



Awards for **EXCELLENCE** 2026

HONORING OUR OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

PRESENTED BY:





Awards for **EXCELLENCE** 2026

Welcome..... Dr. Keeley Boyer
Superintendent of Schools
Master of Ceremonies..... Mike Adkins
Chief Communications Officer
Invocation.....Tammy Hawkins
President, Board of Trustees
Dinner Served (6:45p.m.)..... Performance by Satin Strings
Permian High School
Awards for Excellence Presentation: ECISD Board of Trustees,
Superintendent's Cabinet & Sponsors





Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Sonny Alaniz
Yvonne Asakawa
Jelene Ballard
Todd Berridge
Sonia Campos
Cheraldin Celis
Jennie Chavez
Watkin Cocker
Donald Coe
Mikal Crowder
Rowena Dolino
Aries Dungca
Luis Gonzalez
Nicholas Harrison
Jerimie Hernandez
David Hernández
Emily Hinds
Iva Hodges
Lindsey Jonas
Danielle Jones
Chyree LeMaster
Karina Ligon

Debbie Logsdon
Maria Lopez
Nicolas Maldonado
Victoria Martin
Kelsey Martin
Josh Martinez
Samuel Mota
Jesús Antonio Muñiz
Jennifer Nuñez
Cecilia Núñez
Nicole Olivas
Yarely Orona
Joshua Payan
Mark Perales
Ramon Rivera
Johnna Rosson
Krista Susan
Krista Vivian
Dr. Guoxiang Wang
Alec Watson
Trinicia Watson

2026 Presenting Sponsor



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EXCELLENCE

This is the 39th 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: Stephanie Hernandez and
Martin Alva**

**Martin is a member of the football and
baseball teams at Odessa High School.
He earned Defensive MVP honors for
football and Silver Slugger for
baseball.**

**He likes to collect baseball equipment,
play video games, and play baseball.
He has chosen the University of Texas
and wants to be a civil engineer or
architect.**

**Martin's favorite teacher is Coach
Watkin Cocker.**

**"He was the only coach that has
showed emotion and showed that he
wants to win just as badly as I do. He
showed day in and day out that he
cares for me and my teammates.
Coach Cocker is the definition of a
great coach and he pushed me to be
the best version of myself that I could
be on the field and off of the field."**



**Martin Alva
Odessa High School**



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Awards for Excellence

Athletics

Parents: Jacqueline & Rigoberto Ramirez

Marleen is in National Honor Society, Student Council, soccer, powerlifting, and AVID.

She has challenged herself with GT, Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes throughout her school years.

She loves to work, but also spend any chance she gets with friends and family. She grew up playing soccer and now one of her favorite things is watching and supporting her brother continue on the soccer journey. She also loves to lift and work out in her free time.

She is planning to attend Midland College and become a radiologist.

Marleen's favorite teacher is OHS assistant soccer coach Yarely Orona.

"Coach Orona has had a great impact on my life and is truly someone I admire. Although she was not my head coach, she made me feel seen and understood as not only an athlete, but in general. After a rough season, she helped me keep my head up and pushed me to the best of my abilities. I felt more confident having her there to help me through frustrations or even when I was confused on a play. I am so grateful I got to have her as a coach for my last years of high school soccer, and I thank her for pushing me to do things I never knew I could achieve."



Marleen Ramirez
Odessa High School



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OUR students...THE future

Awards for Excellence Athletics

Parents: Cinthia & Joe Soto

Betty is co-captain of the girls basketball team, a member of AVID, the National Honor Society, and a Texas Scholar.

She was selected the homecoming queen, earned Academic All-District recognition, Texas Scholar awards as junior and senior, and is on the Honor Roll.

She enjoys hanging out with friends, shopping, and getting food and fun drinks.

She plans to attend the University of Texas. While still exploring majors her goal is to become successful, financially independent, and build a stable future for herself; she wants to be happy and proud of the life she creates.

Betty's favorite teacher is Krista Susan, her business teacher from 10th grade.

"She is really sweet and made her class feel easy and fun. She is easy to talk to, cares about her students, and made me feel comfortable in class. She didn't add more stress to what I already had with other schoolwork, which I really loved. I am grateful for her kindness and everything she taught me, and I'll always remember her as one of the best teachers I've ever had."



Betty Saenz
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence Athletics

Parents: Lynsey & Logan Woody

Braden was recognized with a Great American Rivalry Award scholarship and he has earned straight A's.

He enjoys football, spending time with family and friends, working, and collecting football cards.

He is already working, at RK Supply, and after graduation plans to continue working while attending the University of Texas Permian Basin online.

Braden's favorite teacher is Lindsey Jonas from 8th grade at Wilson & Young Medal of Honor Middle School.

"She made learning fun, we did lots of projects, she was respectful and always took the time to help me if I needed it."



Braden Woody
Permian High School



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OUR students...THE future

Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Sarah Barron and Ernesto Cano

Yeshua is a Business Professionals of America Associate (CTSO)

He likes hiking, gaming, and supporting people.

He wants to be a financial advisor, and plans to attend Odessa College or the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Yeshua's favorite teacher is Luis Gonzalez from his sophomore year.

"Because unlike most teachers, (no offense) Mr. Gonzalez knows how to make a subject, fun and interactive. My sophomore year was by far one of the most memorable years out of my high school time, thanks to him!"



Yeshua Cano
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

**Parents: Rosaleen & Rogelio
Tarango**

Rogelio is the treasurer for Business Professionals of America (BPA), a member of the OHS yearbook staff, and an IDRA tutor at Austin Montessori.

