



Awards for Excellence

Honoring Our Outstanding
High School Students

May 7, 2024



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

Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Katie Armstrong	Monica Nieto
Ashauna Bell	Nicole Olivas
Everardo Bello Jr.	Monica Olivas
Jett Casas	Joshua Payan
Cheraldin Celis	Mark Perales
Travis Cooper	Adelle Perez
Mikal Crowder	Yoana Picazo
Lornalyn De Leon	Alisha Pierce
Jessica Denney	Galilea Pineda
Alicia Dominguez	Gene Plohocky
Gerardo Garcia	Sally Pool
Eric Garcia	Ramón Rivera
Jacob Green	Adriana Rocha
Seba Gultekin	Rob Rogers
Lindsey Hall	Melissa Roth
Allen Jones	Lydia Roundtree
Lee Jordan	Teysha Tindol
Rebecca Joy	Jeffery Vann
Jackson Knight	Staci Walton
Pamala Lopez	Janet Weyant
Jesús Antonio Muñiz	Shalin White Clonch
Bryan Nelms	

2024 Sponsors



Thank You!



Excellence

This is the 37th 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 45 students charted a course to do their best. Along the way, the standards they set serve as daily examples for their peers.

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

Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Claudia & Ricardo Santiago

Ricardo is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, the OHS varsity football team, the OHS varsity basketball team, and National Honor Society.

He enjoys being with his family, playing sports, and being with his friends.

He is considering Texas Tech University or Baylor University to major in biology with a pre-med track, graduate in the top 10% of his class, and go on to medical school to become a cardiothoracic surgeon or a neurosurgeon.

Ricardo selected counselor Adriana Rocha as his favorite for her impact through all four years of high school.

"Mrs. Rocha taught me many things. She always was kind, understanding, and patient with me. Mrs. Rocha taught me self-respect, patience, always look for a positive route out of a situation, and to learn how to understand and how to deal and overcome difficult situations. Mrs. Rocha was the person I was always able to talk to and the person where if I had trouble or a problem, she would understand and help me through it. She was my go-to person. Yes, she may have got annoyed of me sometimes, but she was always there for me and always rooting for me, like my parents would. Mrs. Rocha's lessons of patience have helped me a lot. I am now able to face my problems, my obstacles, my challenges head on without worry. I am confident to say that I can and will get through any adversity that comes my way. I will always be grateful for all the lessons and ways Mrs. Rocha taught me. Thank you, Mrs. Rocha."



Ricardo Santiago
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Abigail Mata and Alexis Ibarra

Zenaida is a member of National Honor Society and the OHS varsity basketball team.

Her hobbies include exercising, baking, and shopping.

For college she is deciding among Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, or Baylor University, and wants to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Zenaida chose Janet Weyant, her senior math teacher, as her favorite.

"Ms. Weyant cares for all of her students and always does her best to help them. She is very understanding and always makes class entertaining."



Zenaida Ibarra
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Mom: Roshell Caufield

Jamora is part of the Black Cultural Council of Odessa (BCCO), Texas Scholars, school committees, and attends Crossroads Fellowship. She is on the A/B honor roll.

Outside of school she likes to make vlogs, hang out with friends, get ready and take pictures, grow her relationship with God, and spend time with her family.

She plans to attend Texas State University and fulfill her goal of running track at the collegiate level, while studying respiratory therapy. Later she wants to earn a PhD in psychology.

Jamora's favorite teacher is Permian High School track and field coach and AVID teacher Teysha Tindol.

"She has been a mentor for me throughout my high school years. She is someone I can talk to about anything and creates a safe space for her students. Not only she was my coach for volleyball and track, she is my AVID teacher my senior year. She is now helping me to prepare my steps for college. Coach Tindol has a strong passion and love for her career, which makes her my favorite teacher."



Jamora Caufield Grimes
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parent: Stephanie Sherrin

Juzstyce is a member of Purpose Church.

He is on the A Honor Roll and a member of National Honor Society.

His hobbies are football and working out.

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

Juzstyce's favorite teacher is Everardo Bello Jr., his U.S. History teacher from 11th grade.

"He made class fun. I learned while I was having fun and he taught it in a different way where you can understand and remember it."



Juzstyce Lara
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Maria & Martin Hernandez

Aliza is President of Business Professionals of America (BPA), a member of National Honor Society, and the Team leader for the BPA Administrative Support Team.

She is a state qualifier for BPA. She likes expanding her knowledge and plans to get a degree in accounting from the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Aliza chose Alicia Dominguez, her 10th grade business teacher, as her favorite.

"I have selected Ms. Dominguez as my most treasured teacher, she has provided a great amount of support and sincere advice. She will always hold a mother figure in my eyes, and I am beyond thankful for her assistance."



Aliza Hernandez
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parent: Mirta Zapata

Zadie earned National Hispanic recognition from College Board, is ranked in the Top 10 of her class, and holds a 4.4 grade point average (GPA).

She like drawing, reading, and creative writing.

She is committed to the University of Texas and intends to become a radiologist for the Central Texas area.

Zadie's' favorite teacher is Gerardo Garcia who taught during her sophomore and junior years.

