

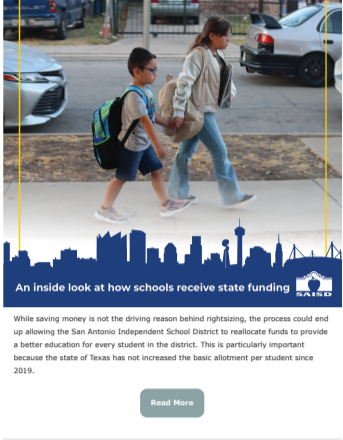
NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



District leaders answer questions about rightsizing

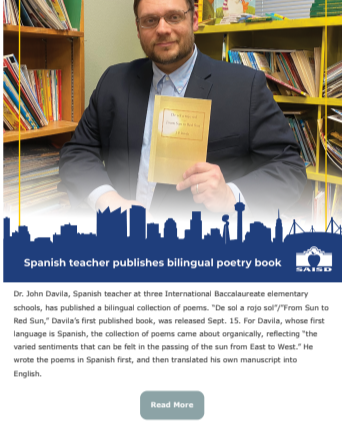
The district has completed 36 out of 37 community meetings regarding rightsizing. The last neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Forbes Elementary tonight at 6 p.m. At the meetings, district staff have shared the historical context for the rightsizing package, and transparently discussed the specifics of how each facility was determined to be part of the recommendation package. District staff have also documented community questions and feedback about how the framework criteria were applied in creating the package. Questions from each meeting have been answered and documented on the rightsizing website. The SAISD Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the district's rightsizing recommendation Nov. 13.

[See Meeting Recaps](#)



Students, teachers awarded for cybersecurity films

As Cybersecurity Awareness Month came to a close, the district's Career and Technology and Educational Technology & Design departments, with support from the SAISD Foundation, gave awards for the top elementary, middle, and high school cybersecurity awareness videos. More than 50 submissions were received in this year's contest, and this year, Champion Bouldin from Harris Middle School is the overall winner. The contest was created with the idea of elevating student voice on cybersecurity. "Our students are digital natives," Konise Millender, CTE Coordinator for College, Career and Military Readiness, said. "If they see a video from another student about why it is dangerous to not protect themselves online, it will do a lot more than a lecture about cybersecurity." Bouldin, pictured with his teacher Edwardo Rios, created a video about the importance of choosing a strong password keeping your password safe. He and other first place winners received a fiber-optic trophy and gift cards from the SAISD Foundation.



South Carolina visitors learn about partnerships

Leaders from the South Carolina Public Schools of Innovation Fellowship visited four San Antonio ISD campuses last week to observe and learn about how the district developed innovative school models through 1882 partnerships. The group visited Woodlawn Hills and Democracy Prep at Stewart elementary schools and CAST Med and Travis Early College high schools. Campus administration, as well as the operating partners (TCIS, Democracy Prep, CAST, and Alamo Collegiate Network) toured the fellows through their schools and hosted panel discussions to answer questions regarding the effective strategies shared by SAISD and its partners. The South Carolina cohort left with many ideas and strategies on how they can replicate innovative school models in their districts. Pictured are students from Travis Early College High School greeting the South Carolina representatives.



An inside look at how schools receive state funding

While saving money is not the driving reason behind rightsizing, the process could end up allowing the San Antonio Independent School District to reallocate funds to provide a better education for every student in the district. This is particularly important because the state of Texas has not increased the basic allotment per student since 2019.

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Schools display altars at Muertos Fest

SAISD was well-represented at the 11th annual Muertos Fest at HemisFair last weekend. The event, which brings together traditional art and culture with live music and entertainment to celebrate the Day of the Dead, included music, original artwork, a dance, and the largest open altar exhibition in San Antonio. Nine schools were represented in the altar exhibitions with thoughtful remembrances of those departed — both with personal and community-wide significance. Three mariachi groups played at the event in honor of the recently departed Belle Ortiz, mariachi educator credited with beginning mariachi education in San Antonio ISD. Pictured is the altar created by the International Club at CAST Tech High School.

