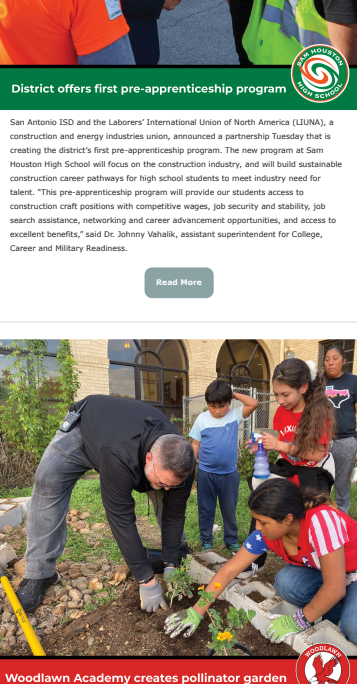


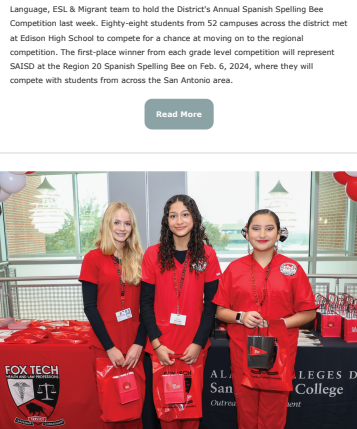
NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



District offers first pre-apprenticeship program

San Antonio ISD and the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), a construction and energy industries union, announced a partnership Tuesday that is creating the district's first pre-apprenticeship program. The new program at Sam Houston High School will focus on the construction industry, and will build sustainable construction career pathways for high school students to meet industry need for talent. "This pre-apprenticeship program will provide our students access to construction craft positions with competitive wages, job security and stability, job search assistance, networking and career advancement opportunities, and access to excellent benefits," said Dr. Johnny Vahalik, assistant superintendent for College, Career and Military Readiness.

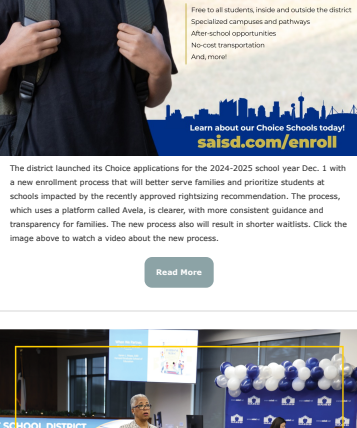
[Read More](#)



Woodlawn Academy creates pollinator garden

On a day when much of the district had early release, the Woodlawn Academy Eagles stayed until sunset, carving out a place for pollinators before Thanksgiving Break. Nearly 30 staff, students and families got to work clearing out existing weeds, surrounding the area with cinderblocks, and filling it with new soil for the pollinator plants. There were plenty of lessons along the way, including how far away to plant things from one another, and a lesson from principal Luis De La Garza about why soil is warm. "I felt happy and good because we were planting and the dirt was smushy," Victoria, a fourth grader, said.

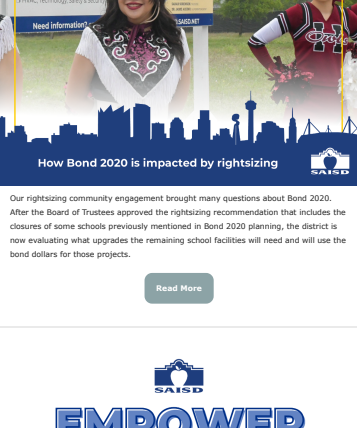
[Read More](#)



Students earn top honors at Spanish Spelling Bee

The SAISD Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment team collaborated with the Dual Language, ESL & Migrant team to hold the District's Annual Spanish Spelling Bee Competition last week. Eighty-eight students from 52 campuses across the district met at Edison High School to compete for a chance at moving on to the regional competition. The first-place winner from each grade level competition will represent SAISD at the Region 20 Spanish Spelling Bee on Feb. 6, 2024, where they will compete with students from across the San Antonio area.

[Read More](#)



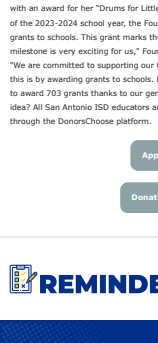
Fox Tech announces new nursing pathway

Fox Tech High School and Alamo Colleges announced a new H-TECH nursing pathway at a press conference Nov. 30. In collaboration with San Antonio College, University Health and Methodist Hospital Metropolitan, Fox Tech High School will offer a degree plan that bridges students to an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing at SAC beginning in Fall 2024. The new degree plan, offered in addition to the program's current Associate of Science degree plan with SAC, offers the opportunity for students to earn their registered nurse certification two years out of high school and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing by the third year after high school.

[Read More](#)



SAISD Choice Schools are now accepting applications for 2024-2025!



Find the best fit for your child:

- Free to all students, inside and outside the district
- Specialized campuses and pathways
- After-school opportunities
- No-cost transportation
- And, more!

Learn about our Choice Schools today!
saisd.com/enroll

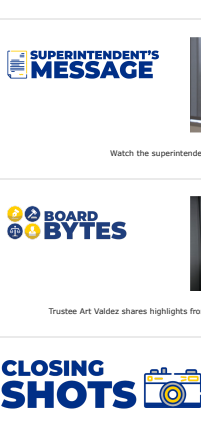
The district launched its Choice applications for the 2024-2025 school year Dec. 1 with a new enrollment process that will better serve families and prioritize students at schools impacted by the recently approved rightsizing recommendation. The process, which uses a platform called Avela, is clearer, with more consistent guidance and transparency for families. The new process also will result in shorter waitlists. Click the image above to watch a video about the new process.