"Mr. Garcia, although no longer a teacher, continues to be someone I can talk to and visit with anything I have going on. I can turn to him when I need someone to visit, and he was always a favorite part of my school day when we sat and talked in class. He is among the people I'll remember most from high school."



Zadie Zapata
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Jen & Adrian Kinman and Kristi Pool

Charles is a member of Business Professionals of America (BPA).

He is certified in Word, Word Expert, and Adobe Illustrator.

He enjoys games, Legos, drawing, and singing.

He wants to be a tattoo artist.

Charles chose Bryan Nelms, graphic design teacher at PHS, for his favorite teacher.

"He helps us with actual life stuff we can use and helps us with school/life stuff we have going on. He also bought me a rubber duck once."



Charles Gannon
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Jessica Redman and Bobby Rickman

Hailey is President of the Business Professionals of America (BPA), 2nd Vice President of National Honor Society, and a member of Senior Board.

She is in the Permian High School Hall of Fame.

Her interests include volleyball, spending time with friends/family, and pickle ball.

She is going to Texas A&M University with the goal of becoming an educator.

Hailey chose her junior and senior business education teacher Jessica Denney as her favorite.

"Mrs. Denney is my favorite teacher because she has supported me, not only as a teacher but as someone I can trust and come to for anything I might need. Mrs. Denney has opened doors to so many new and amazing opportunities for me and I think that every teacher should love, support, and care for their students the way Mrs. Denney does."



Hailey Rickman
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Hulya & Yuksel Kocak

Kubra is the Treasurer for Junior and Senior Board, a Junior Volunteer for Medical Center Hospital, Vice president of the nonprofit Peace Academy of West Texas, and an academic intern for White Tulip Health Foundation.

She is the valedictorian of her class, working on a Pharmacy Technician certification, recipient of a Student Leader of the Year award from Odessa College, and earned a Gold Medal Congressional Award from the U.S. Congress.

Her hobbies are painting, reading, embroidering, baking, and photographing sunsets.

She will attend the University of Texas and plans to pursue Pre-pharmacy with the goal of attending Pharmacy School. Her dream is to become an Oncology Pharmacist with hopes of extending access to chemotherapy in underserved communities.

Kubra's favorite teacher is English teacher Cheraldin Celis.

"Ms. Celis holds a special place in my heart. Her classroom has always radiated her passion for teaching and genuine care for her students. She saw potential in me that I hadn't yet recognized and went out of her way to nurture it. Her words of encouragement and comforting smile were always there when I needed them most."



Kubra Kocak
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Joanne Madrid-Delira and Rafael Delira-Alvarez

Daesha is involved with the Book Club, the Prom Committee, Student Council, Spirit Club, Yearbook, Art Club, and Broadcasting. She is a member of the Eta Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the National Society of Leadership & Success, and attends Templo Aposento Alto church.

She is on the A-Honor Roll, earned the Distinguished Chapter award & Distinguished College award from PTK, Student Council awards, and won a regional medal from VASE (Visual Arts Scholastic Event).

She likes to spend time with family and friends, read and discuss books, listen to music, bake, read the Bible, take pictures, and help with school activities.

Career Plans/Future Goals
She is choosing between Abilene Christian University and the University of North Texas and has a goal of becoming a lawyer.

Daesha's favorite teacher is Pamela Lopez from her sophomore year.

"I selected Ms. Lopez as my favorite teacher because of how genuine and sweet she is. When I first met her, we instantly got along, and over time, she became more than a mentor, but my friend as well. She allowed me to grow as a person and was there to teach me so many things that weren't school-related. She always made sure she gave me a learning environment to be emotionally vulnerable. She was there to be a shoulder to cry on, with open arms to hug after good news, and always voiced her opinions. I am thankful that she partially helped me become who I am today."



Daesha Delira
OCTECHS



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Luna & Rene Rodriguez

Giselle is a member of National Honor Society, was on the Student Council her sophomore and junior year, and is the vice president her senior year.

She is ranked #6 in her class with a 4.56 GPA, she maintained a 4.0 in all college classes and is on the President's Honor Roll of Odessa College, and she is a Texas Scholar.

Outside of school she likes spending time with family and friends, watching movies and TV shows and reading.

She is going to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin for a degree in business administration and achieve success in life.

Giselle selected Joshua Payan as her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Payan, since my sophomore year in his geometry class, has always been there to push me to do my best. No matter the situation, I have always known that he will be there to encourage me. He always reminds me that I can do anything I put my mind to, and it is because of his support that I have been so successful throughout my high school years. He is a true inspiration, and I am honored to have had him as a teacher."



Giselle Rodriguez
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Kristal & Britton Stell

Tate is vice president of National Honor Society, is in the International Baccalaureate Programme, First Odessa Student Ministry, is co-captain of the OHS varsity golf team, is a First Priority Student Leader, and is a member of the Odessa Symphony Guild, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

He is Academic All District in golf, Most Valuable Counselor from Camp SIP summer program, Berry Borchardt Award winner 2023, semifinalist for Texas 6A Student Athlete of the Year, and Permian Basin FCA All-Star Golf Team.

He likes to golf, attend church, work out, do community service, camp, fish, and read.

He plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in engineering and use that degree in real estate development. He would also like to get involved with student ministry near my college campus.

Tate chose Lindsey Hall, his 12th grade English teacher as his favorite.

"Ms. Hall has been the biggest influence in developing my writing skills. She has taught me the importance of breaking down literary texts and using them to expand on my own ideas. She has also been very kind and makes English enjoyable. She has done an amazing job at stepping into the IB English teacher position, this year."



Tate Stell
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Dianna & Edger Navarrette

Abigail is in the Dual Credit LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) Program, and choir.

She is on the A-Honor Roll, won a Citizenship Award, placed 2nd in the science fair, and took 2nd place in Star Wars at Reagan Elementary.

She enjoys watching movies, listening to music, painting, and drawing, as well as spending time with her family and watching baseball with them.

She is going to graduate this month with her LVN, then plans to transition to Odessa College to work on her RN. She wants to be a nurse and help people.

Abigails favorite teacher is Katie Armstrong, her English teacher.

"She is a wonderful teacher. She was always there to support and believe in me. English has not always been my strongest subject; however she was there for me when I was not confident in my abilities. I also always look forward to going to her class. She had this environment that was very inviting. I could always go to her if I ever needed anything. I am very thankful to have had her as my teacher."



Abigail Navarrette
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Leah & Mark Perkins

Mason is vice president of National Honor Society, elected leader of the Biomedical Sciences pathway at STEM, and a member of the Prom Committee and SharkFinder.

He has earned annual Super Scientists Awards (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), the A-Honor Roll, Problem Solver awards, U.S. History EOC 100th Percentile rank, and was a member of the Prom Court.

He likes skating (ice and rollerblading), working out at the gym, reading, running and Dual Credit.

He is planning to enter the field of medicine/healthcare. He will study nursing while in college and consider medical school. He is deciding between Baylor University and Texas State University.

Mason's favorite teacher is Nicole Olivas.

"I owe much of my academic successes and personal growth to the remarkable guidance that Mrs. Olivas was able to provide. Not only has she challenged me to excel academically, but she has also been a crucial source of advice during the college application process, helping me navigate critical decisions about my education and future career. Outside of academics, she also provided guidance in being a functional member of society (i.e. how to file your taxes). She also encouraged me to step up and be a leader within school, by volunteering through National Honor Society as a non-member, which led to me becoming vice president my senior year. This award is not only a reflection of my academic accomplishments but also her profound influence in shaping me to not only be successful now, but in my future. Thank you, Mrs. Olivas for all the effort you've made not only in my life, but all of your students, I owe it to them to reflect how astonishing you are as a teacher and individual."



Mason Perkins
STEM Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Mayra & David Muñiz

Cassandra is a member of National Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Anchor Club.

She enjoys reading, writing fiction, and watching movies.

She received a 10,000 dollar scholarship from the University of North Texas.

She will attend the University of North Texas where she was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship. She wants to become a psychologist or a speech pathologist, and minor or dual major in as many languages as possible.

Cassandra chose Lornalyn De Leon, her science teacher as a freshman and a senior, as her favorite.

"She's very passionate, helpful, and invested in her students. Her classes are always very fun and interesting. It's easy to tell that she really enjoys what she does, and she's even helped me with things outside of her class. She always answers all of my many strange questions and explains everything in detail."



Cassandra Carrasco
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Monica & Chris Rivera

Yarisbel attends church at Bible Centered Fellowship, she is a member of Student Council, Texas Scholars, on the recruitment committee for OCTECHS, and is the senior representative for Spirit Club.

She received the Award of Excellence from Odessa College, made the OC Dean's Honor Roll, received the OCTECHS' Honesty Award, is on the A-Honor Roll, and the Ambassador Award.

She is a former gymnast and volleyball player, who now enjoys hands on crafts like designing cups, bracelets, keychains, pens, shirts, and rings.

She is going to Odessa College and plans to begin working for the ECISD Police Department while getting a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in criminal justice.

Yarisbel's favorite teacher is OC professor of criminal justice Seba Gultekin.



Yarisbel Gutierrez
OCTECHS



"He always makes an effort to teach and understand every student in his class. His famous saying in class is, 'Take one step towards me and I'll take two steps towards you' meaning as long as we make an effort he will be there to support and help us understand. He never fails to make the class a happy environment through his actions, jokes, and some comments he makes. He always makes the class laugh and gives scenarios for every topic that help us to understand better. He is truly one of the best professors I have had!"

Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Naomi & Isaac Corral

Josephina was part of Student Council, National Honor Society, Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering, and YCL for her church's girls' camp.

She has been on the A/B Honor Roll throughout high school.

Her hobbies include rollerblading, painting, dancing, writing stories, cooking, and baking.

Her plans for the future are to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, then earn a master's degree in mechanical engineering and a minor in business finance.

She will attend Angelo State University.

Josephina's favorite teacher is Shalin White Clonch, her middle school dyslexia interventionist.

"I selected her for giving me the confidence to challenge my educational career. Due to her willingness and patience to teach me I was able to grow in my reading skills, writing skills, and expand on my comprehension in reading. With this knowledge I was able to gain the confidence I needed to achieve educational goals that were thought impossible at one point. Since then, I continue to challenge myself and try to reach for higher goals."