He qualified for State BPA in Professional Business Management.

His hobbies are volleyball, music, gaming, fashion, and motor sports.

He would like to go into automotive engineering or business and eventually own a business in an automotive field, perhaps a dealership.

Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, and Odessa College are the schools he is considering.

Rogelio's favorite teacher is Victoria Martin, junior English teacher.

"She is easy to relate to, she's funny, kind, and such an outgoing person when you talk to her. Even when we walk past each other we always smile so hard without even trying."



Rogelio Tarango
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Laura & Artemio Estrella

Vivianna is in the LVN program at Odessa College, serves as an executive officer in the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE), plays in the PHS orchestra, and works as a violin tutor.

She was a regional orchestra selection, and a Teach Tomorrow Summit state qualifier through TAFE. By the time she graduates high school, she will already have an associate degree, nursing license, and teaching certification.

Her interests include creative writing, listening to and exploring different music genres, video games, and trying different makeup and beauty styles.

She has been accepted to Baylor University, where she plans to complete pre-med studies while working as a nurse in a clinic or hospital. Her dream is to complete a general surgery residency, specialize in trauma surgery, and dedicate about 25 to 30 years to serving as a military surgeon. Eventually, she might use her teaching certification to mentor younger students and give back to the community, but her main focus will always be making a meaningful impact in both medicine and the military.

Vivianna's favorite teacher is AP World History teacher Nicholas Harrison.

"He always made time for his students and treated us with respect and care. He created a supportive environment where learning felt encouraging instead of pressured, which made it easier to ask questions and really understand the material. Whenever I talked to him about the challenges I was facing in my classes, including the LVN program, he offered thoughtful advice that helped me figure out my next steps. His support continues to inspire me to reach my full academic potential and has left a lasting impact on how I approach both learning and life."



Vivianna Estrella
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Parents: Norma Herrera & Adrian Martinez and Samantha Natividad & Omar Ramos

Valeria is the varsity cheerleading captain, a member of National Honor Society, won first and second place honors at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional conference the last two years, as well as a BPA Torch Award, and is in Student Senate.

She received the Principal's Award recognizing outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and character.

Cheerleading, making crafts, spending quality time with family and friends, and enjoying simple pleasures like good food and rest are among her interests.

Her goal is to graduate from Texas A&M University with a law degree and build a successful career as a lawyer. She plans to dedicate her work to handling malpractice cases, helping individuals who have been wronged receive the justice they deserve. Through hard work, determination, and a strong sense of integrity, she aims to make a meaningful impact in the field while continuing to grow professionally and personally.

Valeria's favorite teacher is her 1st grade teacher Jennie Chavez, who is now the principal at E.K. Downing Elementary School.

"She has truly made a lasting impact on my life. She isn't just an outstanding teacher, she's a mentor who instilled in me important values like responsibility, perseverance, and integrity, shaping how I approach both school and life. Her dedication went beyond academics; she cared about me as a person, helping me grow not only as a student but also as a young adult."



Valeria Ramos
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Jane Jiang and James Bao

Sophia is a member of National Society of High School Scholars.

She earned College Board National Recognition, a National Math and Science Initiative Award in AP Precalculus, this Award of Excellence in English, 3rd place in Economics in the district Academic Decathlon competition, and 1st place in the district art event.

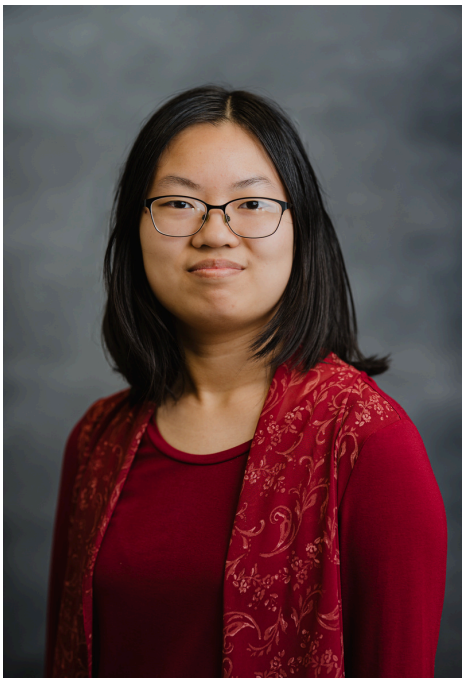
When not busy with school work, she enjoys reading, drawing, playing video games, and exploring other creative media, whether it be books, shows, or art. She also enjoys discovering new music, artists, and online communities.

After getting a bachelor's degree, she wants to start working in the gaming industry and, eventually, make her own large-scaled video game.

She will attend Texas A&M University.

Her favorite teacher is Cheraldin Celis her junior AP English Language and Composition teacher and her French teacher in 9th and 10th grades.

"Mrs. Celis is very passionate and dedicated to teaching. She always aspires for her students to grow, constantly challenging us but never over the edge. She fully ensures that her coursework is easily digestible and able for us to really show our creativity and what we have learned. If there's anyone who is the personification of the ideal teacher, it's Mrs. Celis."



Sophia Bao

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Mary & Antonio Leyva

Adriel is a member of the Human Rights Club and is on the Odessa College President's List.

He enjoys going to the gym, videogames, and spending time with his girlfriend.

He wants to become a mechanical engineer and plans to attend Odessa College or Texas Tech University.

Adriel's favorite teacher is Danielle Jones from his sophomore year at OCTECHS.

"She teaches math really well and math is my worst subject."



Adriel Leyva
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Bertha & Jaime Anchondo

Diana serves as a Reader at St. Joseph's church and she is part of the AMC Club.

