

# Tigertalk

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**Memories of  
Nataly Montoya**



**Prom pictures**

**Head of the Class**



**Valedictorian Isabella Greco  
Salutatorian Taryn Thurman**

**Volume 46**

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**May 2021**

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**2021-2022 Drum Majors.** Front row is Assistant Drum Major Sebastian Campos and Head Drum Major Abril Ramirez. Back row are Assistant Drum Majors Manoa Bagsic and Pablo Mata.

## Tigertalk

### NEWS STAFF

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**Special Contributor:** Kelly Cowan

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## Jentsch chosen Teacher of the Year

By ALEX HARRAH  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

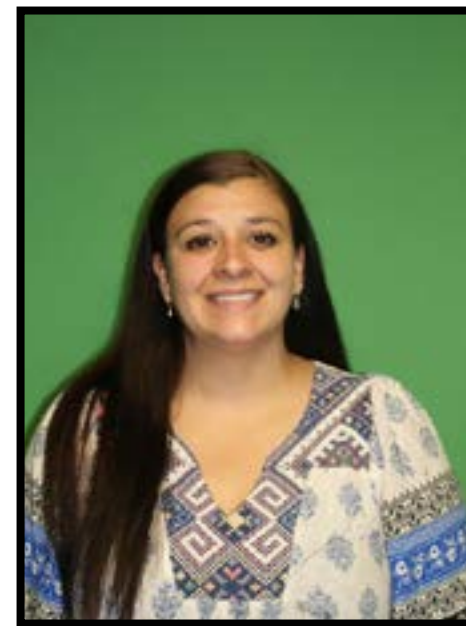
Special Education Teacher Crystal Jentsch was chosen as the 2020-2021 High School Teacher of the Year.

Upon receiving this honor from her peers, Jentsch said, "I feel very humbled to be recognized by my peers and I am honored to be Teacher of the Year."

Born in Phoenix, Ariz., Jentsch attended Grand Canyon University and obtained both a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies and a Masters in Special Education.

This is her second year in Texas and at MPISD. She is a Biology Co-Teacher, teaches General Employability Skills, and case manages Special Education students at MPHS.

She previously taught in



Jentsch

Arizona as a Resource Social Studies teacher for two years prior to moving to Texas. This is her fourth year total as a teacher.

"What I like most about teaching is the opportunity to teach students skills for their futures" she said.

"I base this off what students need to learn for their future careers and to become successful community members, such as counting money, self-esteem, self-advocacy, technology skills, etc. The best thing about my job is watching students grow intellectually as well as develop new skills which will help them be successful in life."

Jentsch and her husband have two children - a son, Rowan who is 10 and attends PE Wallace and 5-year-old daughter Bellamie who attends the CDC. They have a dog named Marley and a Bearded Dragon named Hunter.

## Pettiet named Employee of the Year

By ALEX HARRAH  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Registered Nurse Dusty Pettiet was chosen as the 2020-2021 High School Employee of the Year.

"It is humbling to receive such an honor," she said. "I have so many staff members that help me just get through the day. I could not do my job without the support of the entire staff here at the High School."

Pettiet was born in Memphis, Tenn. and earned an Associates Degree at Paris Junior College, started nursing school at Texas Tech after studying business, became a Licensed Vocational Nurse at South Plains College in 1990, and became a Registered Nurse at NTCC.

This is her first job as a school nurse, she started at MPHS in February 2018.

She enjoys sharing knowl-



Pettiet

edge with others as well as helping and caring for others. The biggest challenge she faced this year was COVID-19.

"It seems like the rules are

changing daily," she said. "Just figuring out a system that worked in order to keep up with all the students was challenging. Thanks to Lyndee Chappell, RN who serves as our District Nurse, we had someone to call and count on to always help."

The best thing about her job this year was getting a chance to meet a lot more of the students, even if they weren't feeling their best.

"I was actually able to put names with faces of students I would have never met during a normal school year," Pettiet said.

