



Tomball ISD: Not Just a District, a Destination

VISION

Tomball ISD students will lead in creating the future.

MISSION

Tomball ISD empowers students to become impactful, contributing citizens by providing innovative, individually rigorous and personally valuable educational experiences while partnering with the community.

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora



Board of Trustees



Pictured: (Back Row, L-R) Mark Lewandowski, John E. McStravick, Matt Schiel, Dr. Michael Pratt
(Front Row, L-R) Justin Unser, Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Lee McLeod, Tina Salem

District Leadership

Tomball ISD Cabinet



Pictured: (L-R) Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Michael Webb, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent; Dr. Amy Schindewolf, Chief of Staff & School Leadership; Zack Boles, Chief Financial Officer; Holly Sherman, Legal Counsel



TOMBALL ISD
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE



#1 Best School District

#1 Best Teachers
#1 Best Places to Teach **IN HARRIS COUNTY**

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners!

Read about the Winners!

District Spelling Bee

Tomball Intermediate School student Micah Ogbunuju captured a first place finish at the District Spelling Bee. He competed through 10 rounds and took home top honors after spelling 'ubiquity' correctly. Creekside Forest Elementary's Reeva Nevaskar finished in second place.

As the District's overall winner, Micah Ogbunuju will move on to the area level and represent Tomball ISD at the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee later this year. From there, the top two spellers of the [Houston Public Media Spelling Bee](#) will advance to the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee; expenses paid by Houston Public Media. The 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee is planned for National Harbor, Maryland, May 27-29, 2025.





Micah Ogbunuju



Reeva Nevaska

Elementary Spanish Spelling Bee

Tomball Intermediate student Vanessa Salas captured the top finish in the Spanish Spelling Bee for Grades 4-5. Following in second place and third place, respectively, were Timber Creek Elementary student Milagros Alamos and Oakcrest Intermediate student Antonella Montero. TIS' Vanessa Salas spelled the winning word 'recibimiento' in the 10th round to capture the win.

For their efforts in placing among the Top 3, Vanessa Salas, Milagros Alamos, and Antonella Montero have earned the right to advance to the inaugural [Regional Competition, hosted by the Region 4 Education Service Center](#) in Houston on February 5, 2025. Regional winners will have a chance to compete at the Texas State Spelling Bee.





Vanessa Salas



Milagros Alamos



Antonella Montero

Secondary Spanish Spelling Bee

Grand Lakes Junior High student Ethan Haase captured the top finish in the Spanish Spelling Bee, grades 6-8. Following in second place and third place, respectively, were Creekside Park Junior High student Claudia Garcia de Albizo Ibanez and Oakcrest Intermediate student Anabella Suarez.

Ethan Haase spelled the final words 'padraastro' correctly.

For their efforts in placing among the Top 3, Ethan Haase, Claudia Garcia de Albizo Ibanez, and Anabella Suarez have earned the right to advance to the inaugural [Regional Competition, hosted by the Region 4 Education Service Center](#) in Houston on February 5, 2025. Regional winners will have a chance to compete at the Texas State Spelling Bee.





Ethan Haase



Claudia Garcia de Albizo
Ibanez



Anabella Suarez

Thank You, Principal Partners!

Tomball ISD hosted its annual Principal Partners Day at all campuses where each Principal Partner was paired with a campus leader and spent the morning in a specific school. Many of the Principal Partners had the opportunity to visit classrooms, tour the school, meet with student leaders, attend collaborative meetings and observe the innovative learning environment that Tomball ISD has created.



Tomball ISD Fine Arts Showcased in Texas School Business Magazine: Pages 20-21

THE ARTS

News in fine arts education



Students in Tomball ISD enjoy many opportunities to pursue their interests in the fine arts.

The magic of student collaboration:

When fine arts minds unite, innovation takes flight

by Allison Suarez

There's a certain magic that happens when students come together, merging their individual talents and perspectives into a collective force.

For any individual, 20 minutes of magic is all you really need in order to immerse yourself in a symphony of talent and to truly be inspired by Destination Excellence.

For Tomball ISD fine arts students, this magic was a collaborative creation that celebrated the talent and creativity of young individuals across a variety of grade levels and art disciplines.

This magic was a representation of unity and teamwork, and it was presented on one of the largest stages in Texas public education.