She is ranked in the Top 10 of her graduating class.

Her hobbies are baking, cooking, and reading.

She is headed to Texas Tech University to pursue an electrical engineering degree.

Diana's 8th grade teacher at Ector Middle School, David Hernández, is her favorite.

"Not only did he motivate me to attend OCA and be the best student I could be, but he was also a great support and an amazing teacher. Being in his class was something I always looked forward to and I loved the way he managed to make learning both fun and important. Mr. Hernandez is the reason I want to become an engineer and his advice changed my academic career into the right one."



Diana Anchondo
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence English

Parents: Victoria & Sean Yardley

Andralyn is a member of National Honor Society and the International Baccalaureate program.

In addition to this Award for Excellence in English, she has earned the Shining Light Award in Junior Leadership, and is ranked in the Top 5 of her graduating class.

She enjoys the band and orchestra, as well as crafting and reading.

Her plans are to attend Texas Tech for a bachelor's degree in animal science, then pursue her doctorate and become a veterinarian.

Andralyn's favorite teacher is Odessa High School Assistant Band Director Nicolas Maldonado.

"He has had a lasting impact on both my growth as a student and as a person. Because of him, we learned how to support one another, trust each other, and take pride in what we create as a team. He also has an incredible ability to see potential in every student, even when we don't see it in ourselves, challenging us to improve while celebrating our progress. Through his guidance, I've learned perseverance, accountability, and pride in my work, and I've come to understand what it means to be part of something bigger than myself. Beyond music, he is someone I truly look up to, creating an environment where students feel valued and motivated to succeed. Because of his dedication and the lessons he's taught me, my band director has become more than just a teacher, he is a mentor who has truly shaped my high school experience.



Andralyn Yardley
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Nissan and Needra Handawela

Nishi is a 4-year varsity gymnast, the first vice president of National Honor Society, two-year member of the UIL Academics team, and an Honor division competitor in Academic Decathlon.

She is the valedictorian of her graduating class, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and a 2nd Team All-District selection in gymnastics as a junior.

When not studying, she enjoys spending time with friends and working on creative projects such as crocheting, sewing, painting, makeup, and drawing, as well as watching a variety of TV shows. With a genuine love for learning, she often immerses herself in videos and textbooks that explore a wide range of topics, from the chemical functions of the human body to new makeup techniques.

She is deciding between Texas Tech University and the University of Texas. Her goal is to attend medical school, perhaps to become a dermatologist but is open to other specialties.

Nishi's favorite teacher is math teacher and coach Josh Martinez who she's worked with since 8th grade.

"I first got to know Coach (Mr.) Martinez through middle school gymnastics, where he consistently demonstrated an analytical approach while guiding me through new techniques for performing skills. When I later had the opportunity to take his AP Calculus class, I was eager to learn from him in an academic setting. However, what distinguishes him from most is his genuine enthusiasm for teaching, as I have never encountered someone so thrilled to teach math."



Nishi Handawela
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

English

Parents: Regina Calley and Clinton Calley

Sayuri is a youth volunteer and one of the founders and coordinators of the young adult program at the Pride Center West Texas, and is in National Honor Society.

Her hobbies are drawing, painting, collage, reading and writing, travel, photography, entomology, and botany.

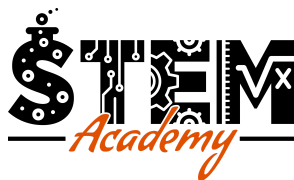
She is bound for Texas A&M University with plans to become an entomologist.

Iva Hodges, her 8th grade English teacher, is Sayuri's favorite teacher.

"Mrs. Hodges captures the magic of English and seamlessly transforms it into engaging projects. I have always loved English but Hodges showed me ways I can incorporate English into my other hobbies and interests."



Sayuri Calley
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parent: Gilbert Leonico

Francis is a Medical Center Hospital junior volunteer and an Altar server at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

He achieved the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award and Most Texas Scholar Hours in 10th and 11th grades.

He enjoys aviation plane-spotting, Formula 1 & motor racing in general, exchanging postcards across the world (Postcrossing), and analogue film photography.

He plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin and work as a traffic engineer for a municipal or state company.

Francis's favorite teacher is Aries Dungca, his junior science teacher.

"Mr. Dungca not only was a teacher. He served as an inspiration for someone similar who came from far away to start a new way forward in the United States. Despite my tenure here is a lot longer than his, I feel that he also represents my aspirations, as much as I represent him, his family and where they came from."



Francis Neal Llanera Leonico

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Cecilia Núñez & Santos Gutiérrez and Judi Gutierrez & Jackie Lopez

Miranda is a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

She is in National Honor Society.

Her hobbies are working on fitness activities and working well with social media.

She is going to major in kinesiology and wants a career in physical therapy.

She will be attending the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Miranda's favorite teacher is Cecilia Núñez who was not only her 4th grade teacher but is her first teacher - her mom.

"She never treated me any different from her students but had showed me the true methods of how a child should be taught. Her challenges never affected the way she treated students or her peers. This is something I strongly value till this day as a student and as her daughter. She dedicated her life to helping others and to bettering herself continuously with also continuing her education, setting an example and inspiring others that learning is a challenge but a privilege."



Miranda Gutierrez
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Martina & Gabriel Mendoza

Hazel serves as a teacher assistant at Saint Mary's Catholic Church. She is in National Honor Society and is a Texas Scholar.

She holds a 4.0 GPA taking all honors classes.

She likes reading, working out, listening to music, dancing, and singing.

