and making videos is one of my favorite things to do.”



Amru Ramirez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Francisco Chavez is the son of Debora Franco-Rangel and Manuel Rangel.

He is in National Society of Leadership and Success and is a Senior Representative for Student Council.

He earned the President's Award, is on the A-honor roll, and received a Top Ten Award.

In his free time, he likes working out, playing video games, playing with his animals, and watching movies/shows.

Francisco plans to start at Odessa College before going into the Marines.

He chose Monica Ybarra-Contreras from 7th grade as his favorite teacher.

"Because she is the teacher that I remember the most out of all the teachers I've had and she was the teacher of the C3 club which I had a lot of fun in!"



Francisco Chavez
OCTECHS



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Gerad Sandate is the son of Josie and Reyes Melendez.

He is in the International Baccalaureate program, is a member of National Honor Society, winner of two Presidential awards, and a member of Broncho Polo.

His hobbies are playing guitar and bike riding.

His career goal is to become a trauma surgeon. He is undecided on a college.

Gerad selected Ray Mata as his favorite teacher.

“I chose Mr. Mata as my favorite teacher because he is a wise, caring, funny teacher and friend who has supported me through my high school experience. Through the roughest time of my life, Mr. Mata helped me to continue fighting. He saw potential, courage, and strength that I could not see. Without him, my entire life could have been radically different, yet I have made it to where I am today because of people like him. With Mr. Mata there is never a dull moment, and because of that some of my favorite memories from high school were made in his classroom. So tonight, for many more reasons, I not only selected my favorite teacher; I selected him as one of my favorite friends.”



Gerad Sandate
Odessa High School



Sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Sneha Kesavan is the daughter of Nanda and Pat Kesavan.

She is Captain of the Academic Decathlon Team, President of National Honor Society, Executive Board Member of Permian Student Senate, JV/ Varsity Track Athlete and Team Manager for 3 years, Vice President of the Permian Chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA), Junior Board and Senior Board member, Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer in the MCH Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program, and Teen Art Resident in the Ellen Noel Art Museum Teen Art Residency Program.

She is Salutatorian of the senior class, AP Scholar with Honor, Senior Class Homecoming Queen Court, State Qualifier in BPA Economic Research Individual and in Parliamentary Procedures Team events junior year, State BPA Qualifier in Banking and Finance Individual senior year, Visual Art Scholastic Event Medalist, and West Texas Relays 4x200 Champion.

Sneha likes running, stargazing, volunteering in the community, playing the piano, painting, and drawing.

She plans on majoring in biomedical sciences and political science in hopes of attaining a medical degree and practicing medicine, while also pursuing political advocacy in healthcare. While undecided on a college, she has been accepted into the University of Texas for Neuroscience and Plan II Honors.

Her favorite teacher is her 4th grade teacher from Reagan Elementary, Amy Barnes.

“Mrs. Barnes is my favorite teacher because she always greeted us with the biggest smile on her face and was a tremendously positive influence in my life. She fostered my love for writing and learning new things every day. Mrs. Barnes made school enjoyable and engaging and I could not be more thankful for her lessons learned in and out of the classroom.”



Sneha Kesavan
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Nataly Sotelo is the daughter of Rita and Ramon Sotelo.

She is President of Phi Theta Kappa, was Vice President of Chapter Operations during her junior year, Secretary of National Honor Society, President of Student Council, was vice president her junior year, a Sophomore Representative, and is the Historian of the AVID Action Team.

She has been on the Odessa College President's and Dean's List for five semesters.

Her hobbies include baking and crafting. Nataly is deciding between Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry University, and Texas Tech University. She has plans to become a physician assistant, and would also like to open her own bakery.

Her favorite teacher is elementary teacher Velma Nunez.

"I selected [Ms. Nunez] as my favorite teacher because what I learned in her class really influenced the rest of my education," said Nataly. "In her class, 4th grade year, we did extensive reading and writing and since then, I found that my strongest subject would be English. I also chose her because I loved going into her class since she was always so cheerful and encouraging. One thing that I will never forget about her class was how she would make learning enjoyable through her storytelling and personality."



Nataly Sotelo
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Social Studies

Aliye Kocak is the daughter of Yuksel and Hulya Kocak.

She is President of the Student Government Association of Odessa College, was the vice president as a junior, participated in the Mathematical Engineering Student Association of Odessa College and earned the Most Active Member award in 10th Grade; President of the Girls Who Code Club, Liberal Arts Club, and NTO College Guidance Organization.

