

Your Link To The News Within SAISD

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SAISD early college high school slated for St. Philip's

District teens soon will have even more opportunities to get a head start on college and careers.

The Texas Education Agency recently approved SAISD's application for a second early college high school in partnership with Alamo Colleges.

This one, in collaboration with St. Philip's College, is proposed for the 2014-15 school year. It would join SAISD's Travis ECHS, which has operated in partnership with San Antonio College since the fall

"What a great moment in time for the San Antonio Independent School District," Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez said.

"The new early college high school at St. Philip's is further proof of our dedication to offer choice to the students of SAISD."

Like Travis, this school will provide students the option of working on an associate degree or up to

60 hours of college credit toward a bachelor's while earning their high school diploma at the same time, and at no cost to them or their parents.

Students at the St. Philip's campus also will be able to pursue degrees in associate of arts, associate



Starting this fall St. Philip's College is set to serve SAISD students as an early college high school.

of science or associate of applied science, as well as certifications in the high-demand career fields of information technology or automotive technology.

While Travis students attend classes at both that campus and at nearby SAC, those at the new early college high school will be at St. Philip's full time.

The next step is to finalize a memorandum of understanding with Alamo Colleges.

The recruiting of 8th-graders to comprise the school's first freshman class of approximately 100 students will begin this spring. A class subsequently will be added each year through the 12th grade.

All students who live within SAISD boundaries will be eligible to apply to the new early college high school.



District land lease helps to pave way for UIW med school



The University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine on SAISD property is another step closer to reality. District Trustees during the Jan. 21 School Board meeting approved a definitive agreement

to lease unused Fox Tech HS athletic fields to UIW.

The 25-year lease starts Jan. 1, 2015, with an option to extend for an additional 25 years.

The agreement requires UIW to pay the District \$1.5 million within two years of the lease commencement to enhance and expand all SAISD health careers programs.

Last fall, Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez

signed a non-binding letter of intent between SAISD and UIW that outlined the main parameters of the agreement for the proposed med school on the grounds of Fox Tech, which hosts a Health Professions Magnet program.

Both the county and city unanimously have granted funding to UIW for the proposal to be used for economic development, job creation and incentives and infrastructure improvements.

The project now depends upon UIW raising an estimated \$50 million from the private sector.

An educational partnership agreement would support the District's health careers programs, including those at Fox Tech, Edison HS and

Among the benefits beyond the \$1.5 million funding would be tutoring, mentorships, summer camps and other instructional and enrichment programs. Additionally, a \$100,000 annual endowment would provide financial aid for SAISD graduates admitted to a graduate degree program at a UIW health-related professional school.

There also would be Districtwide benefits such as \$3,000 per-year grants for SAISD graduating seniors meeting the university's admissions requirements and who elect to enroll full time in any UIW undergraduate degree program and \$50,000 annually in scholarship support for SAISD employees pursuing UIW graduate degrees.

Second SAISD educator named NSTA Fellow

Students of Lanier HS biology teacher Janice Ison-Weikel have particular cause for celebration this New Year. As beneficiaries of her selection as a New Science Teacher Academy Fellow, they can count on lessons even more relevant and engaging.

Ison-Weikel is one of 200 U.S. educators and among only 49 in Texas selected from more than a thousand nationwide for this program.

"I hope to improve my knowledge in order to make myself a better teacher for my students," the second-year educator - all of which at Lanier - said of why she applied for the fellowship.

"Every extra bit of knowledge I gain gives me the tools I need to help make science interesting and fun for my students. It also gives me more ways to relate science to my students' everyday lives."

Through NSTA, she and the others are participating in a yearlong professional development program designed to promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence and improve content knowledge.

"I want to be able to help my students become comfortable with and enjoy science," Ison-Weikel said.

"Many students do not comprehend that science is all around us and by learning about science they are increasing their knowledge of their world as well as themselves."

Fellows have a comprehensive NSTA membership package, online mentoring with trained professionals who teach in the same discipline and the opportunity to participate in Web-based PD activities and seminars.

Additionally, each will receive financial support to attend the NSTA 2014 National Conference on Science Education to be held in Boston.

Sponsors include the Dow Chemical Co., the American Honda Foundation, the Bayer USA Foundation and Lockheed Martin.

Ison-Weikel is the second consecutive educator selected for this prestigious program. Last year's SAISD Fellow was M.L. King Academy teacher Brandi Schonberg.



In this experiment, teacher Janice Ison-Weikel oversees student Jaclyn Garza holding chopsticks to replicate a bird's beak picking up food while Julian Treviño calculates how much food the bird could eat in 10 seconds. A spoon, clothes pin and scissors also were used to represent different types of bird beaks as part of a study on which beak was better adapted for survival. Observing is their classmate Julie Lopez. This is among Ison-Weikel's lessons designed to make science more interesting and fun for her students.

SAISD campus Teachers of the Year announced

District educators have spoken and the results are in. Now that Teachers of the Year for all SAISD schools have been selected, let the celebrations begin!

A Districtwide reception for them is being scheduled for Feb. 19 at the Convocation Center, and schools also are encouraged to recognize their Teacher of the Year publicly.