Her career plan is to become a criminal psychologist. She will attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Hazel's favorite teacher is her 10th grade English teacher Kelsey Martin.

"Not only did she help me with English, she helped me become who I am today. She is a person I know I can depend on. Whenever I needed to talk or vent, she was always there to listen. She has made a huge impact on who I am and made my high school years memorable. Even as an adult she will be someone I am forever grateful for."



Hazel Mendoza
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Magali & Edy Lopez

Carlos is a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness.

He enjoys going to the gym, going for runs, cooking, playing the guitar, and above all spending time with family and friends.

He plans to continue his education at the University of Texas Permian Basin to become a chemical engineer.

Carlos's favorite teacher is Jerimie Hernandez, the mariachi director at Odessa High School.

"He is great at getting his message across when one of his students is confused or needs further clarification and he's the type of person to always make sure you are in the right environment to grow not only artistically but in general."



Carlos Lopez
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Vanessa & Rodrigo Ortega

Briana is Student Council president, a member of the varsity soccer team, National Honor Society, and AVID.

She is ranked #12 in her graduating class, was selected 2nd Team All-District for soccer, Academic All-District for soccer, and carries an unweighted GPA of 3.7.

She loves soccer, having played since she was seven years old.

She will attend Texas Tech University to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Briana's favorite teacher is Karina Ligon who taught her in 2nd and 3rd grades at Cameron Dual Language Elementary.

"I chose Mrs. Ligon because she truly inspired me to take my education seriously. Education is often considered uninteresting in elementary school, yet I fell in love with excelling academically because of my beloved teacher. I would stay after school to enjoy time with Mrs. Ligon, which shows how much being around her changed my perspective on school. I learned to love education because of her. Because of Mrs. Ligon, I remain driven and motivated in becoming who I dream to become. Thank you, Mrs. Ligon."



Briana Ortega
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Emerald & John Christopher

Presley is a 3-year member of National Honor Society, secretary of Senior Board, a 4-year Texas Scholar, 4-year member of Panther Paws dance team, 4-year member of Symphony Guild, Crystal Ball Foundation Princess, a 12-year member of Tammie Locklars Main Attraction dance team, a member of Crossroads Youth group, and graduating with her white coat in biomedical science.

She is among the Top 4% of her graduating class, is on the Presidents List at Odessa College, and earned a Top 5 finish in Business Professionals of America.

Her hobbies include dancing, teaching dance, volunteering in the nursery at Crossroads Church, going to concerts, playing pickleball, spending time with my family, including Penny, and taking her dog, Gunni, on walks.

She wants to become a pediatric occupational therapist. She plans to attend the University of Texas.

Debbie Logsdon, who taught her between kindergarten and 6th grade at Reagan Elementary, is Presley's favorite teacher.

"She made me enjoy learning and want to do more of it. From a young age I was always excited to go to the learning corral. I never bored of learning from her and she taught me that learning and knowledge were a fun and exciting adventure from early on. Her and Mrs. G helped shaped me into the person I am today and without that encouragement I might not have kept on with my willingness to learn and push myself to do my best. Mrs. Logsdon was my favorite educator and one of my favorite adults to look up to. I hope that I can make her proud and accomplish all of my goals she helped me set.



Presley Christopher
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Parents: Megan Galindo and Austin Fullmer

Serenity is the PHS Band captain, PHS Senate president, captain of MOJO Speech & Debate, National Honor Society social secretary, and a participant in Academic Decathlon and Basin Theater Works.

She is ranked in the Top 10 of her graduating class, earned AP Scholar with distinction, is in the PHS Hall of Fame, and received Class of 2026 Best School Spirit award.

Among her interests are reading fantasy books, watching musicals, gift giving to friends, and coloring.

She's been accepted into the University of Texas, University of Iowa, and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She plans to major in public relations or communications.

Alec Watson, social studies teacher, is Serenity's favorite.

"Mr. Watson is someone I've known for the past two years, and in that short period of time he's become the teacher who has impacted me the most. He's taught me the "hardest" subject offered at Permian, AP Macroeconomics, and the "easiest" subject, AP Government; but I've really gotten to know him as the Speech and Debate coach. And one of my favorite memories I have with him is staying up way too late in the hotel lobby at nationals playing Betrayal, at House on the Hill as a team. Moments like that show how much he cares about us inside, and outside of the classroom. He goes above and beyond either by supporting us at tournaments, or always showing up to class dressed to impress in outfits even I'm envious of. A true role model. More than anything though, he's helped me become more confident in myself, especially when I have the tendency to tear myself down. Knowing that he believes in me has made a huge difference.



Serenity Galindo
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Carmen & Branner Marroquin

Branner is president of Theater Productions and co-captain of the Academic Decathlon team.

He earned numerous medals in decathlon including silver in Super Quiz at the district competition and golds for Literature and Team plus silver in science, and bronze in the individual overall at the regional competition.

He enjoys playing games.

He plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Branner's favorite teacher is OHS Theater Teacher Chyree LeMaster.

"She's very kind and passionate. She is someone I feel safe to be around. Also, the class environment she has built is wonderful and I feel like I can be myself anytime I'm in her class."



Branner Marroquin
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

**Parents: Sandra Lopez & Rafael
Tavarez and Hilda & Alan Valderaz**

Ricardo is French horn section leader, brass lieutenant, and captain for the Odessa High Band; vice president of National Honor Society; First Priority Club student leader, and was captain of the OHS JV baseball team.

He earned College Board AP Scholar with Honor, College Board National School Recognition award, Broncho Polo A Honor Roll for four years, and Texas Tech Presidential Merit Scholar.