Josephina Corral
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Krista & George Herrera

Adrian is a member of the OHS varsity baseball team, showcase baseball squad, and the OHS varsity football team.

He enjoys playing baseball.

He is planning to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Adrian selected Coach Jackson Knight as his favorite teacher.

"He helps me with anything I need."



Adrian Herrera
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Siria & Anthony Dutchover

Sydney has been the secretary and vice president of Student Council, is a member of the OHS varsity cheerleading squad, the varsity powerlifting team, is in National Honor Society, and was the varsity girls basketball manager as a sophomore and junior.

She is on the A-Honor Roll, earned Academic All-district, advanced to Regionals in powerlifting and is Miss OHS.

She enjoys listening to music, watching movies, tumbling and working at Baskin Robbins.

She is going to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and pursue a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

Sydney's favorite teacher is cheer coach Galilea Pineda.

"Having her as my cheer coach made me realize how much she believed in my potential to achieve great things. Anytime I told her about my accomplishments, she was genuinely happy and celebrated my achievements. After cheering for Coach Pineda, I know she truly cares for all of us and wants the absolute best for every single cheerleader. I will be forever thankful for her support and belief in me."



Sydney Dutchover
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Veronica & Javier Contreras

Jase is president of the Senate Executive Board, PHS Band Morale Officer, Percussion Lieutenant, Tenor Captain, and organizes Monday Mojo Minutes.

He earned the Principals Award, was elected student body president in May 2023, and assisted in "Mojo Day" Resolution October 2023.

He likes to draw whenever he's stressed or just feels like getting away. He loves watching horror movies and currently the show "Suits." Recently he's found bowling to be something he enjoys and he is starting to pick up pickleball.

He is going to Texas Tech University for under grad and wants to go to law school and be a very successful lawyer before 28.

Jase's favorite teacher is Allen Jones, who has taught him all four years of high school through Teen Leadership and Senate.

"I met Mr. Jones my freshman year of high school. I had him for my teen leadership class and my brother was also in Senate. My freshman year, needless to say, was very tough. I was in a bad spot mentally and my future was not looking good. When I first met Mr. Jones while helping the senate do teacher appreciation, I realized that it wasn't too late to pick myself back up. I have bad days; I have good days. But for every one of those days, Mr. Jones always makes the day a little bit better. I am able to be myself around him and tell him how I am really feeling or what I'm really thinking. I always tell people that I would rather infuriate 100 people than disappoint Mr. Jones. I have so much respect for him because if it weren't for him taking a chance on me when I was a freshman, I would be a very different person than the one I am today."



Jase Contreras
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Maria & Anthony Scott

Abigail is president of National Honor Society and of Business Professionals of America, helps organize Monday Mojo Minutes, treasurer of Permian Student Senate Executive Board, Odessa Chamber of Leadership Student Leader, and a Letterman in varsity cross country and track.

She is a BPA state finalist, Decathlon Speech 1st place state winner Honors Division, Top 10 at state level for debate, Texas Scholar Most Hours Earned, Principals Award, and Homecoming Court.

She enjoys volunteering at West Texas Gifts of Hope handing out sandwiches to cancer patients, traveling and studying abroad as she did in Quebec, Canada studying French, and loves playing pickle ball and would like to consider herself pretty good at it.

She is going to the University of Texas and after college wants to attend law school and become a lawyer or magistrate in hopes of becoming a politician.

Abigail chose Jett Casas, her 5th grade teacher, as her favorite.

"When I had Mrs. [Casas] in the fifth grade as a science teacher, I learned so much more than the life cycle, density, and magnetism. Mrs. [Casas] never failed to put a smile on my face and made learning engaging and fun. She taught me how to have a good worth ethic not only in school but throughout my whole life. Mrs. [Casas] led by example, and I learned many morals from her like honesty, empathy, respect, compassion, integrity, and above all gratefulness. The most important thing she taught me was that it was a privilege to have education and that I should cherish every learning opportunity which has helped me excel throughout not only my education but through my everyday life."



Abigail Scott
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Lissett & Benjamin Velasquez

Dahlia is treasurer of National Honor Society, captain of the OHS tennis team, assistant to the band uniform booster chair, a participant in Junior Leadership of Odessa, a four-year symphony guild member, and an Academic Decathlon member.

She is a three-year member of the All-Region Orchestra and was recognized every year for having the most scholar hours at OHS in her grade.

Her hobbies are gardening, baking, knitting, reading, cross stitching, shooting, knife throwing, ping pong, and talking.

She would like to continue to study American Sign Language and get her interpreter's license, while going to the University of North Texas for a degree in business management in hopes of owning her own flower shop.

Dahlia's favorite teacher is Gene Plohocky who taught her American Sign Language in 10th and 11th grade.

"He helped to build strong foundation in American Sign Language that will continue to be of use in both personal and professional settings."



Dahlia Velasquez
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parent: Michelle Fletes

Josh has been secretary/historian and three-year member of Broncho Legacy choir, president and two-year member OHS productions, captain and three-year member of Debate, member of the Grace Christian Fellowship youth group, and a lifeguard for the Odessa YMCA.