"This is an exciting and worthy initiative. Our teachers deserve this type of special recognition and so much more," said Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Toni Thompson.

"Principals share our enthusiasm as they experience first hand the special gifts that our teachers possess and bestow upon our students. Teachers particularly appreciate the recognition from their peers."

Each school's Teacher of the Year was selected by a vote of his or her peers earlier this month.

Additionally, all had the opportunity to submit a written application for SAISD Teacher of the Year, and interviews are being held this week.

From this pool of outstanding candidates, honorees will be selected for three levels: elementary, middle and high school.

These three SAISD Teachers of the Year will be considered in the selection of District nominees for a variety of other honors, such as the ExCEL Award, Trinity (University) Prize for Excellence in Teaching, H-E-B's Excellence in Education Award, etc.

"While we are launching the recognition program for teachers first, we plan to expand the program to other role groups on campuses and throughout the District as we acknowledge the value that all employees add to the organization," Thompson said.

For more information email Thompson at:

Tthompson@saisd.net or Human Resources Coordinator Liz Rojas at: **erojas@saisd.net**.

Following are each school's Teacher of the Year and their subject or grade level.

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Brackenridge: Cecil Lara, C & T marketing
- Burbank: Araceli Waddle, reading
- Edison: Michelle LaFountain, history
- Fox Tech: Jennifer Lankes, biology
- Highlands: Rosalind Witcher, biology
- Sam Houston: Patricia Trout, Spanish
- \bullet Jefferson: David Garcia, T & I construction

- Lanier: David Herron, math
- Navarro: Pamela Stone, English
- Travis Early College: Dawn Palmquist, chemistry
- YWLA: Adrean Springer, social studies

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Connell: Charles Fears, English
- Davis: Jennifer Herrera, science
- Harris: Deborah Tinsley-Pledger, science
- Irving: Josephine Cavazos, social studies
- Longfellow: Jacqueline Check, math
- Lowell: Eusebio Gonzalez, math
- Page: Frances Jenkins, ESL
- Poe: Ana Macias, Read 180
- Rhodes: Rickie Meredith, ELA
- Rogers: Rodney Hinton, social studies
- Tafolla: Annie Perez, ELA
- Twain: Joy Tuxhorn, science
- Wheatley: Margarita Sifuentes, math
- Whittier: Jennifer Soto, math

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Arnold: Catalina Vasquez, kinder
- Ball: Barbara Nine, choral music
- Barkley-Ruiz: Muriel Manchester, 4th grade
- Baskin: Melissa Bustamante, pre-kinder
- Beacon Hill: Celia Herrera, 5th grade bilingual
- Bowden: Theresa Mayfield, kinder bilingual
- J.T. Brackenridge: Lauren Saucedo, 5th grade
- Brewer: Nancy Smith, PE
- Briscoe: Cari Richter, 5th grade
- Cameron: Natasha Dennis, 2nd grade
- Collins Garden: Grace Anders, 3rd grade
- Cotton: Siomara Palacios, kinder bilingual
- Crockett: Jennifer Coronado, 4th grade bilingual
- De Zavala: Laura Rojas, 5th grade
- Douglass: Leslie Jade Romero, 1st grade
- Fenwick: Zulema Arroyo, 4th grade
- Forbes: Deborah Montes, pre-kinder
- \bullet Foster: Romy Lewis, SP ED-GEC
- Franklin: Sandra Zamarripa, 1st grade bilingual
- Gates: Cleda Johnson, 3rd grade
- Graebner: Andra Fore, SP ED-GEC
- Green: Sophia Gonzalez, 5th grade
- Herff: Alma Moreno, 4th grade bilingual
- Highland Hills: Anita Gonzalez, 3rd grade
- Highland Park: Patricia Arriaga, 2nd grade

- Hillcrest: Kristi Nikolas, 2nd grade
- Hirsch: Danielle Eisele Elizondo, 2nd grade
- Huppertz: Carol Thompson, 2nd grade
- Japhet: Maria Yebra, 5th grade bilingual
- Kelly: Kathy Hassenger, PE
- Sarah King: Melissa Chagoya, 4th grade
- Lamar: Adrianna Ernst, 4th grade
- Madison: Anna Garcia, kinder
- Margil: Reed Hoke, choral music
- Maverick: Paul Perea, choral music
- Miller: Diana Samaniego, 2nd grade bilingual
- Neal: Virgina Urbina, 2nd grade bilingual
- Nelson: Michelle Guzman, 5th grade
- Ogden: Jahaida Cruz Wahnon, 2nd grade
- Pershing: Nicole Smith, 5th grade
- Riverside Park: Gamaliel Rodriguez, 3rd grade
- Rodriguez: Robin Pullian, 5th grade
- Rogers: Aurora Vasquez, 5th grade bilingual
- Schenck: Lisa Morales, 5th grade bilingual
- Smith: Hermelinda Treviño, pre-kinder bilingual
- Steele: Deborah Botello, 1st grade
- Stewart: Victoria Carr, 3rd grade
- Storm: Yvonne Vela, 4th grade
- Washington: JoAnn Castro, SP ED-GEC
- W. W. White: Megan Blackledge, kinder
- Wilson: Laura Villanueva, 4th grade bilingual
- Woodlawn: Amy Bednarz, 5th grade
- Woodlawn Hills: Connie Flores, 2nd grade

