



OUR students THE future

Awards for Excellence 2025



Honoring Our Outstanding
High School Students

Presented by





Welcome..... Dr. Keeley Boyer
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 Satin String
Permian High School

Awards for Excellence Presentation..... ECISD Board of Trustees,
Superintendents Cabinet & Sponsors



Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Shayne Adcock
Sonny Alaniz
Lyndsey Bello
Todd Berridge
Jose Campos, Jr.
Brandan Cook
Mikal Crowder
Cheryl Cunningham
Haydee Davila
Rowena Dolino
Alicia Dominguez
Michael Flax
Steven Flores
Rosa Glover
Bryant Golden
Jacob Green
Casey Gregory
Dr. Seba Gultekin
Shelby Hill
Sgt. Bernard Hooper
Allen Jones
Lee Jordan
Dr. Rebecca Joy

Maria Lopez
Sarbagaya Malla
William Marsh
Tenesia Melendez
Keli Morris
Jesus Muniz
Jennifer Nunez
Sophia Olivarez
Nicole Olivas
Joshua Payan
Mark Perales
Donald Potter
Holly Powell
Cassidy Reddell
Ramon Rivera
Jocelyn Sanchez
Andres Serrano
Stephen Troub
Krista Vivian
Laurie Wash
Alec Watson
Victoria Weinzell

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Excellence

This is the 38th 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: Danielle & Ivan Hernandez

Alexia is a 2-year captain of the Odessa High School soccer team, a 4-year varsity starter for soccer and softball, a member of National Honor Society, a member of the OHS powerlifting team, and the Academic Decathlon team.

She is 3-time Academic All-District, 2-time 1st Team All-District, 2022-2023 District Goalkeeper of the Year, 2-time Team Defensive MVP, Team MVP, and a regional and state qualifier in powerlifting.

She likes lifting, writing, and coaching. Alexia has committed to the University of Texas Permian Basin to play soccer. Her plans are to earn master's degrees in mechanical and petroleum engineering and one day open her own firm.

She selected OHS Soccer Coach Tenesia Melendez as her favorite teacher.

“Coach Melendez has always inspired those around her. As one of her players, there was one thing that always stood out to me about her. Good coaches win games, but great coaches change lives. Even during the tough conversations and inevitable life lessons, she always managed to show us the brighter side of it all. She always made sure the hard work was done but the fun of the game was never left out, because a great coach knows how to combine the two. She pushed me to always be better and never let me settle for less than what I was capable of.”



Alexia Hernandez
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence Athletics

**Parents: Jennifer & Benjamin
Matthews**

Benjamin is a member of National Honor Society and is in AVID. He earned Academic All-State recognition, the Great American Rivalry Award, and the 33 Banquet Lead Foundation Scholarship award. He likes playing football, hanging out with friends, playing video games, and playing basketball.

He is going to Texas A&M University, and wants to work in the sports business, possibly as a sports agent, general manager, or a high-level coach.

Benjamin chose Sonny Alaniz as his favorite teacher.

"I chose Mr. Alaniz as my favorite teacher because he has impacted my life and prepared me for my future in so many good ways. He has guided me through my college process, helping me with things such as scholarships, college letters, and internships. His teaching and guidance are reasons why I'm a more successful student today."



**Benjamin Matthews
Odessa High School**



Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Priscilla & Jaime Garza

Aubrey is a 4-year varsity cheerleader (3-years as captain), 3-year varsity gymnast, 3-year varsity track, National Honor Society social secretary, Texas Scholar, Camp SIP Counselor, and Youth Group Leader.

She is an AP Scholar, ranked #3 in her class, Mojo Student of the Six-weeks, earned straight A's every six weeks, PHS Hall Of Fame Nominee, 3-time Cheer All American, and gymnastics floor All American.

Some of her interests include spending time with family and friends, reading, working out, participating in her sports, and listening to music.

She plans to major in biology and attend medical school, specializing in plastic surgery or dermatology. Her career goal is to travel to underserved regions in developing countries, providing medical care and support to children who do not have access to these services.

Aubrey plans to attend the University of Texas or the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Her favorite teacher is PHS Gymnastics Coach Casey Gregory.

"She has been an unwavering source of support and guidance through my time in high school. Her genuine care for me and my well-being has been evident through everything she does. She has always encouraged me to strive for excellence in my sports, while also helping me maintain balance in everything I do. Her dedication and belief in my potential have left a great impact on me that I will carry with me always and I am truly grateful for her."



Aubrey Garza
Permian High School




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Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Desiree & Ry'ale Moses, Sr.

Ry'ale is in Texas Scholars and volunteers as part of National Honor Society.

He has received several Principal's awards, is on the A Honor Roll and A-B Honor Roll and is enrolled in dual credit courses.

He likes reading and competing in basketball.

He wants to be a pediatric nurse then pursue a further career as a pediatric cardiologist.

Ry'ale is planning to attend Xavier University of Louisiana or Louisiana State University.

He chose Steven Flores, coach and business teacher, as his favorite.

"Coach Flores was one of the very first teachers/adults on campus that I felt I could trust to lead me to success. Even if it wasn't for basketball I knew if I had any trouble with anything he would be ready to help me figure it out. He's always made sure that I was good during the last 4 years that I've attended at Permian. Yet, I won't have him as a teacher, coach, and mentor anymore I know I could always shoot him a text or phone call and he would come up with a solution for anything I needed."