He is ranked in the Top 15 of his graduating class, completed high school within 3 years starting in 2022, he is a TMEA music scholar, TMEA area qualifier & alternate to the All-State Choir, UIL One Act Play All-Star Cast award, and UIL Lincoln Douglas debate Region qualifier.

His hobbies are playing guitar, swimming, learning about issues within global relations.

He plans to attend the University of Texas at Arlington with a focus on international business in German. He wants to be a lawyer helping others and building relations between countries and different companies. He also hopes to become an ASL interpreter, and help clients with disabilities fight for their rights.

His favorite teacher is Rob Rogers, his choir director from 9th through 11th grades.

"He pushed me to go beyond what I thought I could do, while still making me understand that I wasn't perfect and would make mistakes. He teaches every student to live in the moment and be present even when they might not want to be. He was always open for students to vent to and would always give his honest opinion no matter the situation. Above all he trusted his students and allowed them to have a hand in the creative process. He instilled a passion for performance that I hadn't had before. He created a family within Broncho Legacy that extends beyond the classroom and has created relations I hope continue far later in life. So many students relied on him to make their day better and he'd always make a day better even if it wasn't with pure positivity, but some tough love."



Josh Brindley
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Kelly & Tim Jones

Jordyn is Permian Satin Strings and Symphony Orchestra Concert Master, Permian Orchestra Crew Captain, a member of PHS varsity volleyball, National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Texas Music Scholars, Permian Speech and Debate, and Spirit and Truth Church.

She was recognized as an AP Scholar with Honors, TMEA Music Scholar, NMSI Scholar Recognition, Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State, Texas Girls Coaches Association Academic All-State Academic, and Permian High School Top 10.

Her interests are playing violin, harp, and volleyball. She enjoys reading, writing, and painting.

She is attending Abilene Christian University to study multimedia with a focus on sports broadcasting. She wants to be a college sports or professional sports broadcaster.

Jordyn's favorite teacher is 9th grade fine arts teacher Sally Pool.

"She is passionate about what she does and is compassionate towards her students. She is always someone you can go to and is always readily available to help you."



Jordyn Jones
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Michelle & Dr. Dan Keast

Elijah is a member of Varsity Choir, Varsity Band, Symphony Orchestra and the Black Magic choir.

He is a two-time TMEA All-State Choir selection, earned All-Region Band twice, All-Region Choir four times, All-Area Choir twice, Most Outstanding Junior in Choir and is a Texas Music Scholar.

He likes playing video games, watching movies and shows, going on trips with friends and family and going to concerts with friends and family.

He plans to be a choir director, a trumpet teacher, a professional jazz musician and a professional classical trumpet player and singer. He will be attending West Texas A&M University.

His 4th grade teacher, Monica Olivas is his favorite teacher.

"This teacher was the first one to straighten me out when I didn't do my work and was struggling in class to learn anything."



Elijah Keast
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Iliana Ruiz Arellano and Juan Luis Rojas Berlanga

Iliana participated in the Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE).

She received the Award for Excellence for AP Spanish 4 & 5.

Her interests include reading, cooking, art, studying, traveling, dancing, and singing.

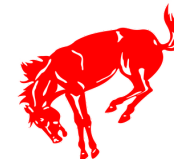
She wants to be a psychologist and plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Iliana's favorite teacher is foreign language teacher Jesús Antonio Muñiz.

"He is a very intelligent person, has vast knowledge about everything, and I can count on him for any doubt I have no matter how silly the question may be. He has demonstrated that teaching is not merely a profession but a profound passion and commitment, a feat not easily achieved by everyone. Through him, I've come to realize that a teacher is not just an authority figure to be respected but can also evolve into a trusted confidant and friend. His ability to instill confidence in each of his students is truly admirable, which is why I hold him in such high regard."



Iliana Rojas Ruiz
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Maria Guerra and Carlos Castillo

Dana is in Honors Spanish 3.

She wants to be a microbiologist and plans to start at Odessa College, then attend a four-year university in Houston to complete her degree.

Ramón Rivera, PHS Spanish teacher, is Dana's favorite teacher.

"He is the liveliest and most caring teacher I have ever had. He encourages me to continue working hard in everything I do, never miss a day of school, and most importantly to never quit pursuing my aspirations. He is a teacher that I consider to be remarkably trustworthy, kindhearted, and motivating. Not once in my life have I had a teacher that I felt so comfortable conversing with. I can speak to him about whatever without the fear of him judging me. I can say he is truly one astounding teacher and I am extremely grateful and blessed to have come across him."



Dana Castillo
Permian High School



Sponsored by **ATMOS**
energy

ECISD
OUR students...THE future

Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Pete and Melissa Arenivas

Matthew has been woodwind lieutenant and captain of the Odessa High School Band, a member of National Honor Society, Junior/Senior Board, yearbook, and Texas Scholars. Outside of school, he serves as a Master of Ceremony a Holy Redeemer church.

He will graduate from high school with an associate degree.

Among his hobbies are spending time with my family and friends, watching new movies and TV shows, reading, and volunteering around Odessa, especially at the Chamber of Commerce.