Pettiet has a daughter, Hailey and her husband, Jacob along with the Light of my Life, Payton Rae whom is 18 months old.

She also has a son Devon and his wife, Kayleigh. She is the oldest of four siblings and said she is "blessed to still have my Mom around."



# Greco is 2021 valedictorian

By FAITH HAMPTON  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Isabella Greco feels immensely proud of not only herself but also her fellow graduates who have made it this far.

Isabella, the daughter of Dr. Anthony and Ana Greco, is the valedictorian for the Class of 2021.

“To me, being named valedictorian is a great honor,” Isabella said. “I have wanted this for as long as I can remember and it reminds me that hard work pays off. I feel extremely accomplished and proud at what I have achieved with this honor.”

Throughout high school, many memories are made.

When asked about her most memorable, Greco responds, “My favorite memory of high school was attending the Belton Invitational UIL Tournament junior year with my friends and Mrs. Crouch.

“My least favorite memory of high school was junior year getting cut short due to COVID-19 and moving everything online.”

While her favorite class was Calculus, the hardest class for Greco was physics.

Reflecting on her source of motivation, she says, “I have always admired and looked up to my dad, who was valedictorian. From a young age, I had set the goal to attain that same honor. Once I set a goal, I stick with it. I would say my determination to succeed is what has kept me motivated as well as many cups of coffee.”

Throughout her high school career, Greco earned many various achievements. Some of these include being awarded Academic All-American in Debate, becoming a FBLA national qualifier, earning Rep. John Ratcliffe Congressional Leadership Recognition, and being awarded the Heisman School Winner.

She also received an academic blanket in all four core classes all four years of high school, was state and regional champion in congressional debate, and awarded four time regional finalist in the medley and freestyle relays in swim-



Greco

ming.

After high school Greco plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in biology on the pre-medical track. However, her goal is to attend medical school and become an ophthalmologist.

Concluding her high school experience, Greco’s advice to underclassmen is to be unafraid to have high goals. She said “Anything is possible with hard work and determination. Reach for the stars!”

To her fellow graduates, Greco offers encouragement, “Even though our time at MPHS is coming to an end, we still have our whole lives ahead of us. Don’t lose sight of what’s important and don’t take anything for granted. Keep working hard, Class of 2021! I can’t wait to see what you guys do!”

# Thurman is 2021 salutatorian

By ODALYS ADAME  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Taryn Thurman has earned the honor of being named the salutatorian for the MPHS Class of 2021.

Thurman is the daughter of Tris and Stephanie Thurman.

“It’s pretty nice to be recognized for hard work, although it is not a measure of mine or anyone else’s worth. I’m proud of my entire class’ efforts,” Thurman said..

Thurman has attained multiple roles throughout high school such as Colorguard Captain, National Honor Society Vice President and Co-Captain of Policy Debate.

Additionally, Thurman has volunteered in a multitude of organizations.

“The coolest-sounding achievement of mine is winning top speaker of the golden gavel at state, twice. I’m also proud as my position as Captain on the colorguard team,” Thurman said.

Throughout high school, Thurman found Physics with Mr. Russell and AP Chemistry with Mr. Trickey as the most difficult classes she had to take. She adds that her favorite class was AP U.S History with Ms. Blalock.

Some of her favorite memories were made in debate and Colorguard and notes that late night drives back from tournaments and competitions have a surreal feeling, especially after winning.

The accomplishment of reaching the status of salutatorian is not one many can say they earned. This role shows Thurman’s dedication to academics and her drive to succeed not only in school but also in everyday situations.

“I’m largely self-motivated. If I know something is not done to the best of my ability, it will bother me.



Thurman

Thanks for that quality, Mom,” Thurman adds.

This school year has been a rollercoaster with COVID-19 largely impacting school activities such as sports, UIL and many senior festivities.

Regardless of all that has happened, Thurman still reached the goals she had set for herself.