His hobbies include playing video games, playing baseball, and practicing music. Over time, he has learned to play seven instruments quite well: French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, guitar, and piano teaching patience, adaptability, and dedication.

He plans to major in mechanical engineering with a minor in aerospace engineering, then a master's degree and a doctorate in engineering. His long-term goal is to contribute to aerospace research and development while pursuing his ultimate aspiration of becoming an astronaut.

In the short-term, his extracurricular goal is to become a member of the Going Band from Raiderland at Texas Tech University.

Ricardo's favorite teacher is OHS Band Director Sonia Campos.

"Ms. Campos has pushed me to become better than I ever believed I could be, both as a student and as a person. She is the first mentor I have met whose work ethic truly stands above the majority. She does not simply work to be great, she works to be the best, and that dedication is evident in everything she does. Her commitment, long hours, and constant effort have elevated our band program to an entirely new level, restoring recognition, and pride that had been absent for some time. Her influence will stay with me long after high school because of the example she sets every day through her passion, discipline, and heart."



Ricardo Valderaz
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Kristin Carter-Boen and Brian Carter

Kaydence is captain of the varsity dance team, vice president of Senior Board, a member of National Honor Society, Make a Wish Foundation, a Crystal Ball Princess, and a Symphony Belle.

She has received a Principal's Outstanding Student Award, art awards at district level competitions with various pieces including 2D artwork and photography, 2nd Place National's Soloist dance, 1st Place Regional Soloist dance, JetSetter Distinguished Award at Earth-shakers dance.

In addition to dance, she likes to run, go to the gym every day, learn to cook new things, and work at the vet clinic job taking care of the dogs and cats that reside under her care.

She is headed to the University of Texas to study communications and leadership as well as business. She adds she does not know entirely where she will go from there but knows God has a plan for her life and He will lead her down the career path that is best intended for her.

Kaydence's favorite teacher is Yvonne Asakawa, her teacher from kindergarten through 5th grade and UIL coach in 6th through 8th grade.

"She is someone I will never forget. She was always the one who believed in me and pushed me to be the best version of myself. She saw the creativity and potential in me and helped me grow into it. Because of her encouragement, I felt more confident in who I was and what I could do. She was more than just a teacher to me...I am truly blessed that God put such an incredible woman into my life who I will cherish and remember forever."



Kaydence Carter
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Fine Arts

Parents: Nikki and Scott Windham

Lily is a member of the Panther Paws dance team, the varsity choir, PHS Theatre, Basin Theatre Works, National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, Texas Thespians, ECISD student planning committee, and First Priority. She also serves as a grade level senator and as worship leader in her youth group.

She was an Odessa's Got Talent winner, an AP Scholar, PHS Hall of Fame inductee and Miss PHS.

Her interests include reading, playing with her dog Leo, hanging out with her sister, and sleeping!

She dreams of being an actor and is still deciding on her college plans.

Trinicia Watson, 4th grade teacher at Reagan Elementary, is Lily's favorite teacher.

"She was one of the first people who truly believed in me and helped me find confidence I didn't have before. I remember how nervous I was about the STAAR test that year, and she never let me feel alone in it. She spent extra time with me, encouraging me day after day until I started to believe in myself, too. What means even more is that her support didn't end when I left her classroom. She still shows up in my life, coming to my shows, football games, and other events, always reminding me that she believes in me. Mrs. Watson's constant encouragement has stayed with me, and I know it always will."



Lily Windham
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Elvia Salcido and Pedro Velazco

Samantha is a varsity cheerleader, a member of National Honor Society, an Altar Server, an Medical Center Hospital junior volunteer, and participates in the International Baccalaureate program.

In her free time, she likes reading, painting, traveling, and hanging out with friends.

She plans to attend the University of Texas and study to become an immigration lawyer.

Spanish teacher Jesús Antonio Muñiz is Samantha's favorite.

"I truly believe he has shaped my high school career for the better. He's the type of teacher that doesn't only worry about the student learning their subject but about making everyone feel like they're part of the class. Mr. Muñiz gets various students all with different personalities and upbringings yet he naturally has a way of connecting with everyone, of making you feel like what you have to say matters. My senior year will be my third year of having Mr. Muñiz as a teacher and I can confidently say that in those 3 years I have enjoyed his class the most."



Samantha Velazco
Odessa High School



Awards for Excellence

Foreign Language

Parents: Becky & Jorge Hinojos

Gavin is secretary of Spanish Honor Society, a member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, and participant in Caballeros Hispánicos. He has earned AP Scholar with Distinction honors.

His hobbies include going out with friends, going to the gym, and eating.

He is undecided on a college, and has aspirations to be a mechanical and electrical engineer.

Ramon Rivera, who taught him Spanish in 9th, 10th and 11th grades is Gavin's favorite teacher.

"He helped me embrace and better learn about my culture."



Gavin Hinojos
Permian High School



Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Javier Hernandez Marroquin
& Laura Garcia Smit

Javier is president of National Honor Society, co-captain of the Academic Decathlon team, a volunteer at Meals on Wheels of Odessa, and section leader and featured soloist for the Permian Band.

He is a Texas Music Educators Association All-State Musician for 2026, an AP Scholar with Distinction, earned National Hispanic Recognition from College Board, received a National Science and Math Initiative STEM Star Award, and is a two-time Academic Decathlon State Qualifier.

He enjoys playing the flute and oboe, watching basketball and soccer, hanging out with friends, and swimming.

He has been accepted to the University of Texas, Rice University, Yale University, and Princeton. His goal is a mechanical engineering degree and a master's degree in mechatronics.

