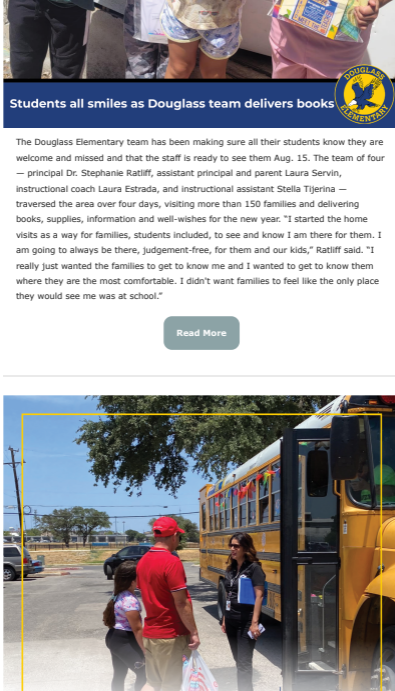


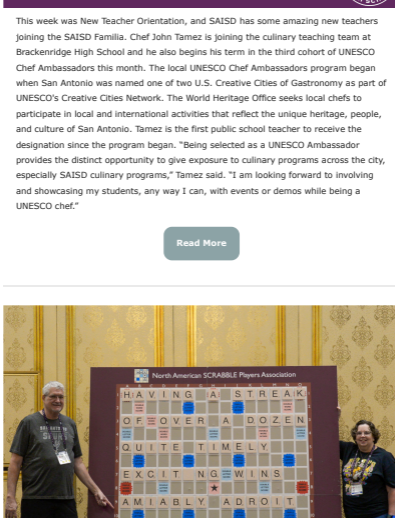
NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Students all smiles as Douglass team delivers books

The Douglass Elementary team has been making sure all their students know they are welcome and missed and that the staff is ready to see them Aug. 15. The team of four — principal Dr. Stephanie Ratliff, assistant principal and parent Laura Servin, instructional coach Laura Estrada, and instructional assistant Stella Tijerina — traversed the area over four days, visiting more than 150 families and delivering books, supplies, information and well-wishes for the new year. “I started the home visits as a way for families, students included, to see and know I am there for them. I am going to always be there, judgement-free, for them and our kids,” Ratliff said. “I really just wanted the families to get to know me and I wanted to get to know them where they are the most comfortable. I didn’t want families to feel like the only place they would see me was at school.”

[Read More](#)



District staff visit homes to help with enrollment

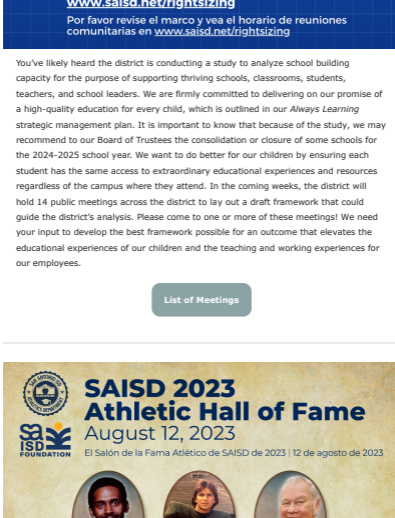
Volunteers from across district departments and campuses went on bus trips into the community July 19-29 to help families register for school. Knocking on doors of current students and new families, staff walked them through the registration process, ensuring everything was ready for our students to have a great first day of school. In total, more than 90 students were registered over the course of the block walking trips. Pictured is Executive Director of Enrollment Diane Fernandez visiting with a family at the 1400 North Apartments.



UNESCO-recognized chef joins Brackenridge team

This week was New Teacher Orientation, and SAISD has some amazing new teachers joining the SAISD Familia. Chef John Tamez is joining the culinary teaching team at Brackenridge High School and he also begins his term in the third cohort of UNESCO Chef Ambassadors this month. The local UNESCO Chef Ambassadors program began when San Antonio was named one of two U.S. Creative Cities of Gastronomy as part of UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network. The World Heritage Office seeks local chefs to participate in local and international activities that reflect the unique heritage, people, and culture of San Antonio. Tamez is the first public school teacher to receive the designation since the program began. “Being selected as a UNESCO Ambassador provides the distinct opportunity to give exposure to culinary programs across the city, especially SAISD culinary programs,” Tamez said. “I am looking forward to involving and showcasing my students, any way I can, with events or demos while being a UNESCO chef.”

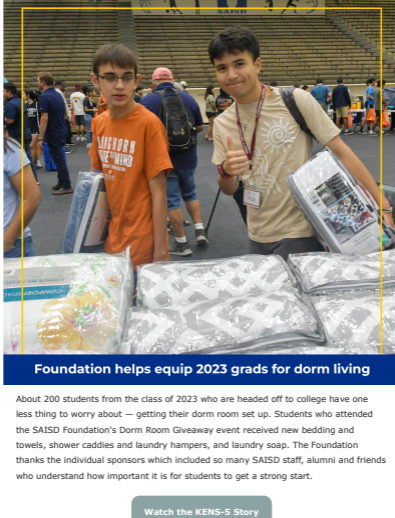
[Read More](#)



Burbank librarian earns national Scrabble honor

Burbank High School librarian Jennifer De Waelche is coming back to school this year a champion – a Scrabble champion. The veteran librarian competed in the North American Scrabble Players Association Championship in Las Vegas July 15-19 and placed first in Division 4, bringing home a \$3,000 prize. For De Waelche, who plays Scrabble in a local club run by her husband, the win came after more than 11 years of competitive Scrabble play, and inspired her to once again involve students in the strategy-heavy word game.