He will be attending the University of Texas Permian Basin, where he plans to major in biology. Ultimately, his goal is to become a dermatologist.

Matthew's favorite teacher is math teacher Yoana Picazo.

"Over the course of the two years I have been in her class I have learned that she is willing to help not only academically but also in with anything else that I needed. When teaching my class, she always had quick remarks and snappy, sarcastic comments she made with no hesitation. Ms. Picazo did not allow me to simply get by. She made sure that I was doing the best that I could or else I was going to get a stern talking to by her. However, this did not happen often due to her amazing teaching skills where she would go into detail about every step and answer every question needing answering."



Matthew Arenivas
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by **STU**

ECISD
OUR students...THE future

Awards for Excellence Math

Guardians: Amy Wilson, Tess Wilson

Aurora is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Book Club fundraisers.

Her interests are drawing, painting, and singing.

She has been accepted to Odessa College and hopes to join the United States Navy and become a criminologist.

Aurora's favorite teacher is her sophomore teacher Adelle Perez.

"She helped me pursue and strengthen my love for math. I have been told I'm a nerd and she allowed me to take pride in that."



Aurora Brazil
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence Math

Mom: Fabiola Soto, grandmother Betulia Salom

Andrea is president of National Honor Society, president of Texas Association of Minorities in Engineering (TAME), former president of SAT club, pianist and singer in her church choir, and a Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer.

She is #3 in her graduating class, listed on the Odessa College President's List, received an OC Award of Excellence, earned College Board National Hispanic recognition, and is a Texas Candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program due to her SAT scores (1590 overall, and a perfect 800 Math).

She loves to play piano, read, play with her cats, listen to music, learn new musical instruments, and teach. Her future goals are to obtain a biomedical engineering degree before going onto medical school to become a neonatologist. She has accepted a full scholarship to Dartmouth.

Andrea's favorite teacher is Algebra II teacher and TAME sponsor Lydia Roundtree.

"I chose Ms. Roundtree because of the impact she has had on me throughout my high school career. She was one of the first teachers to show me compassion while I was struggling through part of my freshman year while still holding me to rigorous but reasonable expectations. Even when I stopped being her student, I never doubted that she believed I could do anything I wanted to accomplish. She also added to my love for math and showed me just how fun it can be to teach the subject, which led me to help my peers through their math troubles. I'm very grateful to have had her as a teacher and mentor."



Andrea Santiago Soto
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Meghana Gillala and Sai Gundlapalli

Anika is a member of the OHS varsity choir, president of Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program at Medical Center Hospital, volunteer at the Crisis Center of West Texas, and Founder and President of Foundation for Mental Health Empowerment and Education.

She is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Valedictorian of her class, an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, and Presidential Scholar nominee.

She enjoys singing.

She will attend Stanford University and pursue a career in medicine.

Anika selected history teacher Lee Jordan as her favorite.

"Mr. Jordan has been my teacher for three years. He has made me a better critical thinker and has given me a new perspective on history. He has taught me about the meaning of the truth and how to get to a closer version of it. He encourages his students to ask and think about questions that do not always have answers. His passion for what he teaches is inspiring. He is extremely supportive of his students and consistently creates a positive learning environment. Most importantly, Mr. Jordan instills a love for learning in all of his students."



Anika Gundlapalli
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Dr. Sanchita Yadalla and Mr. Praveen Yadalla

Sapna is captain of the Academic Decathlon Team, Marching Band Drum Major, Section Leader, and Head Librarian; competes in Speech and Debate, vice president of National Honor Society, UIL Academics competition; and Junior Leadership selected Student Keynote Speaker.

She is the Valedictorian of her class, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, PHS Hall of Fame inductee, PHS Academic Hall of Fame inductee; NMSI AP Physics 1 Star Student Award recipient, and two-time Academic Decathlon state qualifier.

Some of her hobbies are reading, journaling, volunteering, writing, board games, weightlifting, ice skating, playing the saxophone, yoga, and traveling.

Sapna wants to become a physician and will be attending the University of Texas at Dallas as a biology major.

Sapna chose Eric Garcia as her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Garcia was both my first AP teacher and three-year Academic Decathlon coach. He helped me implement proper study methods, guided our Academic Decathlon team to go to State for the first time in Permian's history, and was incredibly supportive in every aspect of my high school career. He never hesitates to impart knowledge acquired from past students and constantly provides a bright presence in every classroom he approaches. I'm thankful for Mr. Garcia's charisma, wisdom, tenacity, and kindness. Without his mentorship, I wouldn't have had access or the courage to seize every opportunity in my path."



Sapna Yadalla
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Dr. Milka Montes-Boyer and Joshua Boyer

Quinn helps run the tech booth at his church.

He likes to act and create art.

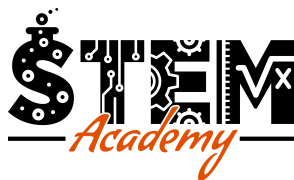
He is planning to attend the University of Texas at Rio Grand Valley and wants to be a back-end web developer.

Quinn's favorite teacher is Jacob Green.

"Without him there is not a chance I could've completed even physics, much less calculus one. He has always been available to students who may need help on any of the subjects he teaches, and he is willing to sit down and explain any sort of problem so long as his students are willing to listen. Being able to go to him supplied me with an educational experience that actually gave me a trying chance at college level math."



