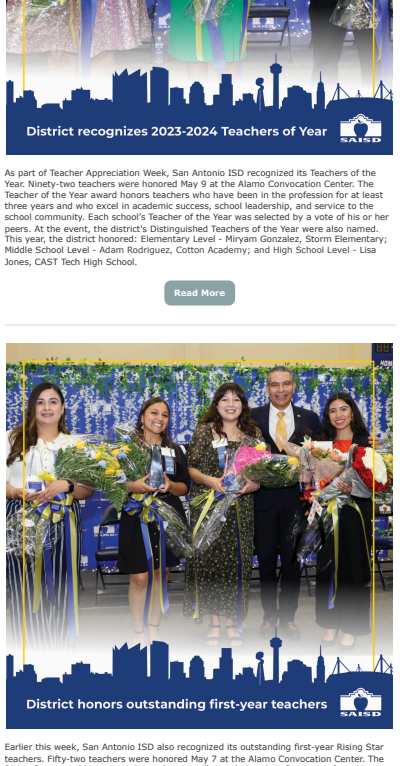


NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



District recognizes 2023-2024 Teachers of Year

As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, San Antonio ISD recognized its Teachers of the Year. Ninety-two teachers were honored May 9 at the Alamo Convocation Center. The Teacher of the Year award honors teachers who have been in the profession for at least three years and who excel in academic success, school leadership, and service to the school community. Each school's Teacher of the Year was selected by a vote of his or her peers. At the event, the district's Distinguished Teachers of the Year were also named. This year, the district honored: Elementary Level - Miryam Gonzalez, Storm Elementary; Middle School Level - Adam Rodriguez, Cotton Academy; and High School Level - Lisa Jones, CAST Tech High School.

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District honors outstanding first-year teachers

Earlier this week, San Antonio ISD also recognized its outstanding first-year Rising Star teachers. Fifty-two teachers were honored May 7 at the Alamo Convocation Center. The Rising Star award honors teachers who are still completing their first year of teaching. Principals nominate their finest first-year teachers who already demonstrate excellent practices. This year, the district honored: Early Childhood Level - Tabatha Rodriguez, Nelson Early Childhood Education Center; Elementary Level - Amry Martinez, Douglass Elementary; Middle School Level - D'Hannah Duran, Whittier Middle School; and High School Level - Clarissa Valdez, Burbank High School.

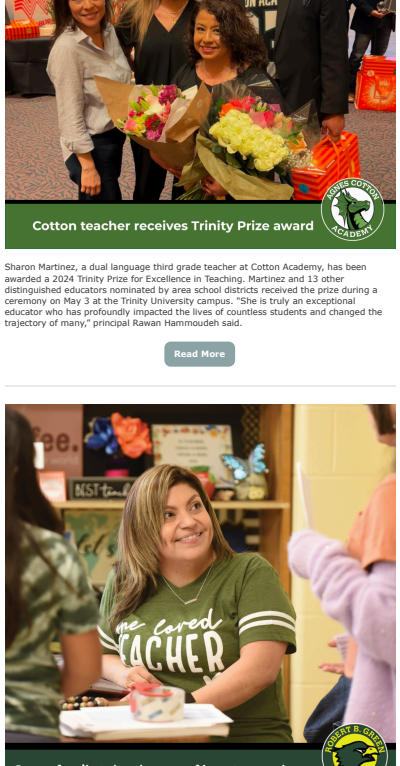
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SAISD celebrates 284 new TIA designations

San Antonio ISD notified 284 educators last week that they are designated as Recognized, Exemplary, or Master as part of the Texas Education Agency's Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA). The newly designated teachers nearly double the number of designated teachers in SAISD classrooms. More than \$6 million will be generated through the TIA for additional teacher compensation. This year, the district is adding 135 Recognized Teachers, 106 Exemplary Teachers, and 43 Master Teachers to its rosters, bringing the total number of designated teachers in the district to 496 at 83 campuses.

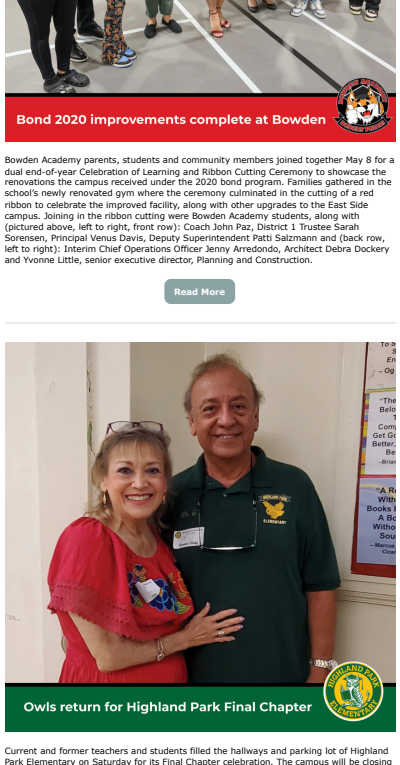
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Student leaders present State of the District