Ry'ale Moses
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Vanessa Palacios and Rogelio Perez

Itzel is Captain of the Showgirls and a member of National Honor Society.

She was MVP three years in a row. She enjoys reading and drinking coffee.

Itzel is planning to attend Texas A&M, then law school before beginning a career as a lawyer.

Her favorite teacher is Alicia Dominguez from her sophomore and senior years.

"I selected her because she has been not only an amazing teacher but as well as a supporter. She encouraged me to do the dual enrollment so that I could receive college credit and also helped me prepare for certification tests that have come in very handy when applying to jobs. She not only is concerned about my academics but also how I'm doing by asking everyday as well as remembering when I had events for dance and asked me how those went. Ms. Dominguez is a teacher that has helped me further my education in many ways and I will forever be grateful for her."



Itzel Perez
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Patti & Ricardo Valdillez

Lilyana's hobbies include going to the gym.

She plans to get her business degree, then proceed to go to real estate school. She hopes to land an internship with a good firm and start her own business.

She is planning to attend Odessa College and Champions School of Real Estate.

Lilyana selected Stephen Troub as her favorite teacher.

"I selected Mr. Troub as my favorite teacher because although I had such a short period of time with him, he had a major impact on the way I now view education. He helped me better understand the way business and finance work. Without realizing, it he helped me select my major and taught me in ways I felt no other teacher has. He is an excellent teacher and was willing to help me with whatever I needed, especially whenever I had any questions with what I was struggling with."



Lilyana Valdillez
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parent: Lynan Travis

Byron is an international thespian and a member of Business Professionals of America where twice he has qualified for the state competition.

His interests are theater, graphic design, and video games.

He wants to be an actor on Broadway.

He plans to attend Doane University.

Byron's favorite teacher is Shayne Adcock from 1st through 3rd grade at Austin Montessori.

"She was my first teacher and I feel I would be much different if it wasn't for her. She taught me simple things such as addition and subtraction and it has grown to where I use things she has taught me every day."



Byron Travis
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Parents: Jessica Denney and Toby Walker

Tynley was treasurer and president of Students in Philanthropy; treasurer, vice president, and co-president of Business Professionals of America; a member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Symphony Guild member, and was a Crystal Ball princess. She is a 3-year member of Permian varsity cheerleading.

She is a Permian Hall of Fame nominee, achieved a Microsoft Word Expert Certification, an Adobe Illustrator Certification, and is ranked #11 in her class.

She currently works at The Little Gym of Midland as a coach and hosts birthday parties.

Tynley is going to attend Texas State University where she plans to major in business management and eventually open her own MedSpa.

Her favorite teacher is Andres Serrano who she had as a freshman and again as a junior.

“Over the two years I had him as my teacher, he has impacted my life greatly. We have some of the same interests and he uses those in his teaching style which makes it easier to learn. I wish I still had him as a teacher, because he really helped me improve my writing skills.”



Tynley Walker
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Rebecca Hernandez and Joel Ramos

Joel is Esports president, National Honor Society president, and a member of the Academic Decathlon team.

He is an AP Scholar with Honors and earned National Hispanic Recognition. His interests include drinking tea, games, reading, and recreational volleyball.

Joel is going to major in computer science and has been accepted to the University of Texas.

He chose Haydee Davila, his Gifted/Talented teacher at Blackshear Elementary between 1st and 3rd grades, as his favorite.

“From my first Coke float to my first en passant, to sparking my love for history and technology, Mrs. Davila was the single greatest proponent of my academic career. She ignited a fervent passion for exploring the world around me and provoked my creativity to always continue learning. Mrs. Davila was more than just another teacher or just another educator, she allowed creativity to run rampant through GT, which shaped who I became. As a person who always showed compassion, propelled her class beyond just normal curriculum, and pushed her students to push past their limits, Mrs. Davila has encapsulated all the bases of my academic pillars, making her an unforgettable part of my scholastic career.”



Joel Ramos
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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English

Parents: Jennifer & Eric Primera

AAaliyah is in Texas Scholars, National Honor Society, the Spirit Club, and the Book Club. She also ranks in the Top 10 of her class.

She enjoys watching scary movies, spending time with friends, and exploring different forms of creative expression.

Her goal is to major in psychology or criminal justice.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Sophia Olivarez is AAaliyah's favorite teacher.

"Miss Olivares is a well-known teacher for her resilience, resourcefulness, and over all kindness. It is these attributes that make her well respected and liked by the student body and faculty."



AAaliyah Primera
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Molly & Greg Gatto

Griffin is a member of National Honor Society and is a volunteer teacher at church.

He is ranked in the Top 10% of his class.

He enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, playing video games, and reading comics.

He plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio, wants to become a lawyer, and attend UT Law School.

His favorite teacher is U.S. History teacher Brandan Cook.

"I selected Mr. Cook not only because he teaches an interesting subject that I enjoyed, but because he has been a teacher who is always there for his students. I can always ask Mr. Cook for help, and expect a thoughtful answer, that is typically accompanied by a quirky joke. Overall, out of all the teachers I've had, Mr. Cook is really the one I most connect with and has influenced me the most."