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Spanish teacher publishes bilingual poetry book

Dr. John Davila, Spanish teacher at three International Baccalaureate elementary schools, has published a bilingual collection of poems. "De sol a rojo sol"/"From Sun to Red Sun," Davila's first published book, was released Sept. 15. For Davila, whose first language is Spanish, the collection of poems came about organically, reflecting "the varied sentiments that can be felt in the passing of the sun from East to West." He wrote the poems in Spanish first, and then translated his own manuscript into English.

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Franklin families complete Puentes program

These Franklin Elementary School parents recently completed the "Puentes al Futuro/Bridges to the Future" program. Puentes al Futuro/Bridges to the Future is a family engagement program adopted from the Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together (MATT) Foundation. The curriculum was created to serve families of Emergent Bilingual children and Latino families; however, it is inclusive of all cultures and backgrounds. SAISD Early Childhood/Head Start Parent Facilitator Danyille Guevara facilitated the Puentes sessions, training parents to learn developmentally appropriate strategies and activities that encourage emergent literacy, language, physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development at home, outdoors, and at community hubs. The Puentes sessions are funded by the Pre-K 4 SA grant awarded to the SAISD Early Childhood Education (ECE)/Head Start Department. The program is expected to expand at Franklin and launch at Neal Elementary in the spring.

- Stomach ache?
- Headache?
- Sore throat?



Hazel pilots free telehealth services in trio of schools

San Antonio ISD announced a new partnership with the nation's leading school-based telehealth provider, Hazel Health, and Superior HealthPlan, a Texas-based managed care organization and subsidiary of Centene Corporation, to offer comprehensive health care services at three schools. The pilot program will be available to SAISD students at Wilson Elementary School, Whittier Middle School, and Edison High School, which have a combined population of about 2,000 students. Superior HealthPlan is jointly funding the program with SAISD.

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100 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Our original 1923 junior high centennial celebrations continued in October with Irving Dual Language Academy and Poe Middle School both celebrating the landmark anniversary last week.

The events were filled with student performances and memorabilia for families, alumni and community members to view. Four more of the district's original junior high schools — Harris Middle School, Hawthorne Academy, Lanier High School and Twain Dual Language Academy — are also celebrating centennial anniversaries this year.

NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

Principal appreciation grant funds Recharge Room at Will Rogers

The SAISD Foundation closed out Principal Appreciation Month with a bright and early visit to Will Rogers Academy to award a principal grant for their new Student Recharge Room. The surprise took place at a student council meeting. Principal Zada Fowler (pictured at right with Foundation Executive Director Judy Geelhoed) and the Will Rogers Student Council worked together to plan for a space where students can recuperate and recharge throughout the day. This \$12,000 grant will support mental wellness for all Will Rogers students.

REMINDERS

Get Your Campus Fiesta Framed!

Medal features your campus logo framed by festive flowers, a dangling SAISD charm, and ribbon drape in your school's color. Place your order by **December 8th** to have your campus Fiesta medals ready for Fiesta 2024.

For details, pricing and orders contact:
CENTRAL OFFICE
Printing Services
PRINT • DESIGN • COPY • MAIL
514 W. Quincy St. | (210) 554-8350 | mcruz11@saisd.net

LIVE UNITED

Deadline Extended! District employees have until Nov. 13 to make their annual gift to United Way and support our local nonprofits who are helping individuals and families who face challenges with employment, mental health, childcare, education and so much more. You are also able to support the SAISD Foundation and give back to the organization that gives so much to our students and teachers. You are able to give via payroll deduction (\$5/month minimum), one-time credit or debit card gift (\$5 minimum) or cash or check (\$2 minimum). Click the link below to get started or see your department or campus representative for a paper form.

[Pledge Now](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Watch the superintendent's latest Quick Takes with Jaime video.

CLOSING SHOTS

As the temperatures dropped this week, campuses had so much fun ushering in the season with Fall celebrations. Costumed students attended school trunk or treat parties and marched in storybook character parades. The SAISD Police and Transportation departments joined in the fun. The police sponsored a Halloween truck or treat event at Sarah King Elementary, and transportation brought a spooky bus to campus events. Pictured are trunk or treat events at Democracy Prep at Stewart, Riverside Park Elementary, Japhet Academy and Sarah King Elementary; character parades at Fenwick Academy and Margie Elementary; and the transportation trunk or treat bus visiting Young Women's Leadership Academy - Primary.

