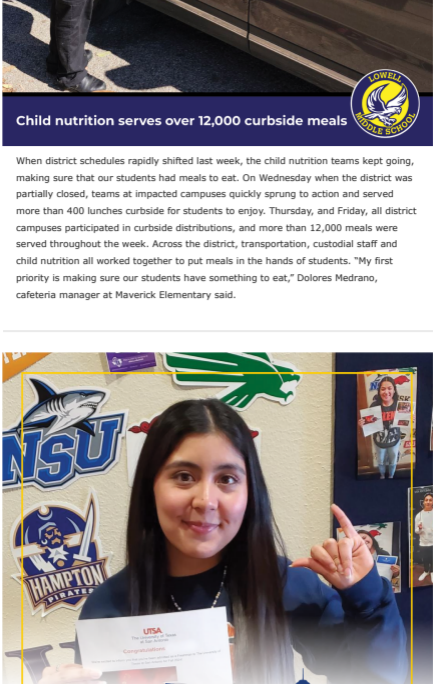
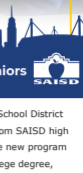


## NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



### Child nutrition serves over 12,000 curbside meals



When district schedules rapidly shifted last week, the child nutrition teams kept going, making sure that our students had meals to eat. On Wednesday when the district was partially closed, teams at impacted campuses quickly sprung into action and served more than 400 lunches curbside for students to enjoy. Thursday, and Friday, all district campuses participated in curbside distributions, and more than 12,000 meals were served throughout the week. Across the district, transportation, custodial staff and child nutrition all worked together to put meals in the hands of students. "My first priority is making sure our students have something to eat," Dolores Medrano, cafeteria manager at Maverick Elementary said.



### UTSA saves spot for district's high-achieving juniors

The University of Texas at San Antonio and San Antonio Independent School District announced a new pathway that will provide high-achieving students from SAISD high schools with direct admission to UTSA as early as their junior year. The new program aims to remove barriers for SAISD students who want to pursue a college degree, helping them feel confident that they have a top-quality institution secured to pursue their bachelor's degree once they graduate from high school. The direct admission program is open to SAISD students who are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class at the end of the fall semester of their junior year.

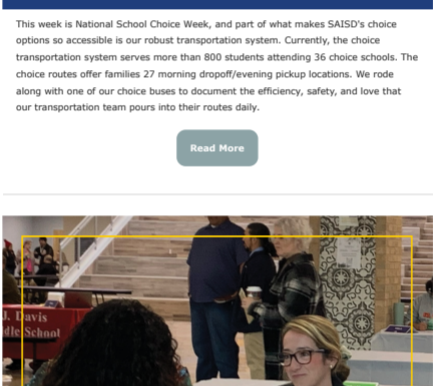
[Read More](#)



### Four teachers receive National Board Certification

The district's newest National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) will be recognized this weekend at a formal pinning ceremony at the Texas National Board Coalition for Teaching conference at Education Service Center-Region 20. The four teachers — Haile Hullings and Ryan Maney at the Advanced Learning Academy, Karyl Moctezuma at J.T. Brackenridge Elementary, and Mia Rosen at Foster Elementary — now help comprise eight total educators in SAISD that currently possess this certification, the highest a teacher may obtain. Recognizing the importance of the process and the achievement, the district, with the help of the SAISD Foundation, is working to help more interested educators achieve this honor.

[Read More](#)



### ALA, CAST Tech students visit with congressman

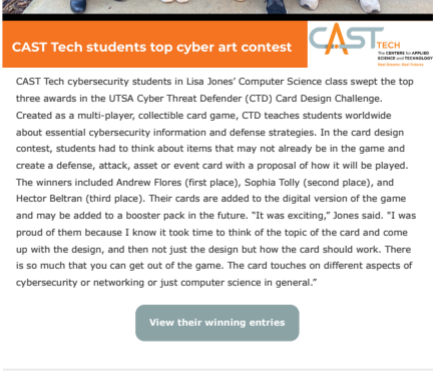
Congressman Greg Casar visited with students from the Advanced Learning Academy and CAST Tech High School Wednesday to learn about the schools' recent trip to Mexico. CAST Tech led a delegation of students from their advisory on the leadership and cultural immersion expedition to Mexico City in December. Participating students were not just visitors; they were welcomed as ambassadors of their community, soaking in the vibrant culture, engaging in transformative learning with leaders from different sectors, and igniting a passion for global citizenship. The visit with the congressman featured a dialogue between he and the students reflecting upon the power such trips have to gain a broader understanding of the world and to explore career interests.