Griffin Gatto
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Maribel & Henry Chavez

Abigail is a member of the Art Club, DECA, Hispanic Student Union, ACE, National Honor Society, Graphic Design, Environmental Awareness, AVID, and is vice president for Iglesia Templo La Hermosa Youth Group.

She was a finalist for Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making (DECA), 2-time Academic Scholar, 2-time Happy Times Art Contest participant, AP Student of the Quarter, AP Calculus BC Student of the Month, ACTE Student Trophy Design Certificate, and AP Scholar with Distinction 2024.

Her hobbies are drawing, photography, and watching movies/tv shows.

She is planning to attend the University of Nevada Las Vegas or the University of Texas and become an architect.

Jocelyn Sanchez, from her sophomore and junior years, is her favorite teacher.

"Ms. Sanchez, the sweetest physics teacher, who showed me from day one that she believed in me more than I believed in myself. Each day I walked into her class I was greeted with a smile. She evoked a confidence in me that has led me to the STEM field, and I hope to one day do the same for a little Abi who needs a Ms. Sanchez."



Abigail Chavez
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Megan Gossett and Cory Cobb

Laney is captain of the Permian High School Band, pianist for Black Cat Jazz Band, a member of the Permian Symphony Orchestra, president of National Honor Society, a member of the National Art Honor Society, and captain of the Permian Decathlon team.

She is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar, Texas Music Scholar, NMSI Scholarship recipient, Permian Hall of Fame inductee, and Valedictorian of her class.

She enjoys reading, writing, amateur film photography (VERY amateur she says), using too many parentheses when writing, and watching television.

Laney is undecided on her future plans. She has an interest in literature and philosophy and adds this past semester has proven to be very exciting in the worlds of economics and statistics. In her words, she wants to make enough money to maintain her current ego but not be too rich and feel guilty about her superfluous assets.

Her favorite teacher is junior and senior economics teacher Alec Watson.

"Mr. Watson is an incredibly dedicated teacher, taking on a variety of roles during his very short time at Permian. I'll be frank, the first semester of my senior year was quite a doozy; meaning, I wasn't really enjoying my time in school (a first for me). But economics ironically became a place of solace. I remember staying after school for tutoring on one dreary Tuesday during the second week of school. Supply and demand graphs are no joke. I'd never met someone with the patience to sit next to me for TWO hours drawing line after line in purple crayon until I understood the material. A few weeks later, I found myself excitedly reciting the elements of an LRAS curve with Mr. Watson while riding the bus to the state marching band contest (which he endured with me as well). Now, I'm considering economics as a path of study in college. Shocking, right?"



Laney Cobb
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parent: Andrea Goodson

Callie is a member of National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Keep Odessa Beautiful YAK, Assent youth, and the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership program.

She is on the A-B Honor Roll, English Award for Excellence, and coding crusades.

Callie enjoys drawing, playing video games, and woodworking.

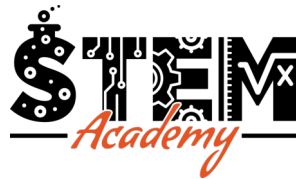
She plans to get her professional engineer seal in the State of Texas. Her college choice is Texas Tech University.

Callie chose Keli Morris, her sophomore and senior English teacher, as her favorite.

"She pushed me to try on an essay and work harder than I ever have. She is always willing to help me when I'm struggling. I enjoy the conversations we have over what we are reading and or about life in general."



Callie Goodson
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Bianca Vetsch

Jeremiah is a student church leader, Odessa College student class leader, DECA scholarship finalist, former Junior/Senior Board President, Archery Club President and DECA class president.

He is on the A-B Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Roll.

He likes 3D printing, graphic design, gaming, career and future research development, and coding.

He plans to become an information support director/specialist or an IT educator.

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

Jeremiah chose Cheryl Cunningham as his favorite teacher.

"Ms. Cunningham did not exactly teach me but helped me with my future decisions and career. She gave me such great advice and helped me decide what I want to do after graduation. We are very good colleagues, and work well together. We help each other out so much. She was somewhat my mentor, and it all started just by seeing her at the main doors in the morning. It's never too late to have any teacher as your mentor."



Jeremiah Beseril

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Marissa & Roel Lujan

Yamilexy is President of National Honor Society, a member of Student Council, Spirit club, and Phi Theta Kappa (honor society of Odessa College). She is also on the Presidents Honor Roll.

Her interests include drawing, crocheting, reading, and gardening.

She plans to attend OC to continue working towards her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, then afterward begin a career in health care where she hopes to become a sonogram technician.

Yamilexy chose Holly Powell, health teacher, as her favorite teacher.

"I chose her as my favorite because of her ability to make learning both meaningful and enjoyable. She showed genuine care, and her encouragement has inspired me to always strive for the best. She is not just a teacher but also a role model who has made a lasting impact in my life."



Yamilexy Lujan
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Norma & Luis Acuña

Brianna is a member of the Student Council, AVID, National Honor Society, Texas Alliance of Minorities in Engineering, Texas Scholars, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

She earned a 4 Rating (medalist) in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event and is on the A Honor Roll.