Javier's favorite teacher is his junior and senior math teacher Jennifer Nuñez.

"She is very funny, smart, and caring. In her class, I feel comfortable asking her questions about anything, whether it's about math or general life advice. I believe Ms. Nuñez has a tremendous impact on all of her students because she genuinely believes in us. She has always had faith that I will succeed, even when I couldn't find any faith for myself."



Javier Hernandez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Yudith & Hector Cuin

Henley is a member of Jehovah's Witness and he works at Sam's Club.

He has achieved the Odessa College President's Honor Roll, a Top 10 ranking in his graduating class, Super Wrangler, and this Award for Excellence in Math.

In his free time, he likes going to the gym, going on runs, and hanging out with friends.

He plans to attend Odessa College to complete a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Automation. With that, he would like to transfer to a four-year university to major in electrical engineering.

Henley's favorite teacher is Donald Coe, PE coach from his freshman and sophomore years.

"I consider him to be a teacher that shows genuine interest in the well-being of each and every one of his students, which explains why he became known as the dad of OCTECHS. He would always start his classes off with a brief experience or lesson that he wanted us to hear about. After that, he would give us the liberty to choose what activity we wanted to do during his PE class. Overall, Donald Coe is a very understanding and considerate teacher who will make sure that his students are doing well. On top of that, he also makes sure that his students are enjoying their time in his PE class."



Henley Cuin
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Mehrnoush & Dillan Weems

Nikola is the SAT Club president, the Math Club vice president, ranked in the Top 10 in his graduating class, Top 10% Nationwide SAT scores, a 4-year AVID student, and a National Honor Society member.

His hobbies are playing games, listening to music, and learning.

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

Nikola's favorite teacher is Joshua Payan who taught math in 10th and 11th grades.

"I chose Mr. Payan as my favorite teacher not only because his class was always fun and the way he taught equally so, but also because he helped me find my love for teaching, and find the career I'd truly be happy in. He was also there for me whenever."



Nikola Weems
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Jayanthi Sivakumar and Sivakumar Subramani

Shijay is a Research Intern with the National Science Foundation at the University of Texas Permian Basin, reporter for the Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer Program, a 2-year band captain, and he started his own pro bono tutoring service for the spelling bee.

He placed 3rd at state in UIL Spelling & Vocabulary, he is a 3-time All-Region Band and 2-time All-Area Band selection.

In his free time, he reads, watches and plays basketball, and learns to code.

After college, he hopes to become a cardiologist. He is undecided among Columbia University, the University of Texas, and Texas Tech University.

Shijay's favorite teacher is math teacher Krista Vivian.

"Mrs. Vivian has been my biggest catalyst towards achieving new abilities in mathematics and logical reasoning. In the classroom, I've been inspired to critically think about not only what the solution is, but inquire about the 'why' behind every problem because of Mrs. Vivian's teaching style emphasizing thorough understanding and knowledge. Furthermore, Mrs. Vivian has been a truly invaluable mentor serving as the IB coordinator."



Shijay Sivakumar
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Leanna & Caleb Greer

Angela is in the marching band and has served as section leader, quartermaster/uniform crew captain, librarian, and on the pride crew. She is also a member of the symphonic band, Academic Decathlon team captain, and theater cast and crew.

She earned a National Math and Science Initiative award, AP Scholar with Distinction, College Board Academic Excellence and First Generation awards, and is ranked in the Top 10 of her graduating class.

Her hobbies include playing musical instruments, researching marine biology, working on cars, reading, hunting, and fishing.

She's chosen Texas A&M at Galveston to pursue a doctorate in marine biology and devote her career to research and conservation efforts for our oceans, specializing in research on sharks.

Angela's favorite teacher is Johnna Rosson, her Gifted/Talented teacher from 2nd through 5th grades at Buice Elementary.

"Mrs. Rosson fostered my love for education from a young age, and always encouraged me to work hard and grow to my full potential. Throughout my elementary years, she showed me that education could be fun while still challenging, really driving me towards success later in my schooling rather than losing my passion for learning. While it may have just been GT classes, I don't think I would be where I'm at without such an amazing teacher to encourage my growth from a young age."



Angela Greer
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Math

Parents: Delfina & Ismael Hernandez

Eliana is in National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, and is on the Academic Decathlon team.

Her honors include the Leadership award, Wonderful Wordsmith award, and Crystal award.

Her hobbies include reading, writing, painting and drawing. She enjoys expressing her creativity in different ways, whether through art, stories, or sketches.

Her goals are to major in biology on her way to a degree in osteopathic medicine to become an OB-GYN.

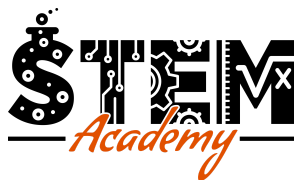
She has been accepted to Hawaii Pacific University, Texas A&M-Kingsville, and plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Eliana's favorite teacher is Dr. Guoxiang Wang, her teacher in 9th and 10th grades.

"I selected Mr. Wang as my favorite teacher because he has helped me understand math better to the point that I would not have trouble doing college algebra and pre-calculus."



Eliana Hernandez
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Rajaprakash Ramanathan and Visalakshi Sethuraman

Shruthi is Student Council secretary, a member of Teen Leadership Council and National Honor Society.

She is ranked #3 in her graduating class, is an AP Scholar, received a National Science and Math Initiative STEM Star Award for AP Physics, earned College Board National Recognition, and a Young Authors of America Certification of Merit.

Her interests include reading (which she LOVES), she collects cool rocks and HOARDS (her emphasis) keychains. She loves talking and writing and has a passion for volunteering and serving her time for others.