### Choice buses offer flexibility to more than 800 daily

This week is National School Choice Week, and part of what makes SAISD's choice options so accessible is our robust transportation system. Currently, the choice transportation system serves more than 800 students attending 36 choice schools. The choice routes offer families 27 morning dropoff/evening pickup locations. We rode along with one of our choice buses to document the efficiency, safety, and love that our transportation team pours into their routes daily.

[Read More](#)



### Finding new opportunities in the Familia

Less than 60 days after the board's vote on rightsizing, more than 87% of teachers and instructional assistants at schools slated to close or merge had accepted offers for jobs in the district next year. The high placement rate reflects months of hard work by the Human Capital Management Transition Team after the Nov. 13 vote to try to match every affected staff member to the reassigned position of their choice. The latest of these efforts was a Transition Pair Fair, a special job fair in December that allowed job seekers to visit with hiring campuses and ask their own questions about campus culture and fit.

[Read More](#)

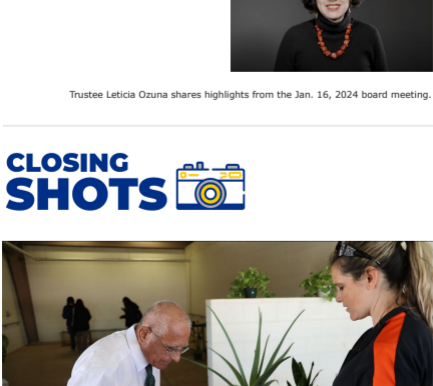


### Teacher to follow students to new IB campus

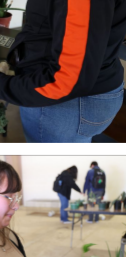


With the coming closure of Huppertz Elementary School, new teacher Janelli Rodriguez is following her students' lead and choosing to be a risk-taker as she continues as an International Baccalaureate teacher. Although she had wanted to remain at the same campus throughout her career, it was her own students who reminded her that fear may not be the best response to the move. "I had my students telling me, 'I'm going to be a risk-taker,'" Rodriguez said. It occurred to her that she should do the same.

[Read More](#)

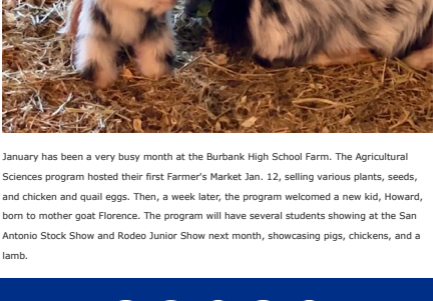


### CAST Tech students top cyber art contest



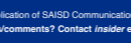
CAST Tech cybersecurity students in Lisa Jones' Computer Science class were the top three awards in the UTSA Cyber Threat Defender (CTD) Card Design Challenge. Created as a multi-player, collectible card game, CTD teaches students worldwide about essential cybersecurity information and defense strategies. In the card design contest, students had to think about items that may not already be in the game and create a defense, attack, asset or event card with a proposal of how it will be played. The winners included Andrew Flores (first place), Sophia Tolly (second place), and Hector Beltran (third place). Their cards are added to the digital version of the game and may be added to a booster pack in the future. "It was exciting," Jones said. "I was proud of them because I know it took time to think of the topic of the card and come up with the design, and then not just the design but how the card should work. There is so much that you can get out of the game. The card touches on different aspects of cybersecurity or networking or just computer science in general."

[View their winning entries](#)



January is School Board Appreciation Month, and some of our SAISD Familia spoke to us about how much they value our trustees for their dedication, guidance, and presence across the district. Watch the video.

## REMINDERS



### Join the conversation!

Apply to be a part of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

VISIT [WWW.SAISD.NET/DPAC](http://WWW.SAISD.NET/DPAC)

The Office of Family & Community Engagement

The San Antonio ISD District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) gathered virtually last week for the group's inaugural meeting of 2024. Participants spoke candidly with Superintendent Jaime Aquino regarding last week's school closures and contributed feedback on district instructional calendars for the next two years. You can join the conversation, too! Elevate your connection with SAISD leadership – discover more and become a DPAC member by applying to be part of the committee.

[Apply Now](#)

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Revisit our superintendent's latest communications.

## BOARD BYTES



Trustee Leticia Ozuna shares highlights from the Jan. 16, 2024 board meeting.

## CLOSING SHOTS



January has been a very busy month at the Burbank High School Farm. The Agricultural Sciences program hosted their first Farmer's Market Jan. 12, selling various plants, seeds, and chicken and quail eggs. Then, a week later, the program welcomed a new kid, Howard, born to mother goat Florence. The program will have several students showing at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Junior Show next month, showcasing pigs, chickens, and a lamb.