Quinn Boyer
STEM Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Karla Guzman and Julio Peña

Julio is in National Honor Society, the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), and the Permian High School Symphony Orchestra.

He scored a 5 on the AP Spanish exam and skipped a grade in math.

He likes to draw, learn about languages and cultures, and play the viola as part of the PHS Symphony Orchestra.

He plans to study criminal justice, forensic science, and psychology to become a forensic scientist for the police, and maybe the FBI. He will attend the University of Texas.

Julio's favorite teacher is Lornalyn DeLeon.

"She's very passionate, helpful, and invested in her students. Her classes are always very fun and interesting. It's easy to tell that she really enjoys what she does, and she's even helped me with things outside of her class. She always answers all of my many strange questions and explains everything in detail."



Julio Peña
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Science

Parent: Sahara Juarez

Sarita has been on the yearbook committee and in the Dance Club.

She is ranked #3 in her class, has maintained straight A's throughout school, and received the Presidential award in 5th grade.

She enjoys arts and crafts, drawing, and painting as well as doing makeup and other cosmetological things.

She plans to start at Odessa College as she determines what career path she would like to follow. She has an interest in forensics.

Mark Perales who taught her as a sophomore and a junior is her favorite teacher.

"He is always there to help and listen to whatever I have to say. Whether it's about homework I need help with or a random situation, he is always there to make me feel better with his witty remarks. You can never know what to expect with him."



Sarita Palacios
OCTECHS



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Metta & Damian Sanchez

Baden is in National Honors Society where she served as secretary, and has been a member of Student Council.

She loves to read and write books.

She is going to Texas State University and plans to get her master or doctorate and become a criminal investigator in the FBI.

Her favorite teacher is Mikal Crowder, World Geography teacher and Academic Decathlon coach.

"Mr. Crowder met me on my very first day of high school and he has encouraged me and helped me throughout it all. When things got hard and felt like they were out of my control the temptation to quit was so strong, but Mr. Crowder constantly told me, keep going. It is such a simple quote but to me it holds so much power. Mr. Crowder has pushed me to be the best version of myself I can be and has never given up on me, and for that I am eternally grateful. Mr. Crowder has constantly been a smiling face for me to talk to and joke around with and has made my high school journey better for it. I will always thank him for everything he has done for me as a teacher and coach."



Baden Sanchez
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Christina & Michael Thompson

Mason is in the International Baccalaureate Programme, National Honor Society, and Academic Decathlon.

He enjoys playing videogames and doing quite a bit of reading.

He plans to graduate from Texas Tech University and then go to medical school to become a neurosurgeon and make an impact on the lives of his patients.

Mason's favorite teacher is his Spanish teacher Jesús Antonio Muñiz.

"Throughout his lectures, Mr. Muniz strives and dedicates himself to be the best teacher he can be for his students. He perseveres, doing so by creating lessons and making connections that his students can relate to. He promotes an open mindset, always making sure to explore all perspectives regarding the topic at hand. This open mindset allows for a safe environment that promotes inquiry-based learning, allowing students to express themselves and seek to personally expand their knowledge on all subjects, not just Spanish alone."



Mason Thompson
Odessa High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Danny Reyes, Wendy Turner, and Jessica Russell

Nathan is a member of the PHS Mixed Choir (Kantorei).

He is an AP Scholar With Honors, and earned College Board's National Hispanic Recognition.

His hobbies are playing piano, drums, and video games.

He plans to attend Texas Tech University or join the Navy in the nuclear field.

Nathan's favorite teacher is PHS chemistry teacher Dr. Rebecca Joy.

"She ignited my love and passion for both Chemistry, and science as a whole. She taught me that one bad grade doesn't mean the end of the world, and it shows, as my project that earned me a failing grade sits on a shelf in her classroom as a silent beacon of this idea. She put in effort to get me back in her class when I was moved out of her class, and suddenly, chemistry was tangible again. A teacher that is more than a teacher, but also a role model is not common, and I'm thankful to have been in Dr. Joy's class."



Nathan Reyes
Permian High School



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Rachel & William Harlow

Forrest is in Student Council, FTC Robotics, National Honor Society, UIL Computer Science; he is a volunteer at Jubilee Center of Midland, and at UTPB STEM Academy; he is a member of Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity where he is a sound and camera operator, an acolyte, and an occasional lay eucharistic minister or cook.

He is a National Merit Commended Scholar, Trinity University Murchison Scholar, has multiple individual placements within UIL Computer Science, FTC Dean's List Semifinalist, and is the salutatorian of his class.

He likes computer games, reading, robotics, and cooking.

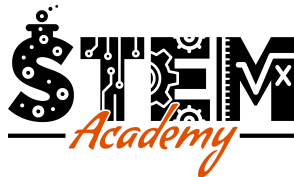
He goal is to get a master degree in cybersecurity and pursue a job in that field with the federal government. He has chosen the University College Dublin in Ireland.

Forrest's favorite teacher is Jeffery Vann, who he has known since 6th grade.