She plans to pursue biomedical engineering then go on to medical school. She also wants to dedicate her life to service and continue to volunteer for different causes.

She has chosen the University of Texas at Dallas.

Shruthi's favorite teacher is Maria Lopez who taught her physics.

"Day in and day out she comes to school with a smile and a mindset to get her students successfully through AP Physics. She nurtures learning in her classroom; learning physics and about ourselves. She made sure to create a safe space for every student to ask the dumb questions and make the dumb mistakes. At the end of the day, Ms. Lopez is an OUTSTANDING teacher and I could talk about her for hours. Granted we don't have the time; I'd like to say: THANK YOU MS. LOPEZ for helping me through my junior year of high school."



Shruthi Rajaprakash
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Diana Martinez and Rafael Benavides

Diana attends St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

In her free time, she likes to look at places she would like to travel to one day.

She wants to be a firefighter and study law.

She says she will continue at Odessa College as they have made her feel welcomed.

Diana's favorite teacher is Jelene Ballard, from her freshman year.

"She reminded me how much I loved learning again. She made me feel like I could do anything I set my mind to. She never made me feel like I couldn't do anything. She also pushed me to try my best even when I didn't want to. I look up to her because no matter what she is always trying her hardest and in a good mood. She is very dedicated to her job and anything she sets her mind to. One day I hope to be a little like her and not just give up on things I find hard."



Diana Benavides
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Sophie & Clemens Pangan

Siena is currently the secretary of National Honor Society, senior representative for student council, and a volunteer at Medical Center Hospital.

She has been on the A Honor Roll all four years of high school, received College Board School Recognition, and she is the salutatorian of her graduating class.

Reading, watching shows, and hanging out with friends are some of her hobbies.

Her career goal is to become a physician assistant and pursue a specialty in orthopedic surgery and psychiatry.

She plans to attend the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Siena's favorite teacher is Rowena Dolino, her high school physics teacher.

"When taking her class I struggled a lot to learn the material, but when she taught, she explained it with such passion and enthusiasm that I pushed myself to be better and excel. In her class I learned how to improve my work ethic, to which I still implement in my current classes. Mrs. Dolino has shown me what it means to be dedicated in what you do and that no matter how difficult the task, I can complete it with perseverance."



Siena Pangan
Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence Science

Parents: Gopal & Madhavi Gangireddy

Chaturya is in the International Baccalaureate program, president of National Honor Society, a four-year member of symphony orchestra, marching band, and Honors band, and is flute section leader. She has also served as a hospital volunteer the past three summers.

She is ranked #3 in her graduating class, earned national recognition for outstanding academic achievement, and compiled Most Texas Scholar Hours as a sophomore and a junior.

In her free time, she likes photography, baking, volunteering, playing and listening to music, and hiking.

She plans to pursue a degree in biology and then attend medical school with the goal of becoming an OB-GYN, combining her passion for science and helping others to make a meaningful impact in healthcare.

She will attend the University of Texas.

Chaturya chose Samuel Mota, her 11th grade science teacher.

"He consistently found ways to help us truly understand the material while still making the classroom an enjoyable place to be. No matter what we were working on, he made it engaging. We had a really similar sense of humor, which made his class even more fun and made it easier for me to stay involved. Beyond just teaching, he also gave really helpful advice about IB, whether it was about managing the workload, staying organized, or not getting too overwhelmed. Overall, he created a positive and supportive environment where I felt both challenged and encouraged, which is why his class was one I always looked forward to."



Chaturya Gangireddy
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Science

Parents: Erandi Herrera and Jael Herrera

Yaelin is in National Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, is the founding president of the Technology Student Association chapter in PHS, a book club member, and part of UIL Academics for Literary Criticism, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Number Sense.

She is ranked #13 in her graduating class, is an AP Scholar, and earned College Board Recognition.

She likes listening to music, reading, and dancing.

Her goal is to study aerospace engineering at either MIT or Texas Tech University.

Yaelin's favorite teacher is Emily Hinds her junior English teacher.

"She helped me learn to love English and reading again, instead of it feeling like a class I needed to do for my grade. In and out of class she is easygoing and uplifting which made me look forward to being in her class, and now as a senior I await our next book club meetings."



Yaelin Herrera
Permian High School



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Parent: Morgan Caldwell

Julia is a member of National Honor Society, an active church member, and is employed locally. She earned this Award for Excellence in Science.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and drawing.

For college she plans on finishing her bachelor's degree in a pre-med program and attend medical school.

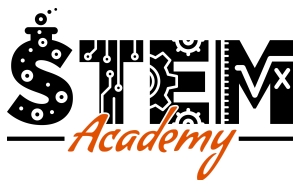
She has chosen West Texas A&M University.

Social studies teacher Nicole Olivas is Julia's favorite.

"I have selected Mrs. Olivas as my favorite teacher because she is always very kind and caring. She has a lot of passion for what she does which inspires me to bring my passion into my work."



Julia Caldwell
STEM Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Donna Karen Calunod and Rhenalee Fernandez Pinero

Denize was Permian High School orchestra senate morale officer, a member of Satin Strings, a Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer, and a New Tech Odessa Junior/Senior Board member.

She is the salutatorian of her graduating class, a National Math and Science Initiative awardee for AP Language and Composition, an AP Scholar, and earned College Board National Recognition.

Her interests are reading, collecting little figurines called Sonny Angels, playing in the Permian High School orchestra as a violist, arts and crafts, and she has dabbled in crocheting, painting, cross-stitching, and more.

