

Introducing the Pipeline for College Success program

The District's efforts to not only increase the number of students who enroll in college but go on to graduate got a major boost, thanks to a partnership with the Valero Energy Foundation.

Details of a five-year, \$8.4 million grant, awarded through the SAISD Foundation, were announced during a news conference last week.

The funding will pay for the District's Pipeline for College Success program, kicking off with the class of 2019, many of whom will be the first in their families to obtain higher education.

The program includes two new College Bound Advisers at SAISD's seven comprehensive high schools and one new college adviser at each of the four non-traditional high schools. The advisors, who started at the beginning of the school year, are dedicated to juniors and seniors to help ensure their success after high school.

Pipeline for College Success also provides for two alumni support coordinators to continue the



Among those celebrating the announcement are students, Joe Gorder (left) Valero Energy chairman, president and CEO and (right) Superintendent Pedro Martinez.

relationship with students through their first year in college and a postsecondary support office to track them through graduation.

"The grant helps us to form a more in-depth relationship with the colleges, and the colleges are coming to SAISD because of corporations like Valero who invest financially in SAISD," said Dr. Linda Vargas-Lew, the District's director of college and career readiness.

Another highlight of the program is funding that will triple the number of students to go on the District-sponsored out-of-state visits to colleges, with trips

for 250 students planned for this spring break and June.

About 100 juniors chosen for those trips were at the announcement, which was followed by an information session.

Schools to be visited are selected based on providing students 100 percent financial aid, along with academic and moral support.

They also have an established relationship with SAISD, and are schools where alumni have experienced success, she said.

The program will be instrumental in helping the District achieve its five-year college goals, which call for having 80 percent of graduates attend college, with 50 percent going to a four-year school and 10 percent enrolled in a Tier-One university by 2020.

The ultimate result could be a stronger SAISD and San Antonio.

"Our hope is students return, share their knowledge as alumni, perhaps even mentor another generation of SAISD students, and contribute to their community," Vargas-Lew said.

Families invited to Experience SAISD at Districtwide showcase

SAISD will host its first Districtwide showcase 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the UTSA downtown campus, 501 W. César E. Chávez Blvd.

Experience SAISD will be open to families from across San Antonio, with representatives from over 90 District schools and programs. It will highlight a wide range of educational options and what is unique about each school in order to connect families with the best-fit for their children.

The event also will feature activities for the whole family, including student performances, food and drinks, face painting, books, games, giveaways and more.

Save the date!



EXPERIENCE SAISD

Districtwide School Showcase

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UTSA DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

EXPERIENCE SAISD FROM A-Z

- Extracurricular & After School Programs
- Dual Language & Tuition-based Pre-K
- Special Ed., Family Services & more!

BEST FIT SCHOOLS (PK-12)

- Neighborhood Schools
- Choice Schools & Magnet Programs
- Pre-K & Headstart Centers & more!

FUN FOR ALL

- FREE Food & Drinks
- FREE Face Painting, Books & Activities
- Giveaways & much more!

This event is free for all families. Parking and transportation will be available at no cost. For more information, please contact the Office of Innovation at (210) 554-2660 or enroll@saisd.net.

SAISD receives Foster Youth Dropout Prevention Pilot Programs grant

A \$363,701 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission will better equip the District in assisting students in foster care ages 16 and older to graduate and seek higher education opportunities.

Funding will provide for two, full-time caseworkers and resources to fulfill the grant's purpose, which is to help students stay in school, attain credits and recruit and connect those who are eligible with colleges and/or career certifications in order to be successful adults.

"SAISD has been at the forefront of initiating services for students living in

foster care and we are fortunate to have this grant so that we can expand those services," said Estella Garza, Family and Student Support Services senior coordinator.

The District also will partner with Workforce Solutions and Baptist Children & Family Services for needed services including housing, transportation, child care, state college waivers, training vouchers and more, as well as introducing them to higher education and prospective employers.

"The goal for these students is for them

to have a strong foundation in life and prosper as they become adults, whether it be in the workforce or in college," she said.

While those in SAISD who will qualify are still being identified, Garza said she expects the number of students will be about 100.

Garza has been invited to speak on the grant's implementation and services to be provided Nov. 29-30 at the Texas Workforce Commission's annual conference in Dallas.

SAISD is the only Bexar County entity to receive a Foster Youth Dropout Prevention Pilot Programs grant and is one of four grantees statewide.

Longfellow and Whittier continue as AVID national models

Students and staff at two SAISD middle schools recently learned their campus will remain among an elite group nationwide recognized for fostering a college-going culture.

Following successful revalidation visits, Longfellow and Whittier retained their status as national demonstration sites for the college-readiness system AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination.