A gifted portrayal of how a Tomball ISD student successfully navigates excellence, this performance leveraged student strengths, highlighted successes, and navigated a journey of education that led them to their future.

Countdown to liftoff

Tomball ISD is a supportive environment led by Superintendent Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora who also holds the position of TASA President. Under her state leadership, TISD students represented their school district at the student performance during the First General Session at TASA/TASB tXEDCON24.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora's visionary mindset set in as she began preparing for this coveted student performance. With so many ways to portray Tomball ISD and the success of its students, she leaned heavily on newly hired Director of Fine Arts Paulette Tomlinson for creative direction.

"Dr. Z assigned my final interview presentation to include a concept and plan for this production," Tomlinson recalled. "At the time, I was living outside of the Houston area, but had fallen in love with Space City. I knew 'Destination Excellence' from my research on Tomball to prepare for my interview, and what physical destination could be more ambitious than space?"

We have liftoff

A tiny spark of an idea about space led Tomball ISD fine arts students to dream, explore and lift off.

Students were selected and represented all areas of the district. With a short window to prepare, collaboration between students and staff began.

Honing their imagination, students collaborated on the written script where they expressed reasons why they love attending school here and shared unique experiences and perspectives. They also executed choreography and led musical selections.

Not only did they write and select but they designed and led the sound, lighting, and technology and created original artwork specifically for this production to illustrate "Destination District" where in fact, each attendee of the conference left with a small piece of art.

Students were a part of creating the show from the very beginning, which allowed them the rare opportunity for real-world experience in show concept and design.

And while the students gained much experience leading the voice of this production, the teachers were incredible guides and had the opportunity to showcase their own creativity. A solid percentage of the music for this production was composed specifically for this show by Peter Jagdeo, the orchestra director at Tomball Memorial High School. Through this creative process, students contributed by commissioning a piece, reading from a manuscript, and learning how a composer edits his or her work to reach the final product.

Failure is not an option

The collaboration not only fueled impressive artistry but allowed students and staff to experience challenges, which ultimately led to successful solutions and imaginative growth.

With more than 250 students involved and 30 staff members leading the charge, the collective belief in Team Tomball was put to the test.

"The coordination of students and teachers on so many different campuses with different schedules was one of our largest obstacles to face," Tomlinson said. "Space to rehearse was another issue. Our technical theater students studied the stage diagram provided by TASA/TASB and mapped out the stage on the cafeteria floor at Tomball Memorial High School. Every rehearsal was there, using classrooms for individual group practice and the cafeteria for full company run-throughs."

Students represented Symphony Orchestra, Secondary and Elementary Choir, Electric String Ensemble, Elementary Handbell Choir, Steel Band, Marching Bands, Theatre, Drill Teams, Color Guard, and Visual Arts.

A student's perspective

Tomball ISD Fine Arts thrives on collaboration. It creates a sense of community and belonging.

Students learn when working together that the real magic doesn't happen in isolation but in the synergy of shared ideas and effort.

"This performance stood out amongst others because of just the sheer scope of it," said TMHS senior cast member Kellen Highfield. "It's not every day that you get to work on a passion project with every single art department of every single school across the district. It truly felt as though

we were surrounded by the most talented people Tomball ISD has to offer."

And through Highfield's experience, he was able to serve as one of the mentors, offering insight to support and help grow the younger students in their craft.

"I was a little shy at the beginning in front of the high school theater students," said OIS sixth grader and cast member Sadie Warrasch. "They all knew each other and it took a little while for me to get comfortable around them, but they were very welcoming and gave me tips on how to project my voice and use clearer pronunciation. Their encouragement really helped build my confidence on stage."

Together, these fine arts students achieved more than imagined, turning their collective curiosity into innovation and dreams into reality.

"As actors, it is very rare that we get to portray our own stories," said TMHS senior cast member Cate Seal. "Instead of acting as a character, this performance presented us with the opportunity to show our pride for our community and what it stands for. While it can certainly be daunting to be given a chance to share what our district has to offer on such a large scale, it was incredibly rewarding to be a part of a production that so many people have poured love into."

Success beyond measure

Behind every awe-inspiring performance, there's a story of grit, determination, and hours of preparation.

For this group, preparation was key with a full week of rehearsals in early June and six additional rehearsal days over the next three months, 250 students and 30 staff members reached orbit.

