



Awards for Excellence 2020



HONORING OUR
OUTSTANDING HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS!!!

Presented by the Ector County Independent School District
Board of Trustees





Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Melanie Key
Angela Arebalos
Olivia Pyburn
Josette Zeigler
Angelica Rodriguez
Pamela Lopez
Cindy McKeehan
Kelsey Worthy
Emilee Trammell
Melissa Roth
Joni Vincent
Aaron Cox
Kenneth Sieloff
Cheraldin Celis
Channel Zazueta
Bernadette Barragan
Victoria Weinzell
Joshua Martinez
William Boone
Courtney Hallcy
Dean Garza

Raul Sanchez
Taylor Baggett
Cheryl Cunningham
Chris Golden
Ray Mata
Lauren Rieves
Elizabeth Gray
Kim James
Lee Jordan
Karen Hart
Rozanne Spires
Elizabeth Cleveland
Yesenia Barajas
Jennifer Nuñez
Yvonne Tarangoo
Karime Melendez
Cindy McCord
Adolfo Zubia
William Marsh
Mark Perales
Donna O'Bryant





Excellence

This is the 33rd 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

Jezreel is the son of Guadalupe Juarez.

He is involved in AP classes.

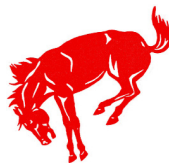
He enjoys working out and cooking.

His plans including attending Texas A&M University and earning a Bachelor degree in mechanical engineering.

Jezreel chose OHS coach Dean Garza as his favorite teacher. About Coach Garza he says, "He is someone that I can always rely on when I need him. The past four years he has pushed me to be the best that I can be, supported the decisions and goals I made and gave advice on how to accomplish them. He has cared for my well-being in and out of school."



Jezreel Sanchez Juarez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Dalila is the daughter of Lory and Ponch Olivas.

She is involved in Art, varsity soccer, and First Priority.

She has achieved straight A's, was named Offensive MVP, and 2-6A All District Honorable Mention.

Her hobbies include art, playing soccer, and jamming to music.

She will attend Abilene Christian University and major in graphic design.

Her favorite teacher is Melanie Key, from 6th grade. "I picked Ms. Key because I still remember, to this day, whenever I was bawling my eyes out whenever I gave Ms. Key one last hug. I always said I would go back but soccer kept me busy!! I just wanted to let her know I would never forget her and that she was a great teacher to not just me, but to my little brother as well. She deserves this award for setting me up for success all the way from Reagan Elementary and for everything she does!"



Dalila Olivas
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Chase is the son of Deidra and Justin Stell.

He earned Academic All-State honors, was Captain of Football Team, named All-Permian Basin defensive back, and 1st Team All-District.

He likes playing video games and working out.

He plans to attend Angelo State University and become a nurse.

Chase's favorite teacher is high school teacher and coach Raul Sanchez. Chase says, "I chose Coach Sanchez as my favorite teacher because he has been with me every step of the way."



Chase Stell
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Aliyah is the daughter of Neomi & Junior Lara.

She is a four-year varsity letterman of Permian softball, and received a softball scholarship from Midland College. She is a member of National Honor Society, received Presidential awards in 2014 and 2016, and earned achievements in geometry.

Her hobbies are playing softball, watching movies, and reading books.

Aliyah plans to attend MC and play softball. Her goal is a degree in Business Administration and work towards becoming a business financial manager.

Her favorite teacher is Coach Angela Arebalos. "I chose Coach A as my favorite teacher, because throughout all my years in high school she has always been so supportive of me. She has encouraged me to not only do my best academically but also for softball. She was able to help me at times with schoolwork or studying and has also looked out for my future towards college."



Aliyah Lara
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

KateLynn is the daughter of Nikki & Stacy King.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE), and President of Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) during her junior year.

She received awards for Most Improved Player as a freshman, and Offensive Player of the Year her junior year in the OHS basketball program.

She spends free time reading, creatively writing, or curled up watching Netflix.

KateLynn wants to be a journalist. She is planning to attend The University of North Texas.

She chose former OHS basketball coach Olivia Pyburn as her favorite teacher. "Coach Pyburn was always the person that I knew would take the time to listen if I needed to talk. Not only did she believe in me when it came to basketball, she believed in me when I didn't believe in myself, regardless of the subject matter. Coach never gave up on me and she never let me give up on myself."



KateLynn King
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Tesla is the daughter of Debra and John Fagin.

She is a member of Senior Board, Business Professionals of America, and a volunteer at Odessa Bible Church.

She is in National Honor Society.

Tesla enjoys practicing photography, watching movies, and painting.

She plans to go to Abilene Christian University and become a photojournalist.

Her favorite teacher is former OHS teacher Taylor Baggett. Tesla says, "She has helped me overcome so many things throughout my high school career as well as encouraged me to always do my best."



Tesla Proffitt
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Katelynn is the daughter of Rachel & Dustin Miller.

She is a part of the church youth group at Agape Dream Center. She is also a student planner with the teaching program, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Katelynn enjoys reading, writing, and drawing.

She plans to attend either The University of Texas Permian Basin or Abilene Christian University. She plans to be an elementary school teacher, hoping to teach 2nd or 3rd grade.

Katelynn's favorite teacher is Cheryl Cunningham. Katelynn says, "She has been someone that I have looked up to since I was a junior in high school. She has always been a joy every time I go to class and that is why I have enjoyed my days inside her classroom. She has always been there for me when I have needed her; and I hope to one day become an excellent teacher just like her."



