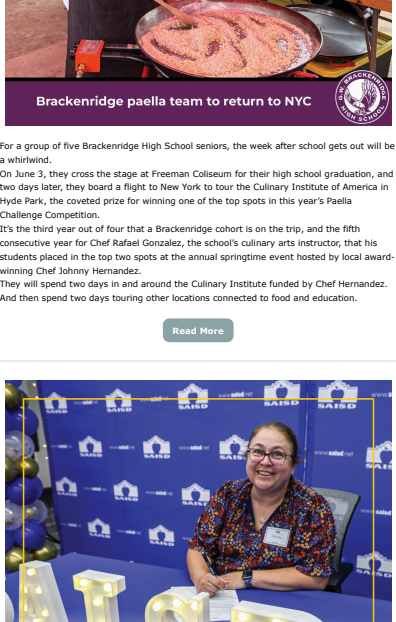


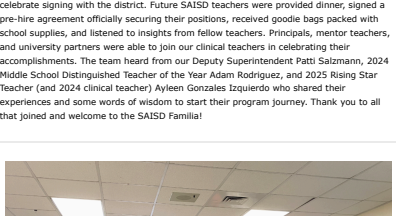
NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Brackenridge paella team to return to NYC

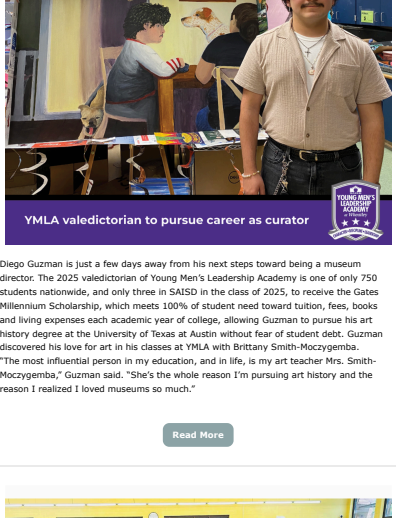
For a group of five Brackenridge High School seniors, the week after school gets out will be a whirlwind. On June 3, they cross the stage at Freeman Coliseum for their high school graduation, and two days later, they board a flight to New York to tour the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, the coveted prize for winning one of the top spots in this year's Paella Challenge Competition. It's the third year out of four that a Brackenridge cohort is on the trip, and the fifth consecutive year for Chef Rafael Gonzalez, the school's culinary arts instructor, that his students placed in the top two spots at the annual springtime event hosted by local award-winning Chef Johnny Hernandez. They will spend two days in and around the Culinary Institute funded by Chef Hernandez. And then spend two days touring other locations connected to food and education.

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Clinical teachers commit to teach with SAISD

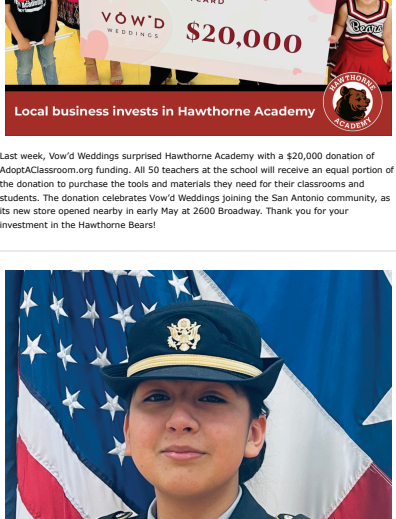
SAISD's Human Capital Management team invited its spring 2025 clinical teachers to celebrate signing with the district. Future SAISD teachers were provided dinner, signed a pre-hire agreement officially securing their positions, received goodie bags packed with school supplies, and listened to insights from fellow teachers. Principals, mentor teachers, and university partners were able to join our clinical teachers in celebrating their accomplishments. The team heard from our Deputy Superintendent Patti Salzmann, 2024 Middle School Distinguished Teacher of the Year Adam Rodriguez, and 2025 Rising Star Teacher (and 2024 clinical teacher) Ayleen Gonzales Izquierdo who shared their experiences and some words of wisdom to start their program journey. Thank you to all that joined and welcome to the SAISD Familia!



YMLA valedictorian to pursue career as curator

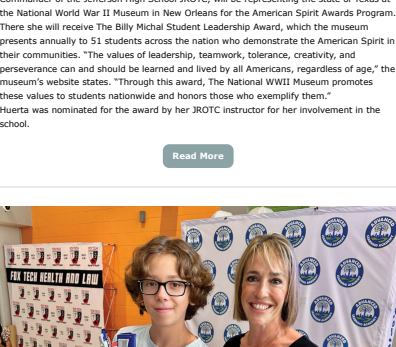
Diego Guzman is just a few days away from his next steps toward being a museum director. The 2025 valedictorian of Young Men's Leadership Academy is one of only 750 students nationwide, and only three in SAISD in the class of 2025, to receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which meets 100% of student need toward tuition, fees, books and living expenses each academic year of college, allowing Guzman to pursue his art history degree at the University of Texas at Austin without fear of student debt. Guzman discovered his love for art in his classes at YMLA with Brittany Smith-Moczygemba. "The most influential person in my education, and in life, is my art teacher Mrs. Smith-Moczygemba," Guzman said. "She's the whole reason I'm pursuing art history and the reason I realized I loved museums so much."