She volunteers at the West Texas Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club, and the Elections Office during elections. She also likes to read, listen to music, draw, craft, spend time with family, travel, and go off-roading.

Her plans include a master's degree in marketing and a minor in graphic design. She wants to return to Odessa to bring more awareness to the helpfulness of the oil field and how it benefits people across the nation.

She will be attending The University of Houston at Victoria.

Brianna's high school art teacher, Bryant Golden, is her favorite teacher.

"He always encourages me to trust my instincts. While creating art pieces in his class, I learned a lot about myself as well as different media types that I will continue to use in the future. He taught me that stepping out of my comfort zone was necessary in order to see growth within myself. Mr. Golden was very helpful and uplifting unintentionally as he tells us crazy stories about his past classes or the 'jokes' he thinks are funny. I have always looked forward to going to Mr. Golden's classes, as it is easy to lose track of time while working on my projects. I will always be very grateful and appreciative of this teacher because he gave me the chance to express myself and gave me many opportunities which show that he cares."



Brianna Acuña
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Miriam Guevara

Julian is Student Council secretary, Students in Philanthropy treasurer, in AVID, a kids ministry volunteer and youth leader at his church, he works at Discount Tire and is a member of the Odessa High varsity football and track teams.

He is Mr. OHS and an All-District lineman.

He likes working out.

Julian is going to the University of Texas Permian Basin where he plans to major in civil engineering, he wants to plan and design infrastructure projects.

His favorite teacher is Coach Shelby Hill.

“Ever since the first day in Coach Hill’s class, I knew she would be fun and supportive. I’ve always been able to reach out to her if I needed help, and she always knew how to give me encouragement when I was down.”



Julian Guevara
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Brenda Olivas and Pedro Sias

Tania is vice president of Odessa High Student Council, parliamentarian of OHS National Honor Society, a member of Students in Philanthropy, 2-year AVID student, and an Odessa College Law Enforcement student.

Her hobbies are reading, jigsaw puzzles, and Sudoku puzzles.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin for a bachelor's degree in criminal justice to later work as a court reporter or crime scene investigator.

Tania selected OC instructor Dr. Seba Gultekin as her favorite teacher.

"Dr. G is one of the calmest and wisest people I have ever met. He is extremely caring with his students, and it is inevitable to see his love for what he does. Each and every one of his students and their success matters to him and he is always willing to help contribute in any way he can. To sum up, I hope to one day be as hardworking and passion driven as Dr. G."



Tania Sias-Olivas
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Nicole & Hector Izaguirre

Molly is a 4-year member of the Permian High School Band, Section leader for 2 years and Pride Crew captain for 1 year, a 4-year member of the PHS Orchestra, 4-year member of PHS soccer, 2-year member of Permian Senate, and Executive Board member 2 years.

She is a PHS Hall of Fame inductee 2025.

She enjoys playing soccer, playing the French Horn, and repairing instruments.

Molly plans to attend Texas Tech University, study professional communications and become a lawyer.

Her favorite teacher is Allen Jones.

"I have been blessed with teachers who care about me but Mr. Jones guides all his students to fulfill their true potential and, from the bottom of his heart, he cares about every single one of his students. For me Jones has helped me reframe negative situations to find a positive or a learning experience. He has forever changed the way I think and how I approach any challenging situation."



Molly Izaguirre
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Aurora & Raymond Jackson

Lauren is a member of the Permian High School Academic Decathlon team, the Speech and Debate team, and the UIL Academics team. She volunteers with Meals on Wheels and Teen Court, and is a 4-year performer at the Texas Music Teachers Association Piano Conventions.

She is an AP Scholar with Honor.

She loves binge reading fiction books, going on spontaneous adventures with friends, playing the piano, trying new things, and thrifting.

Lauren will attend the University of Texas and plans to major in neuroscience, go to medical school, and become a neurologist. She hopes to pursue a career in research regarding Alzheimer's, Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), or the neurological impacts of food health in America.

Cassidy Reddell, who taught Lauren as a sophomore and a senior, is her favorite teacher.

"Ms. Reddell is THE most inspiring and supportive teacher I have ever met throughout my years in high school. Throughout this entire school year, I constantly witnessed her dedicate hours of each day towards developing and executing a complex and effective AP Chemistry lesson plan with a curriculum that was completely new to her. Not only did she put in tremendous amounts of effort towards helping her students succeed, but she truly put her heart into teaching each individual student.



Lauren Jackson
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Maria Elena & Gregorio
Guadalupe Andrade

Karen is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidate, a member of National Honor Society, Broncho Mariachi, Academic Decathlon, and a part of the Altar Servers at Holy Redeemer.

In addition to IB, and AP, she has taken honors classes throughout high school.

She likes to bake and play the violin as well as the keyboard. She also likes to knit or crochet while listening to music and likes to read during free time as well.

She wants to major in biomedical engineering as it involves creating devices that will better the health of an individual and she wants to dedicate her time to helping others. She would minor in something related to STEM, history or astronomy.

Karen is going to attend the University of Texas.

She chose English teacher Lyndsey Bello as her favorite.