"I have had Mr. Vann as my teacher every year since coming to the STEM Academy, and his leadership taught me, among other things, that I can pursue greater things than those which are right in front of my face."



Forrest Harlow
STEM Academy



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence Social Studies

Parents: Maria & Bill Lopez

Cameron has been involved in Anchor Club, holding several different offices and volunteering at Sienna Nursing Home; National Honor Society, Student Council and choir.

Her hobbies are cooking, doing make-up/hair for others, and singing. She loves to organize as well.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin for a degree in finance/business management, pursue a master's degree from UT San Antonio and one day be the president of a major finance company.

Cameron's favorite teacher is Staci Walton.

"Ms. Walton is the first no-nonsense facilitator that I have ever encountered as a student. Her methods and strategies enabled me to pass my EOC with ease. I look up to Ms. Walton for her dedication and ambition for life. Ms. Walton has inspired me to be the best that I can be, and to charge life with ferocity."



Cameron Lopez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Sponsored by



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Becky & Aaron Garcia

Samantha is a member of St. John's church, of Phi Theta Kappa, of the yearbook committee, and OCTECHS' recruitment committee.

She has been awarded the Odessa College Award of Excellence, is on the A-Honor Roll, and has been on the OC President's Honor Roll.

Her hobbies are cooking, baking, and doing crafts.

Her future plans are to get into nursing. She has been accepted into the University of Mary Hardin Baylor and offered a \$28,000 scholarship.

Samantha's favorite teacher is Monica Nieto, her first grade teacher.

"She is the first teacher who saw the potential in me. She was the first teacher who wanted to put me in G.T. classes, showing me I had potential from a young age. After that I strived to reach my full potential."



Samantha Garcia
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Nichole & Jon Wright

Rayce is a member of the Academic Decathlon team, and the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA), and National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

He was voted Top OCA Jr male and Senior male by peers, he is a two-time All-Around Academic Decathlon Region Champion, and the 2024 Texas Academic Decathlon All-Around State Champion.

Among his interests are bracket racing, practicing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, playing video games, target shooting, and researching history.

He is going to attend Angelo State University and wants to be a history professor or business manager.

Rayce chose 9th grade biology teacher Travis Cooper as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Cooper was the first teacher at OCA who truly felt like a friend as much as he did a teacher. Throughout my freshman year I would visit his class after school to ask him questions about class content as well as The Bible, a habit I still practice to this day. Mr. Cooper has always had a very clear philosophy on teaching and very rarely have I seen him walk into class not eager to teach. He was the first teacher throughout my entire academic career I truly felt like I could joke around with and talk about my own ideas without feeling like I would get made fun of or told off. I truly believe I would not be as knowledgeable about my faith if I would have never had his biology class my freshman year."



Rayce Wright
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Cindy & Eddie Almance

Eddie is a member of the Academic Decathlon team, National Honor Society, and Wild Bunch.

He earned awards for Interview as part of Academic Decathlon. He enjoys playing the violin and guitar.

His plan is to become a neuropsychologist, and he will attend the University of Texas at San Marcos.

Melissa Roth, English teacher, is Eddie's favorite teacher.

"She has pushed me academically, she has pushed me to take courses I didn't think I could do, she has helped me with my writing and research skills like no other teacher has. She has helped me become the student I am today."



Eddie Almance
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parent: Raquel Jimenez

Esteban is a member of Church Worship.

He achieved straight A's the 3rd six weeks, holds a Certificate in Welding Tech-General Welder, and a Certificate in Office Admin-Office Asst Level 1.

His hobbies are playing music, enjoying family time, and engaging in physical sports like football, basketball, etc.

His college plan is to get a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, work as an HVAC technician, and create his own business. He is planning to attend Odessa College and the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Ashauna Bell, U.S. History teacher his junior year, is Esteban's favorite teacher.

"She made learning enjoyable and also efficient. I always looked forward to attending her class and seeing what new events we would learn that day. Lastly, I could tell she cared about our success, and she did not want us to fail her class."



Esteban Jimenez
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Kimberly & Emmanuel Sanchez

Abigail is the Senior Class President, member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, president of National Honor Society, High School Student Council Fundraising, and chair of Prom Committee.

She is the valedictorian of her class, listed on the Odessa College Presidents Honor Roll, earned College Board National Hispanic Recognition, was the Midland RockHounds Employee of the Year in 2022, Academic A-Honor Roll, Ms. Permian Basin 1st Runner Up, and STEM Academy Prom Princess.

She likes sewing, crafts, puzzles, and piano.

Her goal is a degree in marine biology and a career in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts of marine wildlife. For college she is deciding among Hawaii Pacific University, Eckerd College, or Texas A&M Galveston.

Abigail's favorite teacher is from 3rd grade, Alisha Pierce.

"She started my love of science with her fun and engaging lessons. She reminded me of Ms. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus because of how she would come to school dressed up to launch a new unit of study and how she encouraged every student to take control of their own learning by exploring everything around us. Her love and passion of science and teaching as well as her enthusiasm for watching her students learn, grow, and succeed is something I'm grateful to have been part of and because of her I found a passion for science so early on and I can't wait to get into my science-based career."



Abigail Lynnae
STEM Academy