Katelynn Miller
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Analise is the daughter of Monica & Marcos Lopez.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Pandemonium Volleyball Club, and Saint Anthony's Catholic Church.

She was inducted into the Permian Hall of Fame, earned All-State Academic and All-District Academic honors, is a two-time state qualifier for Visual Arts Scholastic Event, state qualifier for Computer Animation team in Business Professionals of America, TAG certified as a line-referee for Sun Country Regional Volleyball Association.

Analise likes to work out or sketch drawings in her free time.

She has been accepted to Texas Tech University where she plans to study architecture, attain a Master's degree, and one day be the CEO of her own architecture firm.

Analise chose digital animation teacher Josette Zeigler as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Zeigler is an outstanding and unique teacher that understood me and helped me in my last remaining years of high school. She didn't just teach me how to use the animation software programs, but she taught me and helped me through many of my high school teenager struggles. She taught me how to live life in new perspectives and inspired me to look beyond what is in front of me. She encourages her students to be themselves and to express their inner creativity they hold from within. Mrs. Zeigler is not just a teacher; she is person who inspires students to achieve more than what they could imagine."



Analise Lopez
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

English

Reuben is the son of Jenifer & James Woods.

He is a member of National Honor Society and Student Council.

He has achieved “A” Honor Roll and is in the top ten percent of his class.

He enjoys art and playing guitar.

Reuben plans to get a degree in fine arts from Texas Tech University, then pursue a career in animation and illustration.

He chose art teacher Chris Golden as his favorite teacher. “This is the first year I’ve had Mr. Golden for a class. My art has improved greatly in that time, with his guidance. Mr. Golden has answered questions about art schools, drawing techniques, color use, sketchbooks and the list. More importantly, Mr. Golden is a good friend, and someone I can relate to. I respect his artwork, unique personality, and the effort he puts into his classes.”



Reuben Woods
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence

English

Oliver is the son of Autumn & Robert Martin.

Oliver is Historian for National Honor Society, President of the Creative Writing Club, President of the NTO Writing Center, and President of NTO Genders and Sexualities Alliance. He volunteers with the Lions Club, performs and writes music for the Music Club, participates in Odyssey of the Mind, and is a member of the band Cedar Parc.

He won 2nd at the annual Keep Odessa Beautiful Recycled Fashion Show, participated in the NASA Junior Aerospace Scholars Program, created a mural for a local Walmart, directed and organized a local LGBT art show to support Out in West Texas, and has earned perfect scores in his junior and senior years at the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). He will graduate high school with a general Associate degree, with a minor in arts & humanities, from Odessa College.

Oliver enjoys making music, art, writing, sewing/ embroidery, filming and editing videos, and having fun with friends.

He plans to attend The Southwest School of Art in San Antonio and wants to be a working artist and musician to attain a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art and continue making music.

Angelica Rodriguez is Oliver's favorite teacher. She taught Oliver in 10th and 11th grade. He says, "She's been there for me as a student and person since the first time I entered her classroom."



Oliver Martin

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

English

Stephanie is the daughter of Rocio Luna and Sierra Dominguez.

She is a member of National Honor Society and a representative member in Student Council.

She achieved “A-B” honor roll.

She enjoys reading, shopping, and dancing in her free time.

She plans to attend The University of Texas Permian Basin and work towards a Bachelor degree in marketing and a minor in geology. She would like to work as a marketing manager.

Stephanie's favorite teacher is Pamela Lopez. “I selected Ms. Lopez because she is an exceptional educator and she helped me make it through high school. She has always supported me in my education, and any emotional obstacles I have faced she's always helped me feel better. As an English teacher she helped me improve technical things in my writing and allowed me to grow in a subject that I really enjoy. Ms. Lopez and I also began our school's book club where we meet once a month and openly discuss the monthly book with our meme era. She is by far the best teacher I've ever had and she is an even better friend.”



Stephanie Dominguez
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence

English

Raul is the son of Claudia & Raul Nevarez.

He is the President of Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and President of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (SHH). He was a part of the marching band's 79th consecutive year in Division I, and a two-year member of National Honor Society.

Raul is ranked in the Top 10 of his class, is an AP Scholar with Honors, participates in Texas Scholars, and made the "A" Honor roll all four years of high school.

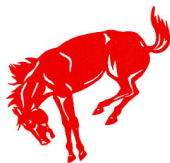
He enjoys painting, reading, practicing the violin, spending time with his cousins, and writing.

Raul plans to attend The University of Texas and major in neuroscience. His goal is to one day become a neurosurgeon.

He chose math teacher Ray Mata as his favorite. "Mr. Mata is my favorite teacher because he always finds a way to lighten the mood in the classroom setting. Whether we are finding the area of a square or finding the volume of solids of revolution using antidifferentiation, Mr. Mata always finds a way to care for his students and make them feel at peace amidst the chaos that comes with being a high school student, whether they are in [International Baccalaureate class] or not."



Raul Nevarez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence English

Abigail is the daughter of Michelle & Danny Gex.

She is President of National Honor Society, A-Team captain and overall highest scorer for Academic Decathlon, member of Mid-Cities Church, Treasurer of Business Professionals of America, three-time BPA state qualifier, Parliamentarian of Senior Board, member of Junior Board, the Superintendent's Advisory Council, teacher assistant at En Croix Dance Academy, and member of National Art Honor Society.