"Mrs. Bello has always been a kind and caring teacher, dedicated in creating a safe and respectful environment in her classroom for her students. I'm forever grateful for her patience and understanding towards us whenever we seemed stressed or overwhelmed in our work. I really enjoy her classes, especially when she gives us new books to read because of the creative liberty, as well as the respect and fun discussions she allows us to have as a class."



Karen Andrade
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Morgan & DJ Mitchell

Aiden is in National Honor Society, JROTC, guitar, choir, and Broncho Legacy.

He received 2nd Division at state solo and ensemble 2024.

His hobbies include playing guitar, spending time with friends, and going out to eat.

He has been accepted into the University of North Texas and wants to become a guitar teacher.

Odessa High School guitar teacher Jose Campos, Jr. is Aiden's favorite teacher.

"He has given me the confidence to fully pursue something I love and has helped me find myself as a person throughout my time in his class."



Aiden Mitchell
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Adrianna Pena and Raul Armendariz, Judy Armendariz and Aaron Meza

In Aiden's words, "Mid-Cities Church, I serve as much as I can for my church and for the Lord. I play guitar, bass, and sing for all the worship teams at my church and I serve in any area that I am asked in, because in everything I do I only want one thing, and that is that the glory of Jesus Christ may be shown through all the things I do and accomplish in this life on earth. For his glory, not mine."

He is a 2-time Texas Music Educator Association (TMEA) All-State Orchestra selection, 4-time TMEA Region, 2-time UIL State Solo & Ensemble contest.

He likes learning how to become a piano technician, editing guitar videos of himself, and he works out a lot.

He would like to become a piano technician and be able to play in professional orchestras on the side, but at some point, would also like to be involved in ministry serving the people of this world and serving his God.

He has been accepted into Texas Tech University and the University of Texas San Antonio.

Aiden chose PHS Orchestra Director Todd Berridge as his favorite teacher.

"Mr. Berridge has been an outlet for many opportunities for me and has exposed me to a side of the high school orchestra world that I have never known about. If it wasn't for him, I would have not know what TMEA All-State was or TMEA region. I wouldn't have also known about UIL solo & ensemble. He has blessed me with many opportunities and has put a lot of trust and investment into my musical talents. I also just enjoyed the chemistry me and Mr. Berridge had as a rhythm section for the Satin Strings orchestra, we just had a good understanding of each other's playing as he would play the guitar and I would thump away on my bass."



Aiden Armendariz
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Renee & Paul Paget

Jenesis is Senior Officer of the Permian Choir Council.

She is a 3-time Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Choir member, 1st Chair Alto Two, TMEA Scholarship recipient, 3-year Black Magic Vocalist (Show Choir), 3-year Varsity Choir member, 2-year State Soloist (rated one both years), and participated in Mid Americas Choral Series in Carnegie Hall.

She loves any and all things music: playing piano, musical theatre, and performing in Black Magic. Outside of music, she likes to read cheesy books, hang out with her friends, and binge watch American Idol.

She plans to attend Texas Christian University to major in music education. She hopes to one day get her doctorate and travel the world to teach students to love music the way she does.

Jenesis chose PHS Director of Choirs Laurie Wash as her favorite teacher.

"I chose Mrs. Wash because she believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. She pushed me to be the greatest musician I could be, and without her I wouldn't be who I am today. She taught me to sing because I loved to, not because I can. Her drive, dedication, and passion for music inspires me to be a music educator, just like her."



Jenesis Paget
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Alma Delia Alcantar Soto and Noel Delgado Lara

Elvis is in CCD, is section leader for the Odessa High Marching Band, a member of the OHS Concert Band, the OHS full orchestra, and National Honor Society.

He is an AP Scholar with Distinction, received AP Hispanic Recognition, AP First-Generation Recognition, and is All-Region Concert Band.

His hobbies are soccer and video games.

He will attend the University of Texas at San Antonio and plans to major in mechanical engineering with specialization in aerospace engineering. His dream is to one day work at NASA.

Jesus Muniz, who taught him in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, is Elvis' favorite teacher.

"I had Mr. Muniz as a teacher for 3 years straight. He was a big part of my development as a dedicated and hard-working student. Whenever I needed advice, he was there to give it to me. He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. His lessons not only taught us the Spanish curriculum, but he would also make it a point to teach valuable real-life lessons. Mr. Muniz is the reason I am here today."



Elvis Delgado Alcantar
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Nallely and Eduardo
Mendoza

Denisse is in Spanish Honor Society,
National Honor Society, Texas
Association of Future Educators, and
Senoritas Hispanas.

She enjoys spending time with family
and friends, working out, dancing,
listening to music, and watching
movies.

She will attend the University of Texas
Permian Basin to major in education
to become a bilingual teacher.

Spanish teacher Ramon Rivera is her
favorite teacher.

“He is a really good teacher, he knows
how to connect with all students, and
encourage us to do good in life. He got
me to join the Spanish Honor Society,
which will help me with my future
education plans. He also told me to
join Senoritas Hispanas, where I have
learned so many things that will help
me the rest of my life as a Hispanic
girl. Thanks to him I feel ready for my
life after high school.”



Denisse Mendoza
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Teresa & Jacob Hernandez and Sarahi & Raul Rodriguez

Adrian is Academic Decathlon Captain, a member of National Honor Society, and a member of New Tech Odessa's Esports team.