[Read More](#)



District hosts guest speaker on family engagement

Dr. Karen Mapp, Ed.D., senior lecturer on education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, gave a keynote address on family engagement for 100 SAISD leadership team employees, including assistant superintendents, principals, and department directors. "Dr. Mapp's keynote address provided valuable insights into the power of collaboration and the impact it can have on our students' learning journey," Cassandra Negrete, coordinator for the Office of Family and Community Engagement, said. "Her expertise and passion resonated with all attendees, reinforcing our commitment to fostering strong relationships between families, school, and the community."



How Bond 2020 is impacted by rightsizing

Our rightsizing community engagement brought many questions about Bond 2020. After the Board of Trustees approved the rightsizing recommendation that includes the closures of some schools previously mentioned in Bond 2020 planning, the district is now evaluating what upgrades the remaining school facilities will need and will use the bond dollars for those projects.

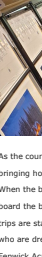
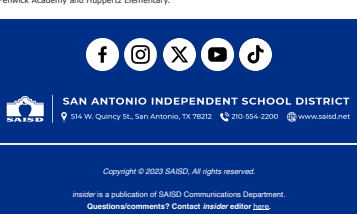
[Read More](#)

EMPOWER HOTLINE

Employees.....(210) 244-0840
Families.....(210) 244-0845

HOURS OF OPERATION*
Mon-Thur 8:30am – 8pm
Fri 8:30am – 4pm

SAISD values and cares for our families and staff. Our Empower Plan will deliver VIP services to all rightsizing impacted campuses – both families and employees – with an extremely high degree of effectiveness to ensure as successful a transition as possible after last month's rightsizing decision. Have questions about the process? Call us. We have hotlines devoted to employees and families to answer your questions as they come up.

Foundation awards 200th mini-grant this year

The SAISD Foundation surprised Collins Garden Elementary teacher Sarah Quintanilla with an award for her "Drums for Little Hands and Big Hearts!" grant. Since the start of the 2023-2024 school year, the Foundation has awarded over \$40,000 in mini-grants to schools. This grant marks the 200th mini-grant award this fall. "This milestone is very exciting for us," Foundation Executive Director Judy Geelhoed said. "We are committed to supporting our teachers and students and one major way we do this is by awarding grants to schools. During the 2022-2023 school year, we were able to award 703 grants thanks to our generous donors and supporters." Have a grant idea? All San Antonio ISD educators are invited to apply for a mini-grant of up to \$500 through the DonorsChoose platform.

[Apply for a Grant](#)

[Donate to fund grants](#)

REMINDERS

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR FACILITY REPURPOSING PANEL

Nominaciones abiertas para el Panel de Reutilización de Instalaciones

Deadline: December 8, 2023
Fecha límite: 8 de diciembre de 2023

Tomorrow, Dec. 8, is the last day to nominate someone for a citizen panel the district is forming to ensure that buildings impacted by the rightsizing plan approved Nov. 13 are used in ways that benefit their neighborhoods. To nominate someone or to self-nominate for the Facility Repurposing Panel, visit the link below.

[Nomination Form](#)

WE ARE COLLECTING NEW/GENTLY USED SWEATERS & COATS PLUS CANNED GOODS

Can & Coat COMMUNITY DRIVE

Friday, December 8th
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
514 W. Quincy

Featuring: Fox Tech Mariachi Group

You can still contribute to our Can & Coat community drive to help those in need this holiday season. If you would like to donate, bring new or gently used sweaters and coats and nonperishable food items to Central Office, 514 W. Quincy, tomorrow from 7:30-9 a.m. and enjoy a serenade from Fox Tech High School Mariachi.

INSPIRATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY Great Clips

- #### FINALISTS
- ALBERT TORRES - SAN ANTONIO HARLANDALE
 - DAVID JONES - KERRVILLE TIVV
 - EDDIE SALAS - SAN ANTONIO HARLAN
 - ELLIOTT ORTIZ - UNIVERSITY CITY RANDOLPH
 - GARY GUTIERREZ - JOHN JAY
 - JEREMY WILLIAMS - SAN ANTONIO SAM HOUSTON
 - JOE HUBBARD - SAN ANTONIO EAST CENTRAL
 - MICHAEL MULL - SAN ANTONIO BURBANK
 - MIKE TREVIÑO - LITTLE
 - NICK ROGERS - SAN ANTONIO PIEPER
 - PETE PADILLA - SAN ANTONIO HOLMES

Tomorrow is the last day to vote for SAISD's two coaches in the running for the Dave Campbell's Texas Football San Antonio Inspirational Coach of the Year award. Coach Jeremy Williams from Sam Houston High School and Coach Michael Mull at Burbank High School were both nominated.

[Vote Now](#)

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

Trustee Art Valdez shares highlights from the December 4, 2023 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

As the countdown to Winter Break continues, the Transportation Department has been bringing holiday cheer to campuses and after school programs with their Polar Express Bus. When the bus arrives, students receive a bookmark Golden Ticket, which they can use to board the bus, hear music from the Polar Express movie and take photos with Santa. The trips are staffed by three different bus drivers who are going to the campuses as Santa, two who are dressing up as the conductor and several as elves. Pictured are photos from Fenwick Academy and Huppertz Elementary.