She achieved "A" Honor Roll all four years of high school, AP Scholar with Honor, and a perfect score at the Visual Arts Scholastic Event three years in a row. She had her writing aired on Marfa Public Radio, and received Honorable Mention from the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition.

Her hobbies include dancing, singing, reading, running, drawing, and painting.

Abigail has been accepted to Mays Business School and the Business Honors Program at Texas A&M University, as well as McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas. She eventually plans to practice corporate law.

She chose Cindy McKeehan as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. McKeehan treats all of her students with respect and fairness. She is always genuinely focused on teaching her students the necessary English reading and writing skills needed for college and adulthood. It is obvious she is passionate about the subject, which, in turn, makes people like me love the subject even more. She makes English interesting and pushes me to accomplish all that I can. I also love whenever she pulls up news clippings, stressing the importance of us, as new adults, paying attention to the world around us and forming our individual opinion about such."



Abigail Gex
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Francis is the son of Cynthia & Joachim Dapanas.

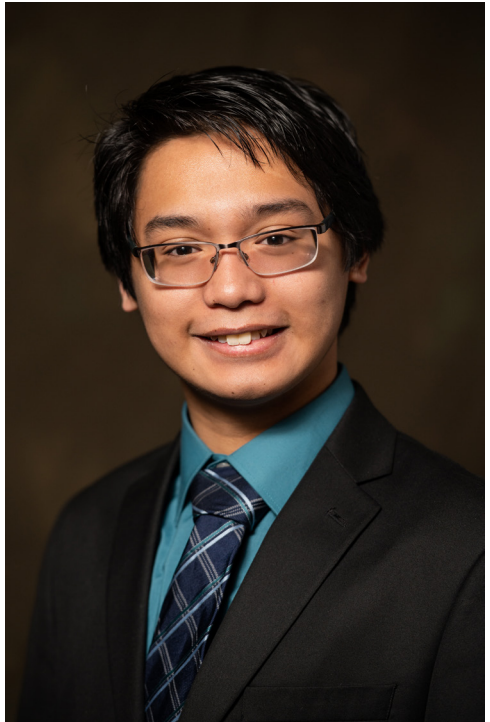
He is involved in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, National Honor Society, and the Junior Volunteer Program at Medical Center Health System.

Francis placed 2nd at the TAME Engineering Design Competition and received the Odessa College Spring Semester 2019 President's Award.

He enjoys playing video games and working with computers.

Francis has decided to attend The University of Texas Permian Basin and plans to become a nurse.

He chose Elizabeth Gray as his favorite teacher. "Mrs. Gray is my favorite teacher as she is one of the most influential people that affected my life as she has allowed me to experience so many new things out of school, from something as small as PICK Education all the way to our SSEP trip to Washington D.C., and I am grateful to her for so many warm memories."



Francis Dapanas
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Chaeli is the daughter of Angela and Todd Starnes.

She is a worship leader for the Chosen Generation Youth Group, member of the Academic Decathlon Team, Treasurer of Student Council, a summer church camp intern, Committee Chair for National Honor Society, participant in TAME engineering competitions, and a participant in church fine arts competitions.

She achieved the “A” Honor Roll, is a Texas Scholar, made the Odessa College President’s List, is in the Top 10 of the class, won Fine Arts awards of merit, and was a 2019 TAME State participant.

Chaeli’s hobbies include playing guitar, piano, singing, writing, playing games with her family, and trying new things!

She plans to become an early childhood teacher and hopes to eventually work overseas. Chaeli plans to attend The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Chaeli chose Kelsey Worthy as her favorite teacher. “Ms. Worthy has been one of my favorite teachers because she is so willing to help me with just about anything. I know I can go to her for input on my writing, advice, or just to have fun. She also hosted First Priority when I started it at my school four years ago and has helped me tremendously in my writing and confidence in my writing. I’m grateful to her for putting up with me throughout high school and for everything she does for her students.”



Chaeli Starnes
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Joseph is the son of Lucy & Samuel Ramirez.

He is Vice President of Student Council, member of National Honor Society, Advisory Breakfast club, and Yearbook staff.

He received honors from the Breakfast Advisory Club.

He enjoys spending time with friends and family, volunteering, and occasionally studying.

Joseph would like to major in psychology, minor in criminal justice, and eventually become a forensics investigator. He has been accepted to The University of Texas Permian Basin.

Joseph chose his 11th grade teacher, Lauren Rieves, as his favorite teacher. "Ms. Rieves always had such a positive mindset that she used to motivate her students to learn and perfect anything and everything they do. Regardless of the negative commentary or impulses that would occasionally arise, she never lost hope in herself as a facilitator or her students and constantly held a helping hand regardless of the occasion or subject. I have never been into history, it simply was just not a subject that I felt comfortable in, but Ms. Rieves showed me that even in our disinterest lies an interest that we could use to motivate ourselves and one another. She was one of my biggest influencers in terms of building my character, and demonstrating that anything is possible so long as you set your mind on it. You can never stop improving but only continue learning the more you push yourself to do something."



Joseph Ramirez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Sophia is the daughter of Melissa & Rodney Rutledge.

She is the President of National Honor Society and Historian of Student Council. She is in Texas Scholars, Environmental Club, Book Club, and Royal Champs Dance.

She received the Odessa College Award of Excellence, and earned spots on Odessa College President's Honor Roll, and A-Honor Roll.

Sophia's hobbies include crafting, dancing, and watching too much reality television.

She wants to be a kindergarten teacher. Sophia has chosen to attend The University of Texas Permian Basin.