It was students themselves who told more than 200 community and business leaders at this year's State of the District event their points of pride going to school in San Antonio ISD, as well as the challenges they face in a changing and underfunded education system. Members of the 41-member Superintendent's Student Advisory Council led the event, which was hosted by the SAISD Foundation, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater San Antonio Chamber. The packed room was filled with business and nonprofit representatives, as well as elected officials who all came to hear about the state of education in the students' classrooms and hallways.

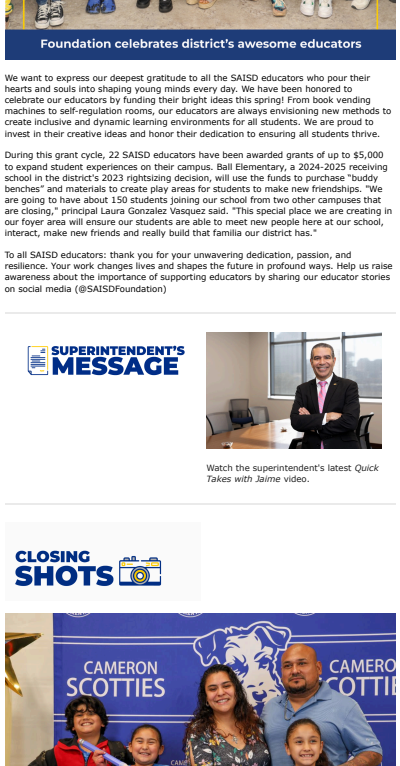
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Band director receives honor from AABSE

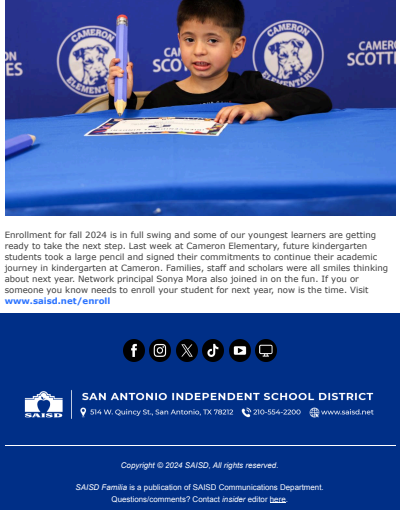
Bruce Adams, band director at Sam Houston High School was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award by the Alamo Area Alliance of Black School Educators at a banquet last week. An alumnus of SAISD, he attended Gates and Hirsch Elementary Schools, Davis Middle School and graduated from Sam Houston High School. He has been teaching at Sam Houston for 17 years. "I feel very honored and proud," Adams said. "I have a calling on my life to teach. I take that very seriously. It's a blessing to be acknowledged by the work that you love to do and share." At the same event, San Antonio ISD was also named the Distinguished Support District of the Year.

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Peace Officer Memorial set for May 15

The SAISD Police Department invites the community to pay tribute to the department's fallen officers and the sacrifices they and their families have endured at the annual Peace Officer Memorial Event set for May 15. The ceremony will take place at Quincy Central Office at 8:30 a.m. and will feature an Honor Guard and Bagpipe procession and a presentation of the flags. SAISD PD will honor two of its own members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting our community: Sergeant William Maldonado badge #3107 (End of Watch: May 26, 1994) and Detective Clifton Martinez badge #2173 (End of Watch: December 21, 2019).



Twain homecoming celebrates centennial

Twain Dual Language Academy, formerly Mark Twain Junior High School, celebrated its 100-year anniversary on Tuesday, April 30. The school opened its doors in 1923 as part of a network of eight junior high schools named after famous authors. The school welcomed alumni back into its doors with an array of old memorabilia for guests to view as well as student performances celebrating music and history throughout the decades. Guests were also treated to music from the Edison High School mariachi program and food from Edison culinary students.

Cotton teacher receives Trinity Prize award

Sharon Martinez, a dual language third grade teacher at Cotton Academy, has been awarded a 2024 Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Martinez and 13 other distinguished educators nominated by area school districts received the prize during a ceremony on May 3 at the Trinity University campus. "She is truly an exceptional educator who has profoundly impacted the lives of countless students and changed the trajectory of many," principal Rawan Hammoodeh said.