He placed 3rd at nationals for United States Academic Decathlon, 1st Place Honors Division at the Thomas E. Mosely Academic Decathlon, earned National Hispanic Recognition and National First-Generation Recognition, is an AP Scholar, and a National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) grant recipient.

He enjoys going out with friends, making music, playing guitar in a band with friends, going to the gym, and reading classics and horror novels.

Adrian was accepted to Yale University. He plans to become a neurosurgeon or neurologist and also start his own business focusing on nanotechnology.

His favorite teacher is his junior and senior math teacher Jennifer Nunez.

"I chose Ms. Nunez because of how committed she is to the wellbeing and growth of her students. Ms. Nunez not only excels in teaching but excels in developing a connection with her students that enables her to breakthrough to them and advance their understanding of math. Not only has she granted me a better understanding of math (except average rate of change) but she has given me more confidence to be myself and try to achieve my full potential. I'm so glad I was put in her precalculus class and can say for certain she has changed my life for the better."



Adrian Rodriguez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Celeste & Gary Potter

Bryson is a member of the American Motorcyclist Association, and Texas Scholars.

He is the Salutatorian of his class and has earned straight A's through high school.

His hobbies are motocross and bowling.

He wants to become an engineer and will attend Texas Tech University.

Bryson chose Donald Potter as his favorite teacher. Mr. Potter was his prekindergarten through first grade teacher and is his grandfather.

"Aside from being my grandfather, Mr. Potter was the man who built my educational foundation. Teaching me how to read and write and helping me with homework got me where I am today. Mr Potter is someone who changes lives and makes the world a better place."



Bryson Potter
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parent: Krystle Ritchy

Noah is the AMC Club President, SAT Club President, a member of the Music Club, the Chess Club, and the Math Club President (where they called him the big cheese of math club).

He is on the A Honor Roll.

His hobbies include video games and listening to music. He loves to read and hang out with the people he loves. He also likes to eat unique foods and draw, too.

He wants to be an anesthesiologist and will go back to Odessa College to complete his prerequisites.

Joshua Payan, who taught him during his freshman and sophomore years, is Noah's favorite teacher.

"I chose Mr. Payan because he gave me a place at this school. He always supported me when I wanted to start another one of our math-y nerd clubs or was trying to find what I wanted to do in life. He's also a really funny guy. Whether we were playing chess or studying math theories, he was always there for me and could always help me when I needed it. Thank you, Mr. Payan."



Noah Pon
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Anita & Subodh Mallik

Avinav is in National Honor Society, is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, and is president of Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program at Medical Center Hospital.

He is the District 2-6A Doubles Champion in tennis, a 4-time Student Athlete Academic Excellence Award recipient, and earned a Presidents Volunteer Services Award.

He likes to play tennis, chess, solve Rubik's Cube, and hang out with friends.

He will attend Texas Tech University and wants to be a doctor.

Avinav's favorite teacher is Krista Vivian, his math teacher in 10th and 11th grades.

"Ms. Vivian is a teacher I'll always hold close to my heart. Her interactive teaching style and lively personality made going to math class everyday very fun. But beyond that, Ms. Vivian truly cared about me as a person, not just as a student."



Avinav Mallik
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Tracey & Derrick Pursley

Kate is Editor in Chief of the Permian Yearbook staff, captain of the UIL Academics Team (Journalism), Percussion Lieutenant of the Permian Band, and 2nd Vice President of National Honor Society.

She is ranked #4 in her class, has earned 250+ volunteer hours in Texas Scholars, is an AP Scholar, two-time All-State Journalism Staff, inductee into the PHS Hall of Fame, and the PHS Academic Hall of Fame.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, collecting music albums, and volunteering.

Kate will attend the University of Texas and hopes to one day be the editor at a magazine or newspaper company.

Journalism teacher Michael Flax is her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Flax introduced me to the subject of journalism and is the reason that I'm pursuing it as a career. Since I was a freshman in the Journalism I class, Mr. Flax encouraged me to join the UIL Academics team and the Yearbook staff the following year. He has aided me in becoming a better writer and leader, and I'll be using the valuable lessons he has taught me for the rest of my life."



Kate Pursley
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Catrina Hernandez and Pedro Sotelo

Eliana is in National Honor Society, an art attendance volunteer at the Ellen Noel Art Museum, and a volunteer for 3:11 Ministries in Midland.

She is listed on the A-B Honor Roll.

She loves picking up hobbies such as painting, reading, DIY projects, etc. as well as taking care of her father's chickens & roosters outside at the barn. She also does outside club sports like cheer and dance.

Her goal is to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees in petroleum engineering.

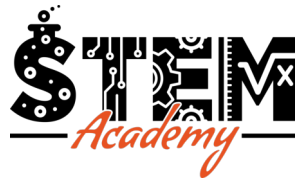
Eliana will be attending the University of Texas.

She chose Jacob Green as her favorite teacher.

"He was always available for any students' questions, helping them out whenever he can in any subject he taught. His lessons were always interesting and interactive so that I was able to take an interest into chemistry and especially physics. He encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone and apply to additional colleges I didn't plan on applying for. Thanks to his support I was accepted in the petroleum engineering program at UT at Austin which I would of never dreamed of happening."