The magic that captivated the audience of leaders in public education that day was real. "Once the audience truly immersed themselves in the style of performance that we provided, it no longer became a presentation," said Highfield. "It became a love letter to the schools and city that most of us have been able to call our home throughout our whole lives. Although everything we say and do is scripted and rehearsed, the passion for our home and art can be felt through everything we do."

Allison Suarez is Tomball ISD's director of communications.

Tomball Education Foundation Gala Raises Over \$135,000

The Tomball Education Foundation Boots & Bling annual Gala serves as a significant fundraising opportunity that saw over \$135,000 raised in just one evening to support Tomball ISD.

Dollars raised from this event will support the Tomball Education Foundation as it continues to provide funds for educational projects and activities that are beyond traditional funding. Funds are used to facilitate student achievement and skill development, recognize, and encourage staff excellence, and expand community involvement from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations.



In the News

Dr. Z Named Finalist for 2025 AASA Women in School Leadership Award



2025

AASA WOMEN IN SCHOOL

Leadership

AWARD FINALIST

Superintendent Category



Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora

For her exceptional leadership as Superintendent of Schools and her work as a leader in public education across the State of Texas, Tomball ISD Superintendent Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora has been named a 2025 Women in School Leadership Award Finalist, presented by AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

[Read more on Dr. Z earning this prestigious honor as a finalist.](#)



School Safety & Social Media Reminders

Tomball ISD is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students, but we need your help. We will continue to educate students on digital citizenship and responsible social media use, but your involvement at home is vital to reinforcing these lessons and reminding students, "It's Not a Joke. Think Before You Post"

[Read Dr. Z's community letter addressing school safety & social media reminders.](#)



Dr. Z Recognizes Fall 2024 Superintendent Shining Stars

Superintendent Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora recently recognized four outstanding educators as her Fall 2024 Superintendent Shining Stars:

- David Leith, Decker Prairie Elementary
- Joan Heinrich, Lakewood Elementary
- Laura Lowe, Tomball High School
- Andrew Gencer, Tomball Star Academy



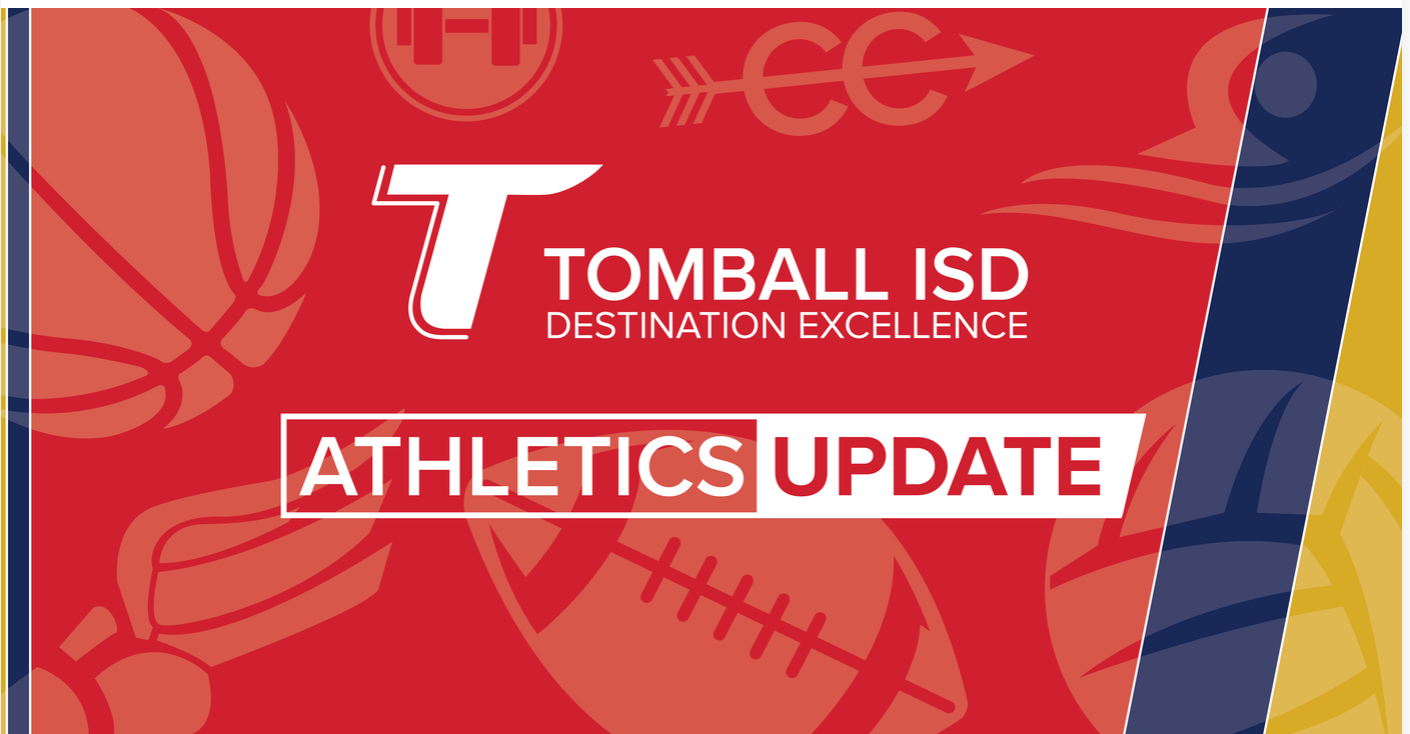
Order Declaring Results Tomball ISD Board of Trustees Election

