

May 28, 2010

## SAISD expecting record-high TAKS scores for 2010

Preliminary test results are in, and the results are cause for major celebration.

Based upon the recently-available Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills academic indicators, we see significant gains in science, measurable improvement in math, *exemplary* performance in social studies and continued *recognized* performance in reading and writing!

Overall, SAISD is *recognized* or *exemplary* in 24 out of the 25 academic measures evaluated.

The preliminary results also indicate that 43 campuses earned either *exemplary* or *recognized* ratings – and no campuses were named unacceptable under academic indicators.

“As we continue to pursue every opportunity

to improve academic performance across the District, it’s gratifying to know that we are making solid progress, and our efforts will continue,” said Superintendent Robert J. Durón.

These preliminary results do not incorporate the impact of the second administration of 5th- and 8th-grade reading and math (that addition could only result in more improvement). The results also do not include SAISD’s dropout and completion data. Final results will be available in late July.

The news is not only encouraging, but timely as well. The District’s academic plan includes the goal of all campuses being ranked *exemplary* or *recognized* by spring 2011.

### Preliminary highlights\*

- 11 campuses rated *exemplary*
- 32 campuses rated *recognized* (up from 29 in 2009).
- Of our eight traditional high schools: four rated *recognized* and four rated academically acceptable.

\* Scores are on academic indicators only.



## American Society for Industrial Security honors officer

Charlie Whitlock, who along with his canine co-worker SADE has made it his mission to keep the District’s schools safe and drug free, has been recognized for his efforts.

The nine-year SAISD police officer was honored by the American Society for Industrial Security at the organization’s 20th-Annual Law Enforcement Awards ceremony.

“It has always been my personal goal to make this K-9 team the best possible,” Whitlock said.

“This is more than a job for me, it’s an investment in the future of our community.”

Whitlock and the department’s first-ever

narcotics-sniffing dog have been a team since 2005, and conduct random searches at middle and high schools, and at other locations as needed.

“Officer Whitlock is a good example of the many fine police officers dedicated to protecting our children,” said SAISD Police Chief Jeff Ward.



Courtesy photo



Officer Charlie Whitlock poses with the award, and with his partner SADE and 3rd-grader Alexandria Medelez during a presentation at Huppertz ES. The black Labrador retriever’s moniker is an acronym for San Antonio Drug Enforcement, and was selected by students.

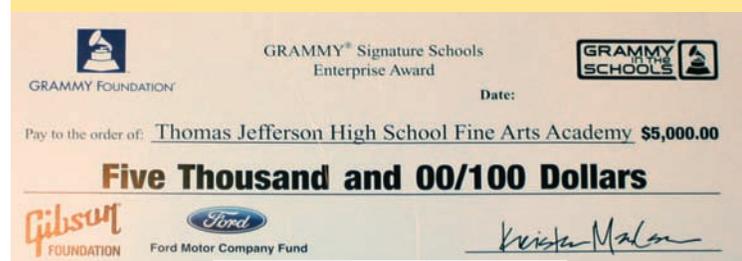


## And the GRAMMY goes to ....

Jefferson HS! The home of SAISD’s Fine Arts Magnet Academy garnered \$5,000 for the music program as one of a select few recipients nationwide of a GRAMMY Signature Schools Enterprise Award. The honor recognizes public schools for making an outstanding commitment to music education. Gathered for pre-award festivities are: (l to r) Ed Garza, District 7 trustee; David Sears, GRAMMY Foundation executive director; Jean-Filipe Rominger, orchestra director; A. Joanne Cockrell, principal; Gilbert Velasquez, Jefferson alum and Grammy award winner; and Ronnie Sanders, choir director. Sending her congratulations is another proud alum, Texas Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, who states: “A Grammy represents the pinnacle of musical success for a recording artist just as being chosen as a GRAMMY Signature School represents the pinnacle of success for a high school music department. The students, faculty, and staff at the Fine Arts Academy can now say they have joined the ranks of George Strait, Herbie Hancock, and Beyoncé.”



Accepting the GRAMMY on behalf of their school are Jefferson students Quinton Sanders and Selina Serna.



# Recognizing our District's 'Rising Stars' in the classroom



A quartet of new teachers is so outstanding they already are earning accolades in just their first year as educators.

They are SAISD's 2010 assembly of Rising Stars, and

were among 48 nominees Districtwide honored during a May 27 ceremony at Jefferson HS.

Now in its second year, Rising Stars was instituted by Superintendent Robert J. Durón to recognize exceptional new teachers for their dedication, initiative, and positive influence in SAISD schools and on students.

They (shown l to r) and their subjects and/or levels taught and schools are:

Margie Danial - Head Start, J.T. Brackenridge ES; Leslie Trejo - 1st-grade bilingual, Stewart ES; Nelda Peña - special education, Harris Academy; and Jordon Gallow - high school science/special education, the Seidal Learning Center.

The recipients were chosen by the superintendent following a nomination process that began with their principals.

Criteria was based upon ability to demonstrate an exceptional understanding and implementation of best instructional practices,

classroom management techniques, and professional collaboration. Nominees next were rated by a committee of principals and other SAISD professionals.

Each Rising Star received a trophy and a \$250 voucher from Learning Zone to purchase school supplies.



# Class of 2010 prepares for sounds of 'Pomp and Circumstance'



SAISD seniors soon will be donning caps and gowns in anticipation of crossing the commencement stage as high school graduates in the following ceremonies.