ACADEMIES

- Austin: Rose Calderon, 1st grade
- Bonham: Shelia Vardiman, 5th grade
- Hawthorne: Debra Mentzer, 8th grade GT
- M.L. King: Jacquelyn Ali, 8th grade
- Mission: Manuel Peña, 4th grade

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS

- Carroll: Chaka Burroughs, Head Start
- Carvajal: Denise Marquez, PPCD
- Knox: Maggie Rath, Head Start
- Tynan: Margaret Osburn, Head Start

SPECIAL CAMPUSES

- Cooper Academy: Anne Shipman, science
- Estrada AC: Agnes Gonzalez, math
- Pickett Academy: Cynthia Lopez, science
- Satellite campuses: Angelita Martinez, PE

Talented Fox Tech musicians among the tops in Texas

An award-winning mariachi troupe and an accomplished trumpeter will represent SAISD in key musical venues next month.

All hail from Fox Tech HS.

Appearing first in the state's spotlight will be the varsity *Bonito Tech-Alitlan*, which will compete Feb. 8 at the Mexican American School Board Members Association state finals



Justifiably proud of his mariachi troupes is director David Zamarrippa (top row, center). In red is the varsity *Bonito Tech-Alitlan*, while the junior varsity *Az-Tech* is dressed in black. Both earned first division ratings at the recent MASBA competition. Varsity will advance to state.

compete Feb. 8 at the Mexican American School Board Members Association state finals contest to be held here in San Antonio.

They qualified based upon their first division performances at the Jan. 18 area competition.
Taking the stage on Feb. 15 for the Texas Music Educators Association Convention - also

here - as a member

of the 4A All-State

Symphonic Band will

be senior Araceli Martinez.

She was selected for this honor through a competitive process that included several levels of auditions. Being chosen to perform at TMEA is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive.



Principal Annette Castillo and band director Bob Navarro congratulate trumpeter Araceli Martinez on her selection to TMEA.



in the Spotlight



VIP company

Not only has
JoAnn Castro
one of the best
seats in the house
but unbeatable
companions as well.
The Washington ES
Teacher of the
Year scored sitting
in Spurs legend
George Gervin's

personal section at the AT&T Center where she saw the team play the Oklahoma City Thunder on Jan. 22. Joining her and the Iceman was Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez. She earned this place of honor by virtue of her name being chosen in a drawing of all SAISD campus Teachers of the Year. The treat was courtesy of attorney Doug Poneck. After winning it at the INSPIRE Awards auction, he donated it back to sponsor the SAISD Foundation for a teacher to enjoy.

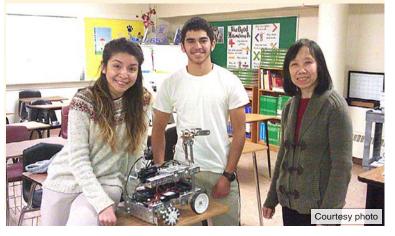


Something to cheer about

Celebrating their successes at the National Cheerleaders
Association Championship in Dallas are members of the Jefferson
HS varsity squad. They placed first and seventh in the nation,
respectively, in the categories of "Game Time Fight Song" and
"Timeout Cheer." Accompanying them were school mascot Mr.
Mustang and the Student Senators who presented the school's
J-E-F-F flags. Cheerleader director (not shown) is Nicole Bemis.

Building a better robot

Edison HS math teacher Susan Ng and her students Angelica Benites and Oscar Guevara show off their robot, which will compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics championship Feb 7-8 at Rackspace Hosting. Edison's was among 60 area teams selected to advance based upon top scores at qualifying rounds. Contest sponsor is Alamo-FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics) Region.



Courtesy photo

Show of appreciation

Saying thanks to Trustees and others for their support at a breakfast were Young Women's Leadership Academy students and their principal (seated center) Delia McLerran. Those in attendance (I to r) included breakfast sponsor Texas District 116 Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, YWLA Advisory Board members Jimmie Ruth Evans, Suzanne Wade and Diana Treviño, the state representative's chief of staff Martin Galindo, District 3 Trustee Debra Guerrero, YWLA Advisory Board member Mary Beth Williamson, Board Vice President Olga M. Hernandez, Board President Ed Garza, Board Secretary Arthur V. Valdez, YWLA vice principal Jennifer Salazar, District 3 State Board of Education member Marisa Perez, District 5 Trustee Patti Radle and parent Ted Guerra.

Back to state

For the 13th time in 15 years, Brackenridge HS Distributive Education Clubs of America members qualify for the next level of competition based upon their success at the Jan. 23 District 2 regional contest. There, 10 were winners in a variety of categories. Next stop is the state contest and conference to be held Feb. 20-23 in Dallas. Their advisers

(bottom right, I to r) are Cecil Lara, LeAnn Dinsdale, Guadalupe Vasquez, Selma Marrufo and Jesus Omar Gallegos.





SAISD

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