The following persons received the highest number of votes and were elected Trustees of the Board of Trustees for Tomball Independent School District, Positions No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7, subject to take the oath of office to serve until December of 2028 or until their successors in office qualify:

Position No. 5: Amanda Bass

Position No. 6: Jennifer Kratky

Position No. 7: Coco White



Tomball High School Football Postseason Honors

**DISTRICT CHAMPIONS
BI-DISTRICT CHAMPIONS**

- District 15-6A Special Teams Player of the Year: Gage Villarreal
- District 15-6A Defensive Newcomer of the Year: Henry Mulliner
- District 15-6A Coach of the Year: Dave Handal
- 13 First Team All-District honors, 4 Second Team All-District honors, 9 Honorable Mention honors

Tomball Memorial High School Football Postseason Honors

- 3 First Team All-District honors, 5 Second-Team All-District honors



Tomball High School Volleyball Postseason Honors

Finished 3rd in District

- 16 Academic All-District honorees
- District Most Outstanding Player: Gemma Hopkins
- 3 First Team All-District honors, 2 Second Team All-District honors, 2 Honorable Mention All-District honors

Tomball Memorial High School Volleyball Postseason Honors

Undefeated DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

- 15 Academic All-District honorees
- District Outstanding Offensive Player of the Year: Sarah Odell
- 4 First Team All-District honors, 2 Second Team All-District honors, 2 Honorable Mention All-District honors



TOMBALL ISD
FINE *Arts*
UPDATE

Tomball ISD Fine Arts continues to showcase the talent and success of students from across the District.

In November alone, fine arts students put on over 40 concerts and performances to showcase their learning. They kicked off the holiday season by participating in the annual Tomball Holiday Parade and are preparing for many on-campus and community-wide holiday performances this December.

Tomball Memorial High School Roarin' Blue Band

- Represented Tomball ISD at the UIL 6A State Marching Band Contest in San Antonio, TX for the fourth year in a row.



TISD Visual Arts

- Visual Art teachers led several clinic sessions at the Texas Art Education Association Conference in Galveston.
 - 10 pieces of Tomball ISD student artwork were displayed among artwork from across the Houston area as part of the Local Student Art Exhibit.
 - TISD Visual Arts was officially recognized as a first time TAEA District of Distinction. They were presented with a trophy at a ceremony with the entire organization.
-

TMHS Silver Stars

- Competed in the Texas Dance Educators Association UIL Dance Pilot in Clear Creek.
- Earned a First Division rating.



THS STAGE Theatre

- 3rd graders from campuses across the north side of Tomball ISD attended a special showing of Peter Pan and Wendy at THS, which allowed them to make connections to things they have been learning in class as well as learn how to be a respectful audience member.