Sophia chose her 6th grade teacher Kim James as her favorite teacher. Sophia says, "I've selected Mrs. James because she truly made a difference in my life. She made me love school with the way she taught and the care she showed. Beyond elementary school, she never stopped caring about me both personally and academically, and I'm forever thankful for that. She made me want to pursue teaching to make a difference, just as she did."



Sophia Rutledge
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Alyssa is the daughter of Jessica & David Sanchez.

She is involved in Environmental Club, Student Council, Be The Change, Prom committee, and Texas Scholars.

She made the Odessa College Dean's List.

Alyssa enjoys listening to music, karaoke, crafting, baking, exercising, thrifting, walking and learning.

She is going to attend Texas State University, where she will study to become a counselor.

Alyssa's favorite teacher is Emilee Trammell. "I chose Mrs. Trammell because she is friendly, understanding, approachable, and patient. She has high expectations for each of her students. She believes that we can achieve our goals. Mrs. Trammell never gave up on me. She noticed when I struggled and has always made an effort to communicate with me. I would like to thank Mrs. Trammell for helping and supporting me throughout these years. I hope she realizes that she has impacted mine and her students' lives."



Alyssa Sanchez
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Angelica is the daughter of Anna Carrillo.

Angelica is head drum major, brass lieutenant, and trumpet section leader of the marching band; a member of the honors band, symphony orchestra, and Odessa College Community Band. She served as the President of Medical Center Health System's Junior Volunteer program, Parliamentarian of National Honor Society, member of the Spanish Honor Society, Teen ACTS team member and St. Elizabeth's youth group.

She received the Stellar Volunteer award at MCH, the Texas Scholars Junior Volunteer award, is in the Top Ten of her class, a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, received the IB Spanish Award of Excellence, and was a three-year All-Region Band member.

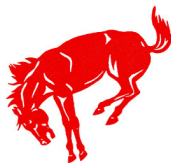
Angelica enjoys volunteering in the community, serving 500 hours during her high school career. She is passionate about music, and she enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

She plans to attend Harvard University and major in biology. Angelica plans to attend medical school and someday become a surgeon, most likely with a focus in neurosurgery or pediatrics.

Angelica chose Melissa Roth as her favorite teacher. "I chose Mrs. Roth as my favorite teacher because it is evident that she truly cares about each and every one of her students. Mrs. Roth's passion and commitment to teaching and excellence set her apart as one of those special and unforgettable teachers that play a major role in your life. In addition to being an excellent teacher, I appreciate that she has taken a genuine interest in my life goals and is willing to do anything necessary to help me reach them. She is always willing to go the extra mile whether it be to take the time to listen, provide input, or write exceptional recommendation letters. Despite her busy schedule, Mrs. Roth always makes an effort to attend any extracurricular events that her students are involved in and her support means the world to me. Even if I am having a terrible day, I know that I can count on her to brighten it through her cheerful attitude and concern. I know that Mrs. Roth is genuinely invested in my life journey and I want to thank her for everything that she has done for me."



Angelica Carrillo
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Vivek is the son of Kalpana & Suresh Prasad.

He has been Historian and Secretary of Medical Center Health Center's Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program, a member of Drumline for the OHS Broncho Band, President of National Honor Society, two-year member of the Spanish Honor Society, and [International Baccalaureate] Diploma Candidate.

He received the Louis Hudson Award and Motivator of the Year from the JVTLP at MCH, was Texas Minorities in Engineering Association (TAME) High School All-Region, Division I Solo and Ensemble in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, Diploma al Merito (Spanish award given in Spanish III), and the Excellence Award (Spanish Award given in IB Spanish IV).

He enjoys playing basketball with neighborhood friends, keeping up with sports, watching standup comedy, and gardening with his mom over the summer.

Vivek is going to attend the University of Texas and hopes to pursue a career in medicine, business, or a combination of both.

Lee Jordan is Vivek's favorite teacher: "I had the honor of having Mr. Jordan as my history teacher for two years of my high school experience. I remember walking into his class on the first day of sophomore year and being intimidated by Mr. Jordan himself and also the way his room was set up. The most intimidating thing about Mr. Jordan was his voice. He did a great job of projecting his voice out to all of us, but as a sophomore, I was scared to even move a muscle in his class. Also, his classroom was set up in a unique way. Instead of the traditional desk and table set up in rows, he let his students decide how they wanted his classroom to be set up. We could sit on the desks, the floor, in a castle made of chairs, or even the rug that seemed to have gone through a lot more than the IB seniors. Even the room decorations were unique. He has an upside-down (although he would argue that it is not because there is no up or down) world map where the labeled counties are labeled upright. However, this is what I like most about Mr. Jordan: he creates an environment that is comfortable but unique. This mentality also shows in the way he teaches. I've always thought history was boring, but the way Mr. Jordan teaches history really brings life into a school topic that I use to despise. His teaching style consists of standing in front of the class and making a boring topic into an action/comedy filled movie. I can really see how passionate he is about his job through the effort he puts into each of his lesson plans. He adds in interesting facts and information that catches all our attention. I never thought history could be so much fun. Additionally, this helps students learn historical contents better because our attention spans never leave Mr. Jordan and we aren't restricted to express ourselves in his classroom. Overall, I am grateful for having Mr. Jordan as a teacher. I definitely am glad that I had the opportunity of having him for two years. I truly believe I have become a better historian through his class and I feel like the information he preaches sets better in my head through his teaching style and the comfortable learning environment he creates for his students."