After graduation, Thurman plans to attend Texas A&M and major in Business Management.

As for advice to underclassmen, Thurman said “you have the reigns on your experience and attitude during high school. Life’s what you make it.”

# Class of 2021

## Honor Graduates

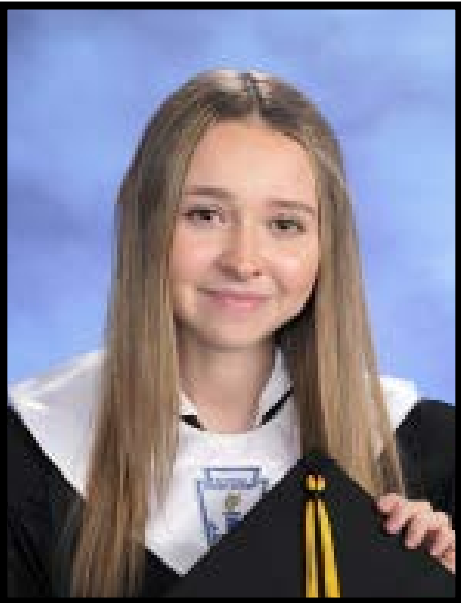


**Isabella Greco**  
**Valedictorian**



**Taryn Thurman**  
**Salutatorian**

### Top 10 Percent in Alphabetical Order



**Madison Adams**



**Megan Adams**



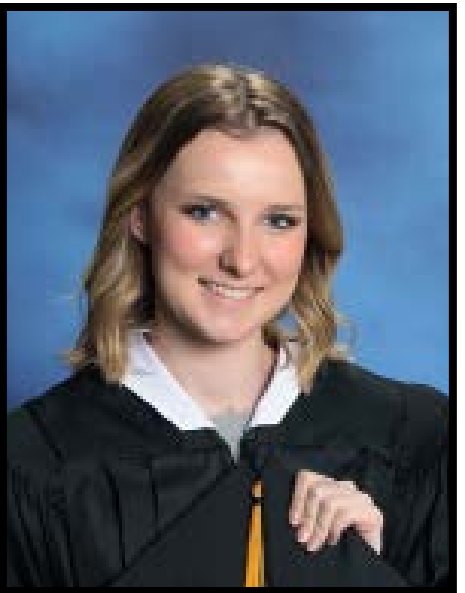
**Jalissa Alvarez**



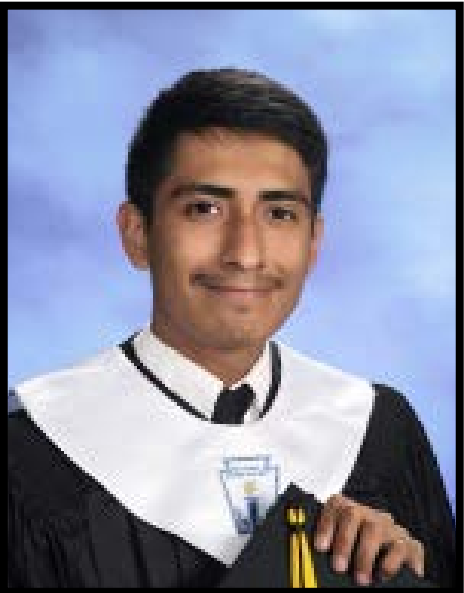
**Ashleigh Amerson**



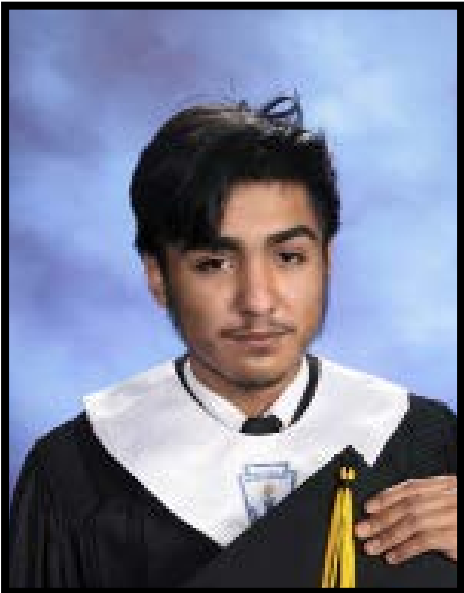
**Lily Burrows**



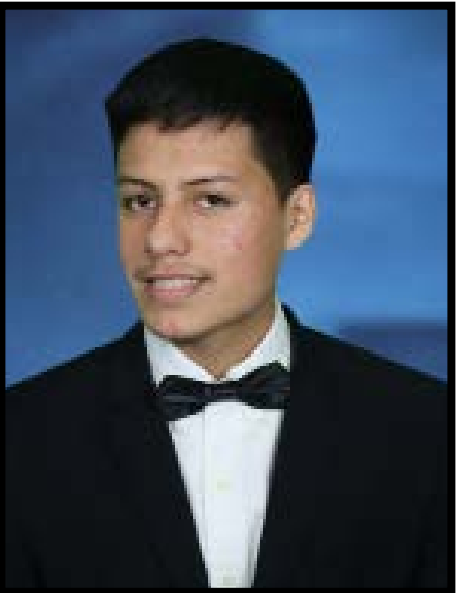
**Mya Clark**



**Victor Diaz**



**Maiko Estrada**



**Bryan Flores**



**Christian Flores**



**Faith Hampton**

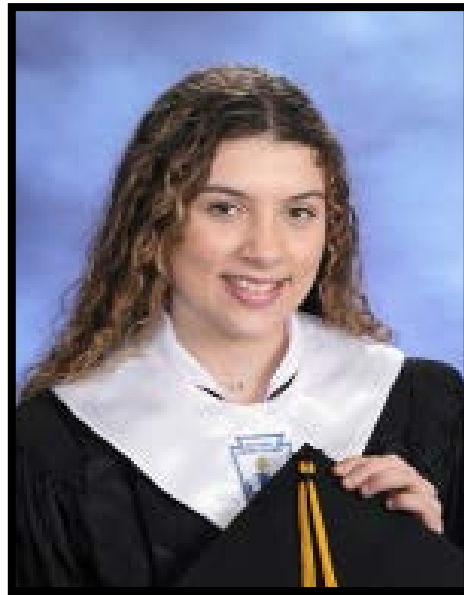