She is a College Board Ambassador, runs the Turkish Refugees College Guidance Association, and has been volunteering at the Peace Academy of West Texas since 9th grade. She volunteers as a tutor at New Tech's Writing Center, the charity organization Embrace Relief, and Advocates of Silenced Turkey.

She is in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success Organization, received the Student Award of Excellence from Odessa College in 9th grade, and the Student Leader of the Year award in 11th grade.

Calling herself a big book nerd, her hobbies include reading, watching book reviews and analysis videos. She also enjoys cooking international food (Indian and Japanese cuisine), and is a HUGE anime fan. Aliye plans to attend Texas A&M, and major in psychology with a minor in neuroscience. Eventually she wants to get her Master's degree in Research Psychology and open a series of therapy clinics in Turkey.

Aliye's favorite teacher is her French teacher Cheraldin Celis.

"Ms. Celis, AKA Ms. Sunshine Soul, loves her job, just as much as she loves smiling. Ms. Celis loves her family, loves the TV show The Magnificent Century, loves her ten thousand souvenirs of the Eiffel Tower, and loves her intricate ring collection. She loves traveling, reading and patiently puts up with the constant whining of insufferable teenagers before she even says homework. And most important of it all, Ms. Celis loves her students... ..She's always finding ways to try new learning styles and has entertained many of my outrageous ideas for a better world at 8:00 in the morning. She is nurturing yet disciplined, providing structure and love for her students. And most importantly, Ms. Celis is proactive. She takes initiative and never says never. And for that, she has an irreplaceable place in my heart. Because of her, I was able to enjoy my junior year to the fullest and pass my AP test with a soaring 5. I am forever grateful for Ms. Celis's guidance and mentorship."



Aliye Kocak
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Kaydence Shepardson is the daughter of Mindy Arp.

She is a member of National Honors Society, Phi Theta Kappa member, and a student youth leader at her church.

She is on the President's Honor Roll, Valedictorian of the senior class, and recipient of the Principal's Award.

She likes swimming, crafting, and baking.

Kaydence plans to attend Abilene Christian University, with the plan to major in psychology and become a counselor.

Her favorite teacher is Stacie Pruitt from 3rd grade.

"Mrs. Pruitt has the sweetest spirit, she will do anything to help her students succeed. She always made me feel safe and happy at school, I just remember always looking forward to going to school to see her even after I was out of her classroom and moving on to different grade levels. She played a huge role in my success by helping me to see my potential and teaching me never to give up on myself, because of her I loved school and wanted to do the very best I could and, in the end, it surely paid off!"



Kaydence Shepardson

OCTECHS



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Isaac Camacho is the son of Ludivina and Alberto Camacho.

He is in AVID, French III, Symphony Orchestra, is a member of the Teen Leadership Council at the Crisis Center of West Texas, a graduate of the Junior Leadership Odessa program, member of the Texas Council on Family Violence, and member of National Honor Society. He won the Young Hearts Matter Award - Activist of the Year (Texas Council on Family Violence) and the Leading Light Award (Junior Leadership Odessa).

His interests include reading books, watching movies, playing video games, and watching Anime.

After high school he hopes to attend a community college to get his basics and start a pre-med track. Then he plans to attend a bigger institution, perhaps Baylor University, and continue in medicine.

Isaac's favorite teacher is AVID teacher Naomi Fuentes.

"Ms. Fuentes is such a fascinating character, she's such a cheery individual despite her proclivity for the morbid and the cryptic. Her optimism is so motivating, and her compassion is so uplifting. She's very energetic and uplifting! Not only does she try and prepare you for college, but as well as for the next big step in life."



Isaac Camacho
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Social Studies

Faith Fulbright is the daughter of Tatum and Brad Fulbright.

She is Vice President of Logistics and Public Relations for Kantorei Choir; member of Black Magic choir; Captain of Academic Decathlon team, President of Business Professionals of America, a Texas Scholar; Permian Student Senate - Executive Board, and Praise and Worship Volunteer for Community Bible Church. She is a recipient of the Forty Acres Scholarship, a National Merit Commended Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, made the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, and the Straight A Honor Roll (9-12th).

She enjoys singing, listening to music, and skincare.

Faith plans to attend the University of Texas and will pursue a major in Business and Plan II at UT and law school afterward.

Her 10th grade World History teacher, and Decathlon coach, Eric Garcia is her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Garcia is the kind of teacher that I believe everyone needs in their life. He has always been someone who supports his students, whether through making learning feel fun or giving much-needed advice to those unsure of themselves. In my time being taught by him, he has been a teacher that has inspired me and made me feel so much more confident in myself and my abilities. Thank you, Mr. Garcia!"



Faith Fulbright
Permian High School