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Local business invests in Hawthorne Academy

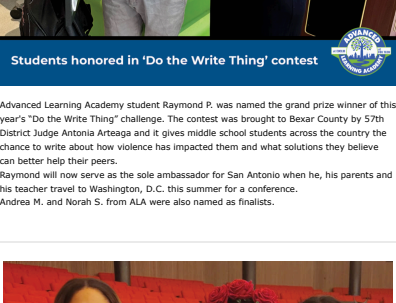
Last week, Vow'd Weddings surprised Hawthorne Academy with a \$20,000 donation of AdoptAClassroom.org funding. All 50 teachers at the school will receive an equal portion of the donation to purchase the tools and materials they need for their classrooms and students. The donation celebrates Vow'd Weddings joining the San Antonio community, as its new store opened nearby in early May at 2600 Broadway. Thank you for your investment in the Hawthorne Bears!



Jefferson senior to receive award at WWII Museum


Days before her graduation, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Esmeralda Huerta, Battalion Commander of the Jefferson High School JROTC, will be representing the state of Texas at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans for the American Spirit Awards Program. There she will receive The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award, which the museum presents annually to 51 students across the nation who demonstrate the American Spirit in their communities. "The values of leadership, teamwork, tolerance, creativity, and perseverance can and should be learned and lived by all Americans, regardless of age," the museum's website states. "Through this award, The National WWII Museum promotes these values to students nationwide and honors those who exemplify them." Huerta was nominated for the award by her JROTC instructor for her involvement in the school.

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Students honored in 'Do the Write Thing' contest

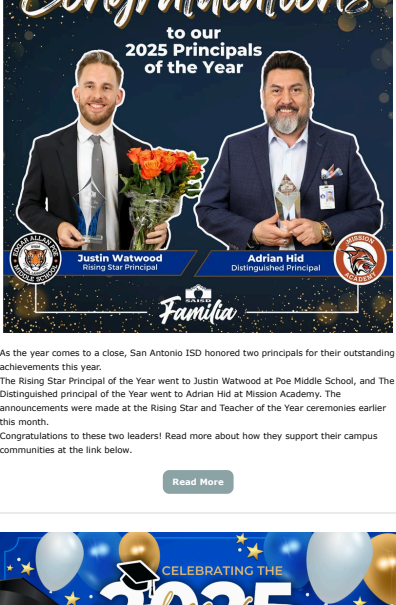
Advanced Learning Academy student Raymond P. was named the grand prize winner of this year's "Do the Write Thing" challenge. The contest was brought to Bexar County by 57th District Judge Antonia Artega and it gives middle school students across the country the chance to write about how violence has impacted them and what solutions they believe can better help their peers. Raymond will now serve as the sole ambassador for San Antonio when he, his parents and his teacher travel to Washington, D.C. this summer for a conference. Andrea M. and Norah S. from ALA were also named as finalists.



Pre-K teacher wins Trinity Prize for SAISD

Our teachers are amazing! Miryam Gonzalez, a dual language Pre-K teacher at Sarah King Elementary, has been awarded a 2025 Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Gonzalez and other distinguished educators nominated by area school districts received the prize during a ceremony on May 9 at the Trinity University campus. She is pictured here with principal Charity Nathaniel and Assistant Superintendent Jackie Navar.

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Congratulations to our 2025 Principals of the Year

As the year comes to a close, San Antonio ISD honored two principals for their outstanding achievements this year. The Rising Star Principal of the Year went to Justin Watwood at Poe Middle School, and The Distinguished principal of the Year went to Adrian Hid at Mission Academy. The announcements were made at the Rising Star and Teacher of the Year ceremonies earlier this month. Congratulations to these two leaders! Read more about how they support their campus communities at the link below.

[Read More](#)



Irving celebrates Bond 2020 completions

We celebrated another bond milestone! Thank you to all who gathered with us at Washington-Irving Dual Language Academy for a ribbon-cutting and campus tour. Irving first opened in 1924 and moved to its current location in 1973. Yesterday, we toured the new athletics facility including a new competition gym, renovated secondary gym and support spaces. Following the ceremony, guests were invited to attend the eighth grade graduation ceremony. These updates were able to be completed thanks to Bond 2020, a project aimed to enhance SAISD schools including major renovations, updated security and technology, and HVAC upgrades.

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NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION



Foundation fueling student dreams with scholarships

The SAISD Foundation has begun awarding scholarships to the Class of 2025. The first award was given at Travis Early College High School to senior Kimberly Gonzalez. Her scholarship honors the legacy of Officer Stephanie Brown, who lost her life while on duty to a wrong-way drunk driver. This is just one of many memorial scholarships the Foundation helps manage. In total 127 students will receive 144 scholarships through the Foundation this year, totaling just over \$200,000 in postsecondary funding.

[Learn more about postsecondary support](#)



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CLOSING SHOTS



A big happy birthday to two of our iconic academies! Cotton Academy and Woodlawn Academy both celebrated 100 years last week. Hundreds of guests visited the two schools, both of which opened for operation in Fall 1924. Check out these highlights of the celebrations, and a big thanks to **KENS-5 who went live** at their afternoon newscasts from Cotton.