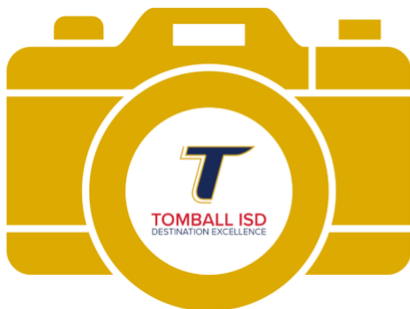
TMHS Wildcat Theatre

- TMHS Wildcat Theatre put on two shows last month, which was a huge undertaking.
- TMHS Theatre students participated in the Texas Thespians State Convention in Grapevine.
- Several TMHS students were named National Qualifiers in their respective areas.
- TMHS senior Kellen Highfield represented TMHS and TISD as a Student Ambassador and member of the Texas Thespians Student Board, leading the conference.



Cheerleading

- Both TMHS and THS Cheer participated in the UCA Houston Regional, both earning bids to Nationals.



COMMUNITY
Captures







TOMBALL ISD
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE



Feel Good

FRIDAY



TIS Student Celebrates Send-Off with Classmates After Being Granted Wish Through Make-A-Wish Foundation

Tomball Intermediate fifth grader Sabreen has been battling a rare disease for over 6.5 years but her hope and determination have inspired so many that she was recently granted her wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation and her classmates and teachers were there to celebrate her sendoff to Disney World.

[Read more about Sabreen's journey.](#)



Tomball ISD Implements Hope Squad, a Peer-to-Peer Connection, on High School Campuses

Amidst a growing need to address mental health concerns among today's youth, Tomball ISD took a bold step forward this year in implementing Hope Squad, a proactive approach to mental health support, enabling students to become trained peers supporters, in all three TISD high schools.

[Read more about Hope Squad.](#)



Tomball ISD Principals Connect with Community through Principal Partners Initiative

Tomball ISD hosted its annual Principal Partners Day at all campuses where each Principal Partner was paired with a campus leader and spent the morning in a specific school.

[Read more about Principal Partners.](#)



TMHS Librarian and Softball Team Up for Book Club

Tomball Memorial High School Librarian Mindy Garcia facilitates a Book Club with the Wildcat Softball Team, led by Coach Marissa Stevens.

[Read all about the Book Club.](#)



Tomball ISD Transportation Committed to Serving Students

School bus drivers and the transportation department, led by Director Sandy Dillman, play a vital role, often the unsung role in the success of our Tomball ISD schools. Every day, drivers start early and face long hours to safely transport children to and from school, navigating various weather conditions, busy streets, and unforeseen challenges on the road.

[Read more about the Tomball ISD Transportation Department.](#)



Tomball ISD Orientation & Mobility Specialists Lead Promotion of White Cane Safety Day for Students

Tomball ISD Orientation & Mobility Specialists recently led the awareness effort of White Cane Safety Day across the District, promoting the use of a cane and its ability to create independence and safety for students with low vision and blindness.

[Read more about White Cane Day in Tomball ISD.](#)



GLJHS Student Leaders Model Campus Core Values During Student-Led Character Lessons

Led by CTE teacher, Leslie Wilson, and supported by Principal Dr. Kim McKinney, 34 GLJHS student leaders are creating character and leadership lessons designed for their peers that are implemented during Tiger Den every Friday.

[Read more about GLJHS' initiative to model Core Values.](#)



Tomball ISD Brothers Invent Hydraulic Hammer Break Cover with Pending Patent

Tomball ISD brothers Navinu and Dihen Koswatta collaborated for several years to design and create the Hydraulic Hammer Break Cover.

[Read more about the Hydraulic Hammer Breaker Cover invention.](#)



TCES Begins Building Bridges Club to Empower English Language Learners

Timber Creek Elementary Emergent Bilingual Instructional Specialist Heather Ling begins Building Bridges Club on campus to empower and support English Language Learners.

[Read more about the Building Bridges Club at TCES.](#)



19 TMHS Students Excel Earning the Prestigious AP Capstone™ Diploma

Congratulations to Tomball Memorial High School students for earning the prestigious AP Capstone™Diploma recognition.

[Read more about this distinguished accolade.](#)

**SUMMER YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM**



Tomball ISD CTE Partners with TEDC for Summer Youth Employment Program

Tomball ISD CTE partnered with the Tomball Economic Development Corporation to provide a real-world internship opportunity to interested students.