Vivek Prasad
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Hannah is the daughter of Jacqui & Mark Gore.

She is the President of Student Senate, a three-year member of Student Senate Executive Board, a four-year member of varsity soccer, and a member of Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Boards. She is in First Priority, National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Odessa College National Society of Leadership and Success, Odessa Symphony Guild, Crystal Ball Princess, AJAX WTX Soccer Club, a leader at Crossroads Fellowship Youth Group and a member of First Baptist Church Youth Group.

She received District 2-6A Honorable Mention in soccer, was inducted into the Permian Hall of Fame, was voted Miss PHS, Junior and Senior Class Favorite, and was nominated for the Homecoming Court.

She likes playing soccer, shopping, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Hannah will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin where she will play soccer while majoring in communication with an emphasis in public relations.

Her favorite teacher is Joni Vincent, who taught her in 2nd through 5th grade. "Mrs. Vincent was my Take Flight teacher at LBJ Elementary, and she taught me how to read. Her love and encouragement helped me to overcome the challenges of dyslexia and to be proud of my different learning style. I wouldn't have been successful in school without the help from Mrs. Vincent!"



Hannah Gore
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Victoria is the daughter of Jill and Monnie Sparkman.

She was Vice President of Student Senate, Co-Captain of Permian Varsity Cheer, and Treasurer of National Honor Society. She is a member of the Odessa College Honor Society, a small group leader for Crossroads Fellowship, involved in Odessa Symphony Guild, a Crystal Ball Princess, and a volunteer for Children's Clothes Closet and West Texas Food Bank.

She was inducted into the Permian Hall of Fame.

She enjoys cheerleading and having fun.

She will attend Texas Tech University where she will major in education and hopes to make the Texas Tech Cheer Squad.

Victoria's favorite teacher is Karen Hart, who was her teacher during her senior year. "I picked Mrs. Hart because she has pushed me to be my best. She has helped me overcome many obstacles during my academic career and she is always positive and uplifting to me and many other students. Mrs. Hart is one of the best teachers that I have had and I will always remember her and the difference she has made in my life."



Victoria Sparkman
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Karis is the daughter of Aaron Cox and Kristy and Keith Crutcher.

She served as the President and Vice President of Theatre Production. She is a member of the Thespian society, National Forensics League, Texas Forensics Association, Kaleidoscope Company, and OHS varsity choir.

She is graduating from Odessa College with a general study associate degree. She earned All Star Cast in UIL one act play, Honorable Mention Cast in UIL one act play, qualified for National Thespian Festival for 3 years, UIL State Student Congress for 2 years, 1st-place UIL District Student Congress, 3rd place UIL District Student Congress, Best Actress in Theatre Production, Outstanding Leadership from Theatre Production, 12th Chair Texas Music Educators Association Region Alto I in choir, and Area qualifier in Visual Arts Scholastic Event.

Karis enjoys performing in shows, auditioning for shows, singing all types of music, painting, writing speeches for debate, and spending time with friends and family.

She plans to attend college and receive a Bachelor in Fine Arts in musical theater.

She chose Aaron Cox as her favorite teacher. "My favorite teacher is not only my teacher but my father. He has pushed me to my limits to make me better in every aspect of myself. He has sacrificed time, energy, and resources to make sure I had everything I ever needed. He can be a real pain sometimes, but he has shown me what true love is. My dad is an incredible man and incredible teacher. He has put in many unpaid hours into the OHS Performing Arts Center to make sure everything runs smoothly, and I can only pray he gets back every penny and second he has put into it. I can never repay him for everything he has done for me."



Karis Cox
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Brenda is the daughter of Jesus and Jorge Hughes.

She is a Harp leader, and Color Guard Officer (2018-2019).

She received Color Guard Member of the Year Award, and the Harpo Marx Award for leadership and guidance.

Brenda's hobbies include dance, spin, and drawing.

She plans to become a harp teacher or color guard director. Brenda has been accepted to The University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Brenda chose Rozanne Spires as her favorite teacher. Ms. Spires taught Brenda throughout elementary school. Brenda says, "She was the one who started my interest in fine arts."



Brenda Hughes
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Ashton is the daughter of Tenille & Fabian Aranda.

She is the President of the Permian Choir and of the Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter. She is a member of National Honor Society, Permian Senate, and a worship leader at First Assembly of God Church.

She is a three-year member of the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Treble Choir (2018-2020), a three-year State Solo & Ensemble Qualifier (2018-2020), a four-time BPA State Qualifier (2017-2020), a two-time BPA State Finalist (2018-2019), and a guest soloist performing the national anthem at the BPA State Competition as a sophomore. Ashton was invited to join the TMEA Choir (2018), performed as a soloist with the ECISD Jazz Band (2018-2019), and qualified for Assemblies of God National Fine Arts Competition (2017-2018).

She enjoys singing, dancing, and listening to music. She also likes reading, playing video games, and bike riding.

Ashton plans to study either vocal performance, eventually entering the operatic field, or engineering and work with a company focused on bettering the environment, or both. She plans to attend either Oklahoma University or Baylor University.

Ashton chose her high school choir director Kenneth Sieloff as her favorite teacher. "Mr. Sieloff continually pushes me to be a better singer, leader, and overall person. He has equipped me with the tools I've needed to accomplish goals in this organization and in my personal life itself. He's always there when I need help with hard music and hard situations. He inspires me to not let anything get in the way of my passion as he does so himself as a teacher. I would not be the confident person I am today without his continual support."