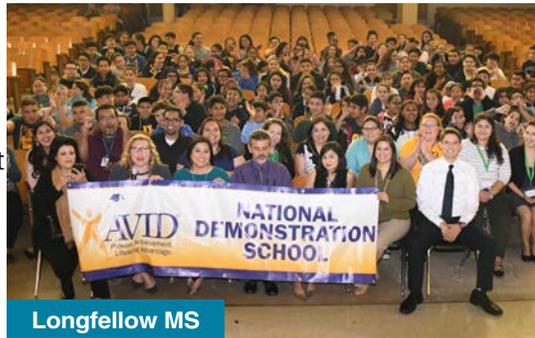
While AVID is implemented in more than 6,200 schools across the nation, only 3 percent are named a demonstration school.

For this distinction, campuses undergo a rigorous validation process that includes site visits, screenings and review of data.

SAISD's other AVID national

demonstration site, Jefferson HS, will be evaluated in the spring.

Demonstration schools are revalidated to ensure high levels of implementation.



Longfellow MS



Whittier MS

Edibles vie at annual Food Extravaganza for a spot on SAISD menus

In an annual culinary competition, 16 comestibles battled to out-tantalize the taste buds of judges gathered for a delectable showdown at the Cooper Learning Center.

At stake was making the nine-member roster of new menu items to be served in campus cafeterias for 2018-19 school.

The discriminating judges were 200 students Districtwide. For the first-time ever in the SAISD Food Extravaganza's three-year history, elementary- and middle school-level students joined high-schoolers at the judging tables and are expected to become permanent fixtures for future events.

Meet the contestants

Extravaganza contenders included a bean and cheese pupusa, buffalo chicken crispito, chicken and vegetarian empanadas, green chile tamale, jalapeño beef wrap, lunch yogurt bundle, meat sauce for spaghetti, shredded barbecue pork and southwest chicken tornado.

Sampled breakfast items were a maple pancake wrap, mini-sausage breakfast sandwich, breakfast yogurt bundle, breakfast tornado and pumpkin and zucchini bread.

And the winners are ...

Based on popular student opinion, all but the sandwich and tornado made the cut for breakfast next year.

The victorious lunch items are the shredded barbecue pork, bean and cheese pupusa, cheese and green chile tamale, chicken empanada and that mealtime's yogurt bundle.

"The Child Nutrition Department hosts sampling events such as the Food Extravaganza to add student-selected items to the menus," said Dr. Jennifer Sides, assistant director of quality assurance.

"Our customers are the students, and we want to make sure that they are satisfied and eat meals at school."



Young Men's Leadership Academy students confer on rating their sampled food items.



Samantha Regalado, Child Nutrition Department supervisor, serves Young Women's Leadership Academy high school students.

Silver & Black Give Back and SAISD 'Team Up' for service



Teams from SAISD's Advanced Learning Academy at Euclid Avenue and Lanier HS are going into the season to give thanks with an extra helping of gratitude.

They are among 16 groups from throughout Bexar County chosen Team Up Challenge grant recipients from Silver & Black Give Back.

The funding of \$7,500 per school will go toward youth-led service-learning projects to improve their communities.

They now will compete for \$50,000 in MVP prize grants to be awarded in April.

ALA 3rd-graders will use the visual arts to better understand, connect and



be of service to peers in their community experiencing homelessness.

They will plan and participate in creating a collaborative mural, campuswide mosaic art installation and a campus exhibition.



Lanier's project will be an art classroom where students will work with elderly persons in their community.

Participating students will serve as a teacher for the day and lead the group in creating a painting.

Three named QuestBridge scholarship finalists

A trio of SAISD seniors are among only 3 percent of high-schoolers nationwide being considered for a full, four-year scholarship to college.

They are QuestBridge scholarship finalists through its National College Match program. Selection is based on academic excellence and financial need.

If chosen, Brackenridge's Ricardo

Hernandez hopes to attend Columbia University and major in aerospace engineering.

Sam Houston's Jonathan Gadison wants to study medicine at Rice University, while Mark Pantoja of St. Philip's Early College would like to major in computer engineering at the University of Pennsylvania.

Apply soon for Choice schools and magnets

Parents interested in finding the best-fit educational option for their child next school year are invited to consider the wide variety of opportunities SAISD has to offer.

Applications soon will be accepted for the District's more than 20 specialized schools designed to help students pursue their individual interests and career goals.

All offer open enrollment to students from across Bexar County.

The application period for SAISD's Choice schools and magnet programs for 2017-18 will run Nov. 27-Jan. 31.

Apply online at:

www.saisd.net/enroll



Jonathan Gadison with Principal Dr. Mateen Diop.



Ricardo Hernandez with Principal Yesenia Cordova (left) and counselor Mandie Holtsford.



Mark Pantoja.

Brighten the holidays for those in need

Again this year, SAISD employees have the opportunity to play Santa by participating in the Giving Tree project. New and gently used clothing also will be collected for homeless shelter families.



Contributions can be left in the donation box at the Central Office Accounting Department.

Both projects start Nov. 28 and the donation deadline is Dec. 15.



All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed Nov. 20-24 in observance of Thanksgiving and re-open on Monday, Nov. 27.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



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