Her dream is to be a registered nurse, gain experience in a critical care setting and become a Doctor of Nursing Practice or Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice with an ultimate goal to be a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She wants to have fun, live life, and travel the world before settling down and possibly building a family.

She plans to start her college work at Midland College.

Denize's favorite teacher is retired PHS orchestra director Todd Berridge.

"He would always encourage me to be better and was always there for me no matter what. He is extremely compassionate, loving, and passionate about music. He has made me appreciate the art of music and would never let me give up on this passion. Sometimes I would see Mr. Berridge more than my own mom, and I saw him as a fatherly figure. I love Toddy B!"



Denize Dawn Majella Querikio

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parent: Ranielle Ramirez

Maudicel is the founder & president of AIUSA Human Rights Club, she is in National Honor Society, Student Council, Odessa College Phi Theta Kappa Society, Texas Scholars, and Odessa College Student Government Association.

She is on the Odessa College Dean's Honor Roll for four years, and Amnesty International USA Student Group Runner-Up of the Year.

She enjoys reading and writing, volunteering, and learning about different cultures.

Her plans are to become a lawyer to help people and advocate for those who are not heard; support individuals from diverse backgrounds and address injustice; her goal is to make a positive impact in my community.

She is headed to the University of Texas for college.

Mark Perales, her social studies teacher in 11th and 12th grades, is her favorite teacher.

"Mr. Perales genuinely cares about his students and goes beyond teaching to support and motivate us, creating a positive environment where I feel encouraged to grow and succeed. Their dedication and impact on pushing me forward made them stand out to me."



Maudicel Chavez
OCTECHS



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Meseret Yayeh and Tesfaye Degefa

Betanya is President of National Honor Society, an Academic Decathlon competitor, a junior volunteer with Medical Center Hospital, and a member of her youth choir.

She earned National African American Scholar and National School Recognition Scholar honors from the College Board, she is the valedictorian of her senior class, a two-time Academic Decathlon Speech gold medalist at the state competition, an Odessa Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership graduate, and a recipient of the MCH Junior Volunteer Choice Award.

She likes photography, reading mystery books, and listening to music. She intends to major in biochemistry, go to medical school for family medicine or immunology, and ultimately, serve her community.

She is choosing from a number of college acceptances: Rice University, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas Christian University, the University of North Texas at Denton, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Betanya's favorite teacher is 9th grade geography teacher and decathlon coach Mikal Crowder.

"Mr. Crowder has always been a source of support and guidance for his students. His encouragement enabled me to start training for Academic Decathlon and eventually continue as a competitor through my senior year. Both inside and outside of the classroom, he always makes time to listen and offers meaningful advice. Mr. Crowder genuinely cares for his students both academically and personally. His influence and mentorship have been incredibly impactful throughout my high school career."



Betanya Hailu

Odessa Collegiate Academy



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Rebecca & Joe Juarez

Savion was a member of the Odessa High School Robotics Club.

Some of his interests are reading comics, playing guitar, playing video games, and sleeping.

He is looking at mechanical and/or electrical engineering as a field of study and says he is likely to attend Texas Tech University.

Savion's favorite teacher is engineering teacher Sonny Alaniz.

"I've spent a lot of time with him, probably more than all my teachers. He's presented me with many opportunities and has been a source of inspiration for me, although I'm still unsure of myself. A mentor as much as he is a friend."



Savion Juarez
Odessa High School



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Kristen & Dustin Rose

Charlette is a member of National Honor Society and active in the youth and drama groups at Sherwood Baptist. She was on Permian's JV White volleyball and JV softball teams and was a member of the freshman, philharmonic, and symphony orchestras.

She received a National Math and Science Initiative STEM Star Award in Precalculus, College Board AP Classroom Scholar with Distinction award, and this Award for Excellence in Social Studies. She is ranked #7 in her graduating class and was nominated into the PHS Hall of Fame.

Her hobbies are spending time with family and friends, learning about humans, animals, history, and traveling to explore different places all over the world. She also enjoys doing makeup, playing video games, listening to music, drawing, and watching movies.

Her college plans are to attend Texas A&M University for a degree in biomedical sciences with the intention to go on to medical school and become either an OB-GYN or an orthopedic surgeon.

Charlette's favorite teacher is junior year U. S. History Teacher, Everado Bello.

"He can always see the goodness and potential in all of his students and he tries his hardest to support their academic journeys as well as their personal goals. He taught me that being informed of the past is how you can create a better future not just for yourself but everyone around you. He is an amazing educator who tries to make learning possible for all of his students and inspires them to learn and believe in themselves. Even though he may be lacking in hair, he makes up for it by being an amazing teacher."



Charlette Rose
Permian High School



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Awards for Excellence

Social Studies

Parents: Stephanie & Brandon White

Brennyn served as an Election Clerk in 2025.

He has won an American Legacy Award, Literary Curiosity Award, Mobile App Master, and Dean's List for A Honor Roll recognition.

He enjoys researching the history of games and learning how well they did with limited budgets/funding.

He plans to have a career in game development, creating a game that people enjoy.

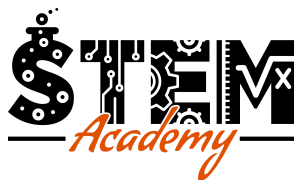
He is going to attend the University of Texas at Dallas.

Brennyn chose Nicole Olivas, his history teacher in 11th grade, as his favorite.

"Mrs. Olivas made history fun and engaging to learn. Because of her, I was able not only to remember historical events, but also to truly understand them and see how they continue to impact us today."



Brennyn White
STEM Academy



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