**BreAsia Hargrave**





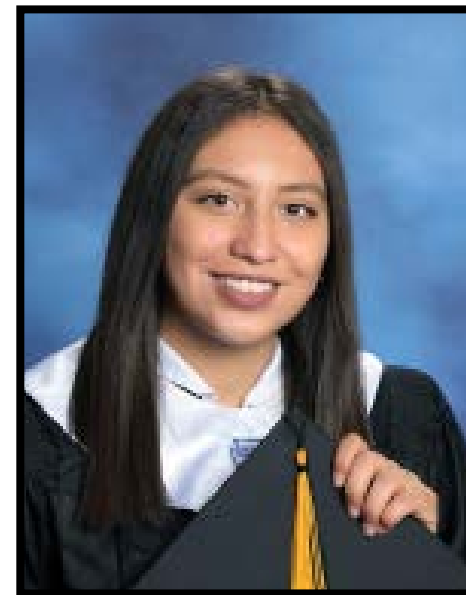
**Anna Harris**



**Kylie Hedge**



**Peyton Hein**



**Alejandra Ramirez**



**Jasper Reynolds**



**Alex Rogers**



**ZiZi Lee**



**Nataly Morales**



**Jasmine Pina**



**Patricia Roque**



**Nicholas Segovia**



**Miguel Segura**



**Reid Pinckard**



**Sashi Poudel**



**McKala Price**



**Ryan Sharp**



**Elijah Tagg**



**Karen Trejo**





Jaycee Woods



Carson Zachry

## Class of 2021 Honor Graduates



Front row from left are Sophie Greco, Faith Logan, Leslie Espinoza, Megan Adams, Beth Lockett, Desirae Easley and Hope Powell. Back row from left are Taryn Thurman, Nicholas Segovia, Miguel Segura, Nevaeh Bardwell, Mary Kait Heeren and FBLA Advisor John Whitten.