[Read More](#)

Green family takes legacy of love to new home

Located just south of downtown San Antonio, Green Elementary School has been educating the children of the Lavaca and surrounding communities since 1915. The 2023-2024 school year marks the final year of the Green campus in its current iteration. As part of the SAISD board's rightsizing decision, which was passed in the fall of 2023, the campus will merge with neighboring Riverside Park Elementary. Our communications staff had the chance to spend a day at Green to document the campus and the people who comprise it in its final weeks in this location.

[Read More](#)

Bond 2020 improvements complete at Bowden

Bowden Academy parents, students and community members joined together May 8 for a end-of-year Celebration of Learning and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to showcase the renovations the campus received under the 2020 bond program. Families gathered in the school's newly renovated gym where the ceremony culminated in the cutting of a red ribbon to celebrate the improved facility, along with other upgrades to the East Side campus. Joining in the ribbon cutting were Bowden Academy students, along with (pictured above, left to right, front row): Coach John Paz, District 1 Trustee Sarah Sorosen, Principal Venus Davis, Deputy Superintendent Patti Salzmann and (back row, left to right): Interim Chief Operations Officer Jenny Arredondo, Architect Debra Dockery and Yvonne Little, senior executive director, Planning and Construction.

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Owls return for Highland Park Final Chapter

Current and former teachers and students filled the hallways and parking lot of Highland Park Elementary on Saturday for its Final Chapter celebration. The campus will be closing at the end of the school year as part of SAISD's rightsizing initiative, with students and teachers from the campus heading to other schools within the district. One special couple came to celebrate the place where their love began, Martha and Guadalupe Gutierrez met at Highland Park more than 40 years ago when they were coworkers teaching fifth grade in October 1983. They were married two years after that first meeting. As people reminisced at the event, Guadalupe stood to the side smiling and as his wife told their story and took photos of them. "If we had not come to Highland Park, we'd still be single and 70," Martha said.

NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

Foundation celebrates district's awesome educators

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all the SAISD educators who pour their hearts and souls into shaping young minds every day. We have been honored to celebrate our educators by funding their bright ideas this spring! From book vending machines to self-regulation rooms, our educators are always envisioning new methods to create inclusive and dynamic learning environments for all students. We are proud to invest in their creative ideas and honor their dedication to ensuring all students thrive.

During this grant cycle, 22 SAISD educators have been awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to expand student experiences on their campus. Ball Elementary, a 2024-2025 receiving school in the district's 2023 rightsizing decision, will use the funds to purchase "buddy benches" and materials to create play areas for students to make new friendships. "We are going to have about 150 students joining our school from two other campuses that are closing," principal Laura Gonzalez Vasquez said. "This special place we are creating in our foyer area will ensure our students are able to meet new people here at our school, interact, make new friends and really build that familia our district has."

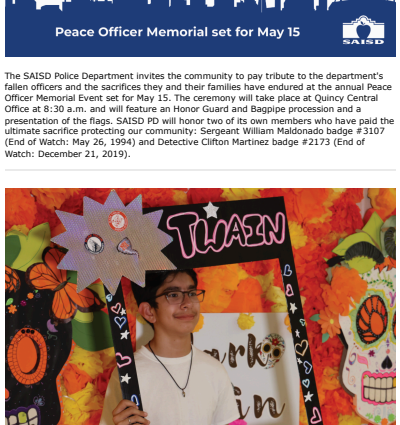
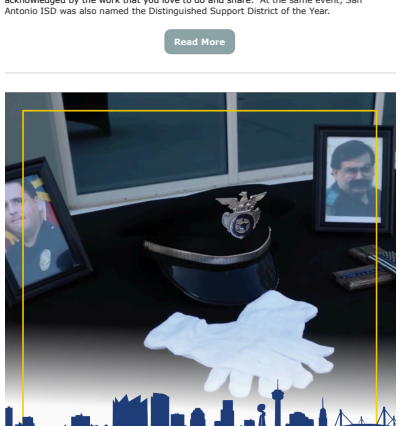
To all SAISD educators: thank you for your unwavering dedication, passion, and resilience. Your work changes lives and shapes the future in profound ways. Help us raise awareness about the importance of supporting educators by sharing our educator stories on social media (@SAISDFoundation)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



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

CLOSING SHOTS



Enrollment for fall 2024 is in full swing and some of our youngest learners are getting ready to take the next step. Last week at Cameron Elementary, future kindergarten students took a large pencil and signed their commitments to continue their academic journey in kindergarten at Cameron. Families, staff and scholars were all smiles thinking about next year. Network principal Sonya Mora also joined in on the fun. If you or someone you know needs to enroll your student for next year, now is the time. Visit www.saisd.net/enroll