

The latest news and events from San Antonio Independent School District

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### **Innovative Grants for teachers**

Chauncey Taylor doesn't surprise easily. But the Gates Elementary School pre-K teacher was visibly shocked when the SAISD Foundation awarded her an Innovative Grant Award in front of her students and District leadership last week.

"Oh my goodness, oh my goodness," Taylor repeated over and over as she wiped tears from her eyes. "Thank you so much!"

# Forty-two schools earn 2019 Distinction Designations



Forty-two San Antonio ISD schools earned one or more Distinction Designations from the Texas Education Agency based on their students' performance on the 2019 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR. Distinction designations are awarded to campuses based on achievement in performance indicators relative to a group of 40 campuses of similar type, size, and student demographics across the state.

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## Warm welcome back for feathered friends An "egg-ceptional" learning experience for students

This past spring, students at Hirsch Elementary School had a truly hands-on experience when 9 dozen chicken eggs were distributed to five classrooms at the school. Students took on the responsibility of incubating the eggs, from taking their temperature to religiously watching them turn in their incubators. Around 20 days later, the kids were delighted to meet their chicks as they pecked their way out of their shells.

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## San Antonio College hosts SAISD students

This school year started off with a unique opportunity for a number of Fox Tech High School and Advanced Learning Academy high school students;

they had the chance to experience life on a college campus firsthand. Due to air conditioning issues on their home campus, the students were hosted for nearly a week at San Antonio College.

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## Local battalion donates supplies to Briscoe Elementary School

Students and teachers at Briscoe Elementary School started off the school year with a surprise when the 187th Medical Battalion delivered over \$10,000 worth of school supplies as part of the Fort Sam Houston Adopt-a-School program.

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## Living history at Hillcrest Elementary School

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush visited Hillcrest Elementary School last week as part of his initiative to visit 50 schools across the state of Texas. The Commissioner taught a lesson centered on a Texas railroad map to a class of fourth graders at the school. As part of the lesson, students had the chance to handle a cannonball that was likely used at the Battle of the Alamo by the Mexican Army. Storm Elementary School hosted Bush earlier in the day.



## Honoring 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

More than 400 people gathered together on Saturday, Aug. 17, to recognize seven of SAISD's sports greats at this year's Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. The Class of 2019 were honored with videos, speeches and bronze plaques which are permanently mounted on the SAISD Hall of Fame Wall in the Alamo Convocation Center.

"It's hard to believe that I am getting to stand up here and do this," said Rudy Bernal, former basketball coach at Lanier High School. Bernal served as the Lanier boys basketball head coach for 31 years which included two back-to-back appearances in the UIL's version of the Final Four or the state tournament in 2000 and 2001.

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#### Lights, camera, action at MLK

Students were all smiles at Martin Luther King Academy last Tuesday as they prepared for a helicopter flyover of their school... complete with a live television shot! News station KABB Fox 29 aired a live aerial view of the school and the students as part of a back-to-school feature on the station's morning broadcast. The station requested that the children form the initials of their school during the flyover. This turned out to be as easy as filing into their campus garden, which already forms the letters "MLK". This unique feature of their campus has even been captured on Google Earth. Click on the photo above to view the flyover footage.



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