[Read more about this community partnership.](#)

Click Here for All Feel Good Friday Stories

SPARK

Sharing, Partnering, and Reaching for Knowledge



TOMBALL



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



TOMBALL ISD
DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

From the Board of Trustees & Dr. Salazar-Zamora

Happy Holidays

December 23, 2024 - January 7, 2025

[Learn More about Tomball ISD's Parent U](#)

TOMBALL ISD



ENGAGED IN EXCELLENCE

Parent University is designed to empower parents with knowledge and tools to become effective advocates for their children. There are a variety of sessions from Pre-K through High School Senior content delivered through cross-district collaboration.

[Fun Run Details + Register Here](#)

FUN RUN + FREE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025
SUPERINTENDENT'S

Fun Run

Register Early
& Save \$5!



TOMBALLISD.NET/FUNRUN

TOMBALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI

Spotlight

Tomas Maldonado, Tomball Star Academy, 2021



Tomas Maldonado, Tomball Star Academy, 2021
Midshipman First Class, senior at the United States Naval Academy

Driven by dedication, leadership, and commitment to service, Tomball Star Academy alumnus Tomas Maldonado's pursuit of educational excellence has led him to even greater leadership success as a Midshipman First Class, senior at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Maldonado's roots run deep in Tomball as he spent his entire educational career attending TISD schools, representing Lakewood Elementary, Northpointe Intermediate, Willow Wood Junior High, and one year at TMHS before finishing at TSA.

Representing the first graduating class of Tomball ISD's Early College High School, Maldonado was a standout leader, balancing multiple leadership roles with a passion to make a difference in his community. He was elected Governor of Texas Boys State in 2020, served as the inaugural President of the National Honor Society at TSA, represented the Civil Air Patrol, was a Superintendent Student Ambassador, and a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) graduate.

"Tomball Star Academy was an academically challenging and rewarding experience," Maldonado said. "The tight knit community and small class size of TSA allowed me to build close relationships with teachers and afforded me the flexibility to pursue my interests beyond the

classroom. It was special to be part of the first graduating class at TSA and to forge a legacy for future generations of students.”

Tomball Star Academy opened its doors in 2017 and is the only Early College High School in Tomball ISD. Tomball Star Academy is designed to provide a rigorous, supportive learning environment that blends high school and the first two years of college. Students may earn up to 60 college credit hours and an associate's degree from Lone Star College-Tomball by the time they graduate from high school free of charge.

Maldonado was a successful graduate of TSA, earning both his high school diploma from TSA and his associates degree from LSC-Tomball lwhen he walked the stage in 2021.

“The teachers, leadership, and opportunities made TSA worth it,” he said. “The teachers I had at TSA took personal interest in my success and did not accept anything less than my best work. They truly invested in me. The standard was set high and students were expected to succeed, helping me thrive. The opportunity to take classes at Lone Star College helped me to mature into adulthood, as I was given the freedom and responsibility to succeed.”

Throughout high school, Maldonado made it a personal goal to attend a service academy but was drawn to the idea of serving the military beginning as early as elementary school.

“I was drawn to the rich history and traditions of service,” he said. “As I got older, I realized I wanted to do something significant to have a positive impact on the world and to give back to my country.”

After applying to all the service academies, Maldonado visited the Naval Academy and knew that was where he belonged.

“The history and traditions of the Naval Academy, dating back to 1845 represented an opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself.”

One month after graduating from Tomball Star Academy, Maldonado reported to the Naval Academy for Plebe Summer, the basic training program focusing on military discipline, physical fitness, and leadership that all Naval Academy Midshipmen undergo before starting their freshman year.

While military academies are quite different from a typical university, Maldonado has made the most of his experience, growing even more as a young leader.

“I tend to strive in structured environments and I crave the challenges that the Naval Academy offers,” he said. “I can say without a doubt that the academic rigor at TSA prepared me to succeed in the challenging classes at the Naval Academy.”

Maldonado currently serves as the 23rd Company Commander - a prestigious honor - that credits him with the responsibility of safety, well-being, training and performance of the 23rd Company.

The Brigade of Midshipmen, the student body at the Naval Academy, is divided into 36 companies which form the basic unit of Midshipmen life.

“My role as Company Commander is to create a family culture within the company, advocating for Midshipmen and setting conditions so that all members of the 23rd Company can succeed in their pursuits,” Maldonado said.

.... continue

[Continue reading Tomas Maldonado's spotlight.](#)

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TOMBALL ISD

DESTINATION EXCELLENCE



Not just a district, a destination.



Tomball ISD students will *lead* in creating the *Future.*

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