Ashton Aranda
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Emilee is the daughter of Aide & Cesar Garcia.

She is involved in theater.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading.

She plans to attend Abilene Christian University and become a nurse.

Emilee's favorite teacher is PHS theater teacher Elizabeth Cleveland. "I chose her because she has seen me grow through high school and she helped me grow. She saw things in me that no other teachers did," said Emilee.



Emilee Garcia
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Adamary is the daughter of Maria and Alejandro Dominguez.

She is President of National Honor Society and a part of the Ballet Folklorico Dance Club at New Tech Odessa. This year, Adamary helped bring this type of dance to NTO, when a new club was formed. She volunteers at Meals on Wheels, YMCA, Odessa Day Nursery, Hope House, and events with Complex Community Federal Credit Union.

Adamary made the "A" Honor roll, earned an award for perfect attendance, and was the winner in a competition to create the best public service announcement video of underage drinking.

Her hobbies are dancing with ballet folklorico and painting.

Adamary will be attending Odessa College to finish her degree, then hopes to attend Texas Tech University and pursue a career as a pediatrician.

She chose Cheraldin Celis as her favorite teacher. "I selected Mrs. Celis as my favorite teacher because she was always there to help me out. When I had her as a teacher, she was not just a teacher, she was a person I knew that I could come and talk to if I had any other problems aside from school. She always had the patience with me and everyone else to help us with anything that we did not understand in class. Even though I'm not in her class anymore she still checks up on me and asks me how I am doing, and if I have a bad day she knows how to bring a smile to my face. Overall, she has been my moral support throughout my high school experience and on the days when I believe that I can't do something she is right there to get me right back up and tell me that I can do it."



Adamary Dominguez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Yazlin is the daughter of Leticia & Antonio Romero.

She is in National Honor Society, an officer for Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, and participant in Junior Leadership 2019 through the Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

She was selected through the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program to launch a science project to the International Space Station, is ranked in the Top 10 at Falcon Early College High School (2016-2018), and Top 10 at Bowie Middle School.

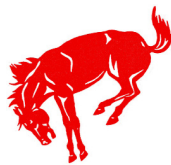
She enjoys reading, creating art, interacting with her three dogs, learning new art forms, and baking.

Yazlin will attend The University of Texas Permian Basin. She would like to be a teacher or professor for graphic design or history, specializing in Hispanic or Latin studies.

Her favorite teacher is her high school teacher Yesenia Barajas. "As I've been in her class I've come to realize how genuine of a person she is and just how willing she is to support her students. She's always there for me whenever I needed advice or when we worked on projects together for things like SHH. It reminds me that I'm not alone and I can go to her if I needed to or if I just want to talk. I really like that about her, I know she's genuine and authentic and I'm really glad to have met a person like her, she's very kind. I would just like to appreciate all that she's done for me and what a great support system she is."



Yazlin Romero
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Andrea is the daughter of Guadalupe Loya.

She likes drawing, playing video games, reading, spending time with my family & going out with her friends.

She plans to become a nurse and is furthering her education at Odessa College.

Andrea's favorite teacher is Channel Zazueta, who taught her in 10th grade. Andrea shares, "She's my favorite teacher because she listens to me when I feel bad, helps me out with everything, and she cares about me."



Andrea Duarte
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Math

Juandedios is the son of Emilda & Juan Mendoza Jr.

He is National Honor Society President, Student Council Chaplain, co-founder of the Chess Club, AVID Action Team Treasurer, involved with Grace Christian Fellowship, Texas Scholars, and Academic Decathlon.

Juandedios sent a science experiment to the International Space Station, won 1st place at Regional TAME engineering competition for three years, is ranked #1 in the class, selected for Junior Leadership of Odessa, Phi Theta Kappa, and has had perfect attendance since kindergarten.

He enjoys spending time in nature fishing, camping, and hiking, and hanging out with friends and family.

He wants to be a dentist, and plans to attend Abilene Christian University and major in biology.

His favorite teacher is Cindy McCord. "Mrs. McCord is my favorite teacher because she treats everyone like family. I have been privileged to have had her as a teacher and a mentor throughout my high school career. She has increased my love of science and has inspired me to be a better person. Without having her as a teacher, I don't know where I would be, and I don't know if I would be inspired to study biology and become a dentist."



Juandedios Mendoza III
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence

Math

Jalaya is the daughter of Beneé Williams & Malea Grady.

She is member of National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, and Model United Nations.

She is a graduate from the NYFA Youth Program, and she played varsity basketball at Permian High School.

Jalaya is involved in the community through coaching Upward Basketball and volunteering with Meals on Wheels and the West Texas Food Bank.

Her future plans are to attend the University of Southern California and become a lawyer.

Jalaya's favorite teacher is Jennifer Nuñez, her teacher in 11th and 12th grades. Jalaya says, "Ms. Nuñez has helped shape me into the person I am today. Not only does she support me, but she sees part of herself in me which prompts her to consistently push and challenge me. Although there are times we disagree, Ms. Nuñez always has my back and wants me to do better in everything I do. She is a teacher, mom, and friend. She is the teacher that will forever leave an impression on my life that I will carry throughout the rest of my days."



Jalaya B. Williams
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Math

Arely is the daughter of Patricia Holguin.

She is a member of National Honor Society and the Environmental Club.

Arely earned spots on the “A” Honor roll and the Dean’s List at Odessa College.