Eliana Hernandez
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Heather Hankins and Miguel Pina

Abby is in National Honor Society and Crochet Club, which her friend started their junior year.

She has won an AP STEM Scholarship and a Presidential Scholarship from Texas Tech University.

She likes to spend time on piano, reading, and needle work.

Abby will attend A&M University Academy at Midland College. She plans to study Aerospace Engineering and work for companies like NASA like her great grandfather did.

She chose AP Physics teacher Maria Lopez as her favorite.

"My time with her has made me a better person. Not only is she confident and strong, she also is very caring and funny. Through her diligent work with AP Physics with over 80 kids she kept her head up and helped us even if we just didn't get it. From having to lay on the floor to teach us about force and asking me to check her physics work she remains my favorite even if Physics was hard. She made my junior year and she keeps making my senior work in our Rocketry class as well. I am excited to be here with her and share the experience with someone who lifts my days even if it's through silly ways."



Abby Hankins

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Denise & Rick Anderson

Caine is on the Presidential A Honor Roll.

He likes drawing, writing, listening to music, cooking, baking, balisong tricks, and driving.

He has been accepted to the University of Texas Permian Basin, where he wants to major in electrical engineering.

Caine's favorite teacher is Victoria Weinzal, who taught him as a junior and senior and has known him for a while.

He says, "She used to be my neighbor and I'm pretty sure she made us brownies one time. Also, she's super cool. :)"



Caine Anderson
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parent: Martha Hernandez

Daniel is a member of National Honor Society and Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering.

He earned recognition as a National Hispanic Scholar, a National First-Generation Scholar, and made the A Honor Roll all four years of high school.

He likes reading, making coffee drinks, crocheting, and playing video games.

He wants to be a software engineer and start his own business.

He plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Rowena Dolino, his physics teacher from 11th grade, is his favorite teacher.

"I chose Mrs. Dolino because of her ability to teach physics engagingly and understandably. Her passion for the subject was represented through the lessons and projects she assigned. Her support and enthusiasm motivated me to do well in her class and helped me gain a greater appreciation for learning."



Daniel Hernandez
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Venu Yankarla and Kavitha Yankarla

Kanishk is president of the Odessa High School Robotics team, captain of the OHS tennis team, a member of National Honor Society, OHS Symphony Orchestra 1st Chair Viola, founder of the Young Minds Academy at the Boys and Girls Club, a junior volunteer for the Medical Center Health System (MCH), and Temple Teen Leader for the Hindu Association of West Texas.

He earned the Texas Scholars Excellence Award for having the most volunteer service hours in 10th and 11th grade, and advanced to state with a 1st place finish in UIL South Asian History.

He was selected for a Texas Tech UMSI competitive medical program interview, competed at NSF National Brain Bee and Rice University Brain Bee Workshops, and inspected and analyzed 3D models of organs and systems during SyGlass Neuroscience VR Internship. He was also a tennis District Champion in doubles.

His hobbies are playing and watching tennis and basketball, playing chess, 3d modeling and animating on Blender, drawing cartoons, and watching movies.

He wants to pursue a neuroscience major with a computer science minor and hopes to attend medical school to become a practicing physician.

He has been accepted to Texas Tech University, the University of Texas, Rice University, Duke University and Georgia Tech University.

Kanishk's favorite teacher is Rosa Glover, his physics teacher in his junior year.

"I selected her as my most impactful teacher because, without her, I wouldn't have discovered my deep appreciation for physics and mechanical sciences. She made the subject come alive, transforming what could have been just another challenging IB course into an engaging experience."



Kanishk Yankarla
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Elizabeth & Christopher Russell

Salma is a 4-year varsity Panther Paw (Captain), 3-year Senate Executive Board member (Historian and Campus Coordinator), 9-year En Croix dance academy member, AVID member, and National Honor Society member.

She is a National Merit AP scholar, Texas scholar, the Homecoming Queen, and is on the A Honor Roll.

She enjoys dancing competitively, creative journaling, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

She plans to attend Texas A&M University majoring in Business Administration and earn a master's degree. She also plans to travel the WORLD!

Her favorite teacher is her sophomore Chemistry teacher Dr. Rebecca Joy.

"Dr. Joy's love for science is very apparent through her teaching which has allowed many students including myself to be inspired and altered both academically and personally. I used to be the student ashamed of raising her hand in class and only used memorization as a studying tool, however, in Joy's class I never held back raising my hand and began to fully understand concepts that were given to me rather than playing a guessing game. Joy laid down the foundation of the student I am today, because of her class I now understand the importance of time management and the power of a strong work ethic. Not only has she supported me in my 10th grade chemistry class, but also in extracurriculars, cheering me on at every dance recital. Dr. Joy is a passionate teacher who truly has an impact in her classes full of great students."



Salma Nicolas
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parent: Stephanie Sherman

Evan is the Student Council secretary, a Robotics programmer, and a member of National Honor Society, is on the A Honor Roll, A-B Honor Roll, and a Super Scientist.

Hobbies include reading and language study.

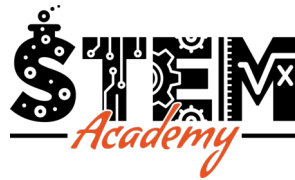
Evan plans to study chemistry at Angelo State University.