**June 5 - Edison HS**  
Alamodome • 9:30 a.m.

**June 5 - Fox Tech HS**  
Alamodome • 1 p.m.

**June 5 - Highlands HS**  
Alamodome • 4 p.m.

**June 5 - Lanier HS**  
Alamodome • 7:30 p.m.

**June 6 - Brackenridge HS**  
Alamodome • 9:30 a.m.

**June 6 - Burbank HS**  
Alamodome • 1 p.m.

**June 6 - Sam Houston HS**  
Alamodome • 4 p.m.

**June 6 - Jefferson HS**  
Alamodome • 7:30 p.m.

**June 11 - GED**  
Jefferson HS • 7 p.m.

**June 12 - Navarro Academy**  
Jefferson HS • 4 p.m.

**June 12 - Cooper Academy**  
Jefferson High School • 7 p.m.

**Aug. 20 - Summer graduates**  
Jefferson High School • 7 p.m.

## For Your Benefit

# Back by popular demand - SAISD's summer 'Step Challenge'



Again this summer District Virgin HealthMiles members have a chance to get fit and healthy while winning almost \$5,000 in cash and prizes at the same time.

### On your mark ...

Registration for the second-annual challenge to run June 7 through Aug. 1 is now under way, so check your e-mail for your invitation, and sign up.

### Get set ...

As with last year's challenge, participants can compete as individuals or as a team with members randomly selected.

Individual category prizes will be awarded through drawings in the following categories.

- five prizes of \$250
- five prizes of \$100
- 10 prizes of \$75
- 10 prizes of \$50

Members can earn entries into the drawing by daily steps of:

- 7,000 for one entry
- 12,000 for two entries
- 20,000 for three entries

For teams, prizes in the following amounts will be awarded to the top five with the highest-average step counts:

- first place, \$100 per member
- second place, \$50 per member
- third and fourth place teams, \$25 each per member
- fifth place, \$10 each per member

### Go!

Lace up your walking shoes, strap on your Virgin HealthMiles pedometer, and get moving.

Not yet a member? Join now, and you will receive the free go-anywhere pedometer that clips to your belt, waistband, or back pocket

and plugs right into your computer to automatically upload your steps to your HealthMiles account.

Register today by visiting:  
[www.virginhealthmiles.com/SAISD](http://www.virginhealthmiles.com/SAISD).

### Free pedometers!



**Virgin HEALTHMILES**

## Adios for the summer!

This is the final regular edition of insider for the 2009-10 school year. During the summer, the newsletter will be issued on an as-needed basis.

The Communications Department appreciates everyone who has taken the time to share your news and photos with us. We invite you to stay informed by visiting [www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net), and wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

# in the Spotlight



## Gold medal milestone

School Board President James Howard shakes the hand of Johnny Camacho in honor of his winning performance in the 800-meter run at the recent UIL state track meet. The Brackenridge HS senior's 1:53.82 time earned Camacho the District's first gold medal in track in nearly 20 years. He was one of many outstanding SAISD student athletes recognized at the May 18 "A Night of Champions" ceremony. Preparing to hand out medals (background) is District 4 Trustee Adela Segovia.



## Youth of the Year

Making outstanding contributions to his school and community while overcoming personal tragedies including the deaths of his parents and grandparents has earned Pete Rangel a top honor and a \$1,000 college scholarship. As the local Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year award winner, the Jefferson HS senior qualifies to compete at the state level. Finalists for this award sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation were three of his classmates. Celebrating Rangel's selection are (l to r) District 7 Trustee Ed Garza, Superintendent Robert J. Durón and School Board Assistant Secretary Olga Hernandez.



Courtesy photo

## Proud to be Americans

Honored for their award-winning essays at the recent Celebrate America naturalization ceremony were Leticia Medina of Cotton ES (left photo) and Jose Ramirez of De Zavala ES. The 5th-graders placed second and third respectively in the annual "Why I Am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants" essay contest. Shown with Jose is one of the contest's judges, Catholic Television's Martha Tijerina, and U.S. Magistrate John W. Primomo.



## Cooper Academy's 100th graduate

Sharing a memorable achievement in both Mike Ramos' life and that of his school are: (top row, l to r) Louis Robles; community liaison; Margarita Mendoza, math teacher; Luis De La Garza, social studies teacher; Joseph Zatarain, principal; and (bottom row, l to r) Helen Ramon, secretary/data clerk; Anne Shipman, science teacher; Bertha Gonzalez, counselor; and Geri Barnes, English language arts teacher. Ramos' status as the school's 100th graduate marks a major landmark for Cooper Academy that opened last school year to serve former dropouts.

## College bound!

Recipients of a \$1,500 scholarship from C. H. Guenter and Son Inc. posing with Dale W. Tremblay, president & CEO, and Superintendent Robert J. Durón (far right) and their high schools are: John Grover and Yessenia Rivas, Burbank; Shatia Bartlett, Sam Houston; Katherine Rodriguez, Highlands; Abel Rodriguez, Phoenix Middle College; Maria Urbina, Lanier; Mark DeWitt, Jefferson; Lucero Alvarez and Lawrence Lopez, Edison; Vanessa Moreno, Highlands; Jorge Muniz, Navarro; Celeste Orta, Fox Tech; Jacob Markowski, Sam Houston; and Shae Martinez, Brackenridge. Not pictured is Michelle Rangel, Lanier.



Courtesy photo



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Ed Garza, Member

**Superintendent**  
Robert J. Durón, Superintendent

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Leslie Price, Executive Director  
René Lynn, Newsletter Coordinator  
John Lawler, Photographer  
Gustavo López, Design and Layout

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