She enjoys dance, watching Netflix, doing makeup and spending time with family.

She will attend The University of North Texas, with plans to be a speech language pathologist.

Arely’s favorite teacher is Yvonne Tarango. “Mrs. Tarango motivates me and truly cares about her student’s futures. She is really kind and caring, even when it is not school related. When I am stressed about school, she reminds me to enjoy my time as a student and to have fun. She is an awesome AVID teacher who works hard to help her students the best that she can.”



Arely Cuellar
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Math

Evan is the son of Rhonda Haley, and grandson of Barbara and Lew Dingman.

He is a QuestBridge National College Match Recipient, earning him admission to Princeton University.

He enjoys playing piano and viola, watching YouTube, and doting on existentialism and the class struggle.

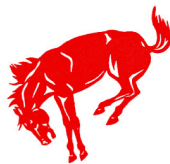
When asked about his plans for the future, he says he'll figure that out once he gets there.

He will attend Princeton University.

Evan chose math teacher Ray Mata as his favorite teacher. "He makes mathematic concepts accessible and facilitates learning in all levels of his teaching; furthermore, his amity towards students makes him an outstanding class favorite each year. Who doesn't love Mr. Mata?"



Evan Haley
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Math

Isis is the daughter of Guadalupe and Manuel Corral.

She is a member of National Honor Society, and a CNA (nursing aid student).

She is an AP Scholar, an Honor Roll student, and received the ROSE (Recognizing Outstanding Student Excellence) award at Bel Aire High School, where she attended as a freshman and a sophomore.

She has been a member of the cross country team and competed in UIL ready writing and mathematics.

Isis would like to pursue a career in the health care setting, such as a nurse practitioner or a neurologist. In the fall of 2019 she earned her certification to be an EKG technician. She would also like to attend Baylor University.

Her favorite teacher is Karime Melendez. "I selected Mrs. Melendez because she has been there to help me out whenever I needed her help. Whether it is help with a math problem or a letter of recommendation, I know that she will always be there to help. When I found out that I could invite one of my favorite teachers as my guest, Mrs. Melendez was the first to come to mind. I just want to use this opportunity to let her know that I'm thankful for all her help."



Isis Corral
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Science

Tucker is the son of Traci Mosig and Sean Simpson.

He is a member of Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), National Honor Society, MESA, and Phi Theta Kappa. He is also on the “A” Honor Roll.

He enjoys listening to music.

He plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio and become an engineer.

Tucker’s favorite teacher is Cindy McCord and very simply he says, “She likes science like me.”



Tucker Simpson
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence Science

Clarissa is the daughter of Edna and Ahibal Gaytan.

She is involved with Odessa Regional Medical Center's Junior Volunteer Program, and Student Council.

She is Vice President of Student Council, a member of National Honor Society, Captain of Academic Decathlon, and a member of Academic Octathlon.

She is a Texas Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, Distinguished Gold Volunteer (for 3 years of service at ORMC), and Regional medalist for Honors Division of Decathlon (3rd for economics, 2nd for social science, 1st for art, 1st for science, and 3rd overall).

She spends her free time reading, embroidering, finding new music, and attending concerts.

Clarissa would like to attend either The University of Texas, The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Texas at Dallas, or Johns Hopkins University. She plans to become a neurosurgeon.

Her favorite teacher is Bernadette Barragan. "Having had Mrs. Barragan for five classes, I have seen firsthand how much she cares about the success and well-being of her students. For the last three years, she has acted as a mentor for me, guiding me through some of my largest endeavors. When I expressed my desire to pursue a career in neurosurgery, for example, she was one of the few who supported me without questioning my capabilities. Beyond this encouragement, she has also taken an active role in providing me with countless resources including an unlimited access pass to her textbooks for my dual classes."



Clarissa Garcia
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Science

Mayo is the son of Omobola Agnes Omotoye and Mila Omotoye.

He is involved in RCCG Abode of Testimonies in Midland.

He achieved “A’s” and excellence in science for two years.

He enjoys reading Manga, exercising, playing soccer and basketball, and watching stand-up comedy.

He will attend The University of Texas Permian Basin. He plans to pursue a degree in nursing, attend medical school, and eventually become a neurosurgeon.

Mayo chose science teacher Victoria Weinzel as his favorite teacher. Of her Mayo said, “Because she’s honestly the best. I go to her sometimes just to hang out or make fun of her. I love her reactions to some stupid things I sometimes say. I also enjoyed her classroom and the simple but fun experiments. Whenever I got behind on notes, or I did not fully understand something, she never had that “I have to help because it is my job” look. Although sometimes she does make fun of me in a joking manner. She’ll probably say she’s never made fun of me though. She is a nice person and somehow both outgoing and chill at the same time. She is awesome.”



Mayo Omotoye
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence Science

Jason is the son of Luz Elena and Socorro Zubia.

He is a member of Templo Jerusalem, National Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish honor society), President of OHS band, Woodwind Lieutenant and Section Leader.

He is an AP Scholar with Honors, National Hispanic Scholar, and a Solo and Ensemble All-State Qualifier.

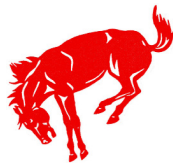
His hobbies include playing the alto saxophone, singing, playing music in church, and helping his father raise and train horses.

Jason would like to become an electrical engineer with a specialization in nanotechnology to bring about new innovations in technology. He will attend The University of Texas.