Sarbagaya Malla is Evan's favorite teacher.

"He is good at getting his lessons across and was very helpful in applying this knowledge to real scenarios. He is also very understanding and willing to help anybody if they are struggling, working hard until he has done the most he can for you."



Evan Hernandez
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Daryn Streater and Andrew Ulate

Baylee is in National Honor Society, Rocketry and Camp SIP.

She is on the A Honor Roll, earned a Principal Award, and Oiler Pride. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, and reading.

She plans to attend Odessa College to get her associate degree in criminal justice and then later join the police academy. She wants to be a homicide detective.

Baylee's junior sociology and psychology teacher, William Marsh, is her favorite teacher.

"He is an exceptional teacher who taught me lessons and stories that will help me to ensure that I can be successful in life."



Baylee Ulate

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Araceli Bejar and Fernando Madrid

Luis likes to work on fixing his truck and adding new mods to it.

He is going to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and wants to be a mechanical engineer at Lockheed Martin.

Luis' favorite teacher is Mark Perales, his social studies teacher his junior and senior years.

"He's always been understanding of everybody's situations and is never strict and genuinely seems he loves his job and I think he should be noticed."



Luis Madrid
OCTECHS



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Omotade & Joseph Oyeibanji

Daniel is secretary of National Honor Society, secretary of the Medical Center Health System Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program, and a member of the Academic Decathlon team.

He won the President's Volunteer Service Award, earned National African American Recognition, is Salutatorian of his class, a state qualifier in Academic Decathlon, and is on the A Honor Roll.

His hobbies include playing piano, basketball, and volleyball.

Daniel has been accepted to Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas Permian Basin, and the University of Texas. He wants to be a medical doctor.

His favorite teacher is Mikal Crowder.

"Mr. Crowder was a very present teacher. He was not only there for students during difficult assignments, he also shared wisdom that stretched beyond the classroom. Though he may come off as intimidating at first glance he has a huge heart and deeply cares for his students. Furthermore during my time in Academic Decathlon he checked up on us daily and offered a ready hand to any needs we possessed to be the best competitors we could be."



Daniel Oyeibanji
Odessa Collegiate Academy



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Harshitha Priyadarshini Kaza
and Sree Venu Madhav Kaza

Sree is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, a member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council for the 11th District of Texas, has volunteered over 380 hours as a History teacher and Technical Support Specialist at a school for special children, she is writing a research paper about the impact of Electrical Engineering in the field of Quantum Mechanics under the guidance of Dr. Beg, the Computer Science Chair and HOD of Engineering at UTPB.

She captured District Champion UIL Social Studies 2024 and finished 7th in regionals, earned Zonal Excellence - International Social Science Olympiad 2023, and Grandmaster - India 2019 (Shaolin Kung Fu).

Her hobbies include practicing Yoga and Martial Arts, reading, watching movies, listening to music, exploring various religions, and expanding her knowledge in diverse fields of technology and history.

She would like to pursue a career in neuroscience, attending the University of Texas Permian Basin where she received a Presidential Scholarship.

Sree's favorite teacher is Lee Jordan.

"Mr. Jordan has had an immense impact on both my academic journey and personal growth. His support played a crucial role in helping me navigate the challenges of adjusting to a new country, offering me both guidance and a sense of stability. His encouragement to engage in thoughtful debates allowed me to express myself and it quickly became one of the things I look forward to most each day. His classroom is unlike any other. From the moment you step in, you can feel the energy.



Sree Veda Mahanita Kaza
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Veronika & John Rogers

Maria is Battalion Commander of Permian JROTC.

She enjoys JROTC, working out, and painting.

She wants to be a combat medic in the US Army and will be joining the Army after graduation.

Maria's favorite teacher is Sgt. Bernard Hooper.

"He has had the greatest impact on my life. He taught me how to do everything I will need to know about my future in the military. From Color Guard practices in the early morning to practices to get us ready for our competition to motivating me to rappel off the rappelling tower Sergeant Hooper has always been there and always helped me do my best. If I was failing classes, he would give me motivation to pass and keep my rank. Despite my several failures in both classes and activities he has never given up on me. He has always been there for me and several other cadets. Without him I don't think I would have applied myself as much as I would have. If I wouldn't have joined JROTC I think my high school life would have been less fun and exciting. If it weren't for Sergeant Hooper I would never have been to an obstacle course, jumped off a pole for a trust exercise at JCLC. I had so much fun these past 4 years due the efforts of Bernard Hooper and I will forever be grateful to have had him as a teacher."



Maria Rogers
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Catherine Orson and Tony Watkins

Jordan is an FTC Robotics human player (15493 the Misfits) and is on the A-B Honor Roll.

He likes gaming and learning history.

He wants to become a firefighter and plans to continue his education and training at Odessa College.

Jordan's favorite teacher is Nicole Olivas, his sophomore and junior history teacher.

"I chose Ms. Olivas because they are a truly kind soul and taught history in a way that encouraged us to seek the truth in history. She didn't judge us; she's also a really down to earth person. Conversations with her are easy going and flow naturally and she's just overall a great person."



Jordan Watkins
STEM Academy