[Read More](#)



Beat the Heat trips remove enrollment barriers

Postsecondary Initiatives, Transportation, and the SAISD Foundation partnered to help more than 130 students register for college this summer. Providing free transportation to local colleges and universities for recent SAISD alumni, the group of college-bound advisers, college alumni advisers and postsecondary navigators assisted with records, helped remove holds, and ultimately helped 86% of students who signed up for assistance get their college schedules in hand. “When I came in, the staff helped me out, told me where to go, and what I had missing,” Christian Ramirez, a 2023 Edison graduate, said. “SAC needed my transcript, and they told me I had to go to the school and get it, but I was able to get it right here. [The postsecondary navigators] looked it up and gave it to me. I didn’t have to make another trip.”

[Read More](#)



District welcomes 21 new campus leaders

What a great week we had at the leadership summit this week, celebrating and preparing to execute our theme, *Dream Big: Unleash the Power of Familia and Lead with Heart*. Among the group of leaders were 21 new campus leaders. Pictured above is new Pershing Elementary principal Shelene Livas visiting with SAISD Foundation staff about opportunities. We’ve compiled a list to introduce all our new principals and the experience and passions they bring to their campuses.

[Read More](#)

PRELIMINARY RIGHTSIZING FRAMEWORK

The preliminary framework that will guide the rightsizing study is available for community review and feedback.

El marco preliminar que guiará el estudio de reestructuración estará disponible para que lo revise la comunidad y proporcione retroalimentación.

Please review the framework and see the community meeting schedule at www.saisd.net/rightsizing

Por favor revise el marco y vea el horario de reuniones comunitarias en www.saisd.net/rightsizing

You’ve likely heard the district is conducting a study to analyze school building capacity for the purpose of supporting thriving schools, classrooms, students, teachers, and school leaders. We are firmly committed to delivering on our promise of a high-quality education for every child, which is outlined in our *Always Learning* strategic management plan. It is important to know that because of the study, we may recommend to our Board of Trustees the consolidation or closure of some schools for the 2024-2025 school year. We want to do better for our children by ensuring each student has the same access to extraordinary educational experiences and resources regardless of the campus where they attend. In the coming weeks, the district will hold 14 public meetings across the district to lay out a draft framework that could guide the district’s analysis. Please come to one or more of these meetings! We need your input to develop the best framework possible for an outcome that elevates the educational experiences of our children and the teaching and working experiences for our employees.

[List of Meetings](#)

SAISD 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame

August 12, 2023

El Salón de la Fama Atlético de SAISD de 2023 | 12 de agosto de 2023

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW | COMPRESUS BOLETOS AHORA

The District’s Athletic Hall of Fame event is only a week away. Join us as we induct six new honorees: Ovie Dotson (Sam Houston High School), Jaime Garza (Jefferson High School), Boon Hilliard (Brackenridge High School), Adrian Montoya (Highlands High School), De Celle Thomas (Brackenridge) and the 1968 state champion baseball team (Highlands) will be honored. Tickets are still available. Don’t miss your chance to celebrate with these legends of SAISD athletics!

[Buy Tickets](#)

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Foundation helps equip 2023 grads for dorm living

About 200 students from the class of 2023 who are headed off to college have one less thing to worry about — getting their dorm room set up. Students who attended the SAISD Foundation’s Dorm Room Giveaway event received new bedding and towels, shower caddies and laundry hampers, and laundry soap. The Foundation thanks the individual sponsors which included so many SAISD staff, alumni and friends who understand how important it is for students to get a strong start.

[Watch the KENS-5 Story](#)

Foundation offers new teachers \$100 supply grants

What a treat! More than 300 teachers new to the SAISD Familia signed up for \$100 shopping grants with the SAISD Foundation today. New teachers could choose to shop at H-E-B McCressless Market, Learning Zone, or Balcones Heights Target to get the essentials for setting up a strong learning environment from Day 1. Thank you for choosing SAISD! Have a great year.

2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

Calendario académico 2023-2024

Planning for yourself or for your family? We have you covered by placing all the instructional calendars in one place. From our SAISD Calendars page, you can easily access the standard district calendar and the calendars of choice schools with 1882 Partnerships under “Specialty Campuses.” Bookmark the page for easy access and to see holidays, early release days, teacher workdays and professional development at a glance for all campuses.

[Visit Calendars Page](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Read Superintendent Aquino's latest message to the community.

BOARD BYTES

Trustee Stephanie Torres shares highlights from the July 17, 2023 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

We had a wonderful assortment of summer programming for our students this year. One of the highlights was the district’s Musical Theater Camp, which took place July 10-28 at Highlands High School. Students in grades 7-12 from across the district participated in the immersion camp which allowed them to design, build, create and produce *The Lion King*. The musical had three showings July 26-27.