Jason's favorite teacher is Adolfo Zubia. "Remembering back to my first year in high school, I was placed in Mr. Zubia's class by accident with no intention of becoming an engineer. However, Mr. Zubia told me to give it a chance that I never knew if it would be something I would like to do. After that year I discovered my passion in life and what I wanted to become. I wanted to be an engineer, as I enjoyed the material Mr. Zubia taught and the way he taught made the environment perfect for learning. He helped me realize that I enjoyed math and science in fusion with each other. Due to his teachings, I have pursued classes to help advance my degree in college. I thank him and owe my future career to his teachings."



Jason Zubia
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Science

Chandler is the son of Desiree Caddell and Cain Chesnut.

He is Vice President of National Honor Society, Vice President of Senior Board, Parliamentarian for Business Professionals of America, member of Stonegate Fellowship Church, Texas Scholars, and Odessa Symphony Guild.

He is ranked #1 in the senior class, achieved a perfect score for math on the SAT, Permian Hall of Fame inductee, BPA State Qualifier 2019/2020, voted Most Likely to Succeed 2019, and voted Most Likely to Become President 2020.

He enjoys hunting, shooting sports, mountain biking, working on cars, and weight lifting.

He plans to attend Texas A&M University and pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Chandler chose his high school math teacher, Joshua Martinez, as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Martinez is unlike any other teacher that I have had in my school career. What sets Mr. Martinez apart from the rest of my teachers is his thorough explanations of the content he teaches. Where most teachers would only teach you how to get to the final answers of a question, Mr. Martinez shows you every step along the way. He ensures that no student is left behind and gives credit for work even when the answer may be incorrect. This motivates his students to at least put effort into problems that they may have skipped otherwise. He is also very aware and understanding of each of his students and their individual circumstances. Instead of forcing students to turn in inadequate work because they were unable to complete certain assignments on time, he will allow them more time as long as their excuses are reasonable. Mr. Martinez's love for teaching is evident when you look at his credentials. Formerly an engineer, Mr. Martinez gave up his higher salary job to become a teacher. Where most would pursue money, Mr. Martinez finds more value in educating and impacting young students."



Chandler Chesnut
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Dylan is the son of Holly and Raymond Calvert.

He is involved in Academic Decathlon and the Citizens Bee.

His hobbies include writing and D&D.

He plans to attend Angelo State University and pursue a career as a politician.

Dylan chose AVID teacher William Boone as his favorite teacher. "Mr. Boone has been a great mentor, and a teacher to me. He is kind and truly cares for his students."



Dylan Calvert
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Ryan is the son of Sherri and Antonio Valdez.

He enjoys learning new things.

He plans to attend Texas Tech University and become a nurse practitioner.

Ryan chose social studies teacher William Marsh as his favorite teacher. Ryan says, "He has been an amazing teacher."



Ryan J. Valdez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Joshua is the son of Rebecca Smith and Micah Greenfield.

He is in National Honor Society and a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Odessa College.

He earned a place on the “A” Honor Roll.

He enjoys playing guitar, reading, electronics, and computers.

He plans to finish his degree in automation and electronics engineering through Odessa College’s BAAS program.

Joshua’s favorite teacher is Mark Perales. “He is a very good teacher, who really got me interested in history. He is a great person to converse with and he treats you as an equal intellectually instead of as another high school student. Mr. Perales is the kind of teacher that you respect because he gives respect.”



Joshua Greenfield
OCTECHS



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

J'Nylah is the daughter of Bruce McCowan and Latoya Carte.

She was a part of Academic Decathlon during her junior year.

She has a 5.2 GPA and is ranked #13 in her class.

She enjoys shopping, eating, and sleeping.

She would like to one day own her own business or become a marketing manager. She has been accepted to The University of Texas Permian Basin.

J'Nylah picked Courtney Hallcy as her favorite teacher. She says, "He motivated me to always do my best and work hard to perfect my skills in writing, no matter how good I thought I was. He held me at a higher standard and never allowed me to slack."



J'Nylah McCowan
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Maggie is the daughter of Norma & Keith Bullard.

Maggie is Secretary of the Odessa College Student Government Association, a member of National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Texas State Junior Classical League. She is a member of PHS's Academic Decathlon team, U.I.L. Science team, U.I.L. Ready Writing team, and National Society of Leadership and Success.

She ranks in the top 3% of her class and received the Spirit of Service Award from Texas State Junior Classical League. Maggie was a Regional Qualifier in U.I.L. Ready Writing, earning 2nd place in Greek Derivatives and 4th place in Latin Derivatives two years in a row at the TSJCL regional meet. She placed 3rd in U.I.L. Science at the Texas Tech meet, 6th in U.I.L. Ready Writing and 6th in U.I.L. Math at the Seminole meet. The Academic Decathlon team won 1st place at the district competition, with her placing 3rd individually in the Science and Art categories. She received an award from Texas Art Education Association, and passed her AP World History exam.

Maggie enjoys competing in U.I.L. Science and Ready Writing meets, hanging out with her friends, playing video games, collecting different things, and watching horror movies.

She is going to attend The University of Texas, where she will major in biology. She plans to pursue a master's degree in forensic science and hopes of become a successful forensic pathologist.

She chose her 8th grade band instructor, Donna O' Bryant, as her favorite teacher: "I chose her because she is really inspiring to me. She always pushed her students to improve, because she knew that they could always become even better. Even if it looked like we weren't getting it she kept going and never settled for anything less than perfection."



Maggie Bullard
Permian High School