## FBLA students advance to Nationals

The Mount Pleasant High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter competed in the online State Leadership Conference in March and had 8 students qualify for Nationals to be held online in June.

Those advancing to Nationals, their events, and their places at state include:

- Broadcast Journalism: Leslie Espinoza, Megan Adams, and Elizabeth Lockett (2nd)
- Business Calcula-

*Pg. 10 Tigertalk*

tions: Miguel Segura (4th)

- Business Ethics: Mary Kait Heeren and Nevaeh Bardwell (4th)

- Marketing: Taryn Thurman and Nicholas Segovia (4th)

National Alternates include:

- Intro to Business Procedures: Sophie Greco (5th)
- Intro to event Planning: Desirae Easley and Hope Powell (5th)

Senior Faith Logan was named Who's Who for the Mount Pleasant High School

chapter.

"In a year filled with numerous challenges due to COVID-19 and virtual events, our FBLA students stepped up when it came to competition," said FBLA Advisor, John Whitten. "I am very proud of the showing by our students and the hard work they put in to achieve success. With the eight qualifying for Nationals continues the success by past students, giving MPHS

See FBLA, Pg. 11



Daniela Robles and Mirka Soto



Monserrat Rivero

## TAFE students qualify for Nationals

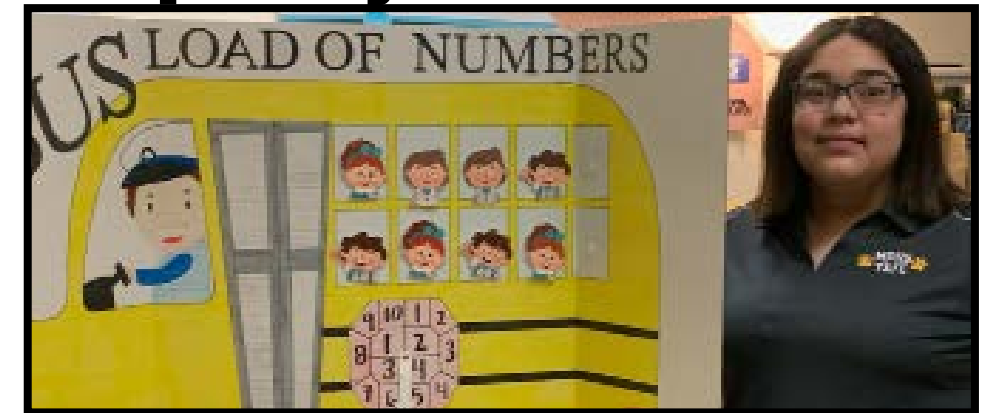
The Mount Pleasant High School Chapter of the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) competed in the Teach Tomorrow Summit virtually and had four students qualify for Nationals.

Seniors Daniela Robles and Mirka Soto advanced to Nationals in Children's Literature K-3 with their book "Growing Up with Cuco and Tiki", a beautifully illustrated story about the life cycle of the macaw in the rainforests of South America.

Junior Monserrat Rivero also advanced to Nationals in Children's Literature Pre-K with her book "A Surprise for Milo", an age appropriate explanation of a new addition to a mouse family and the excitement and anticipation can bring to young children. Her book includes handmade finger puppets that represent the characters in the story.

Sophomore Marcela Mata advanced to Nationals in Elementary Interactive Bulletin Board with her board titled "A Bus Load of Numbers" that emphasizes individual activities with varying degrees of difficulty to support both the struggling and the advanced learners in one to one correspondence and basic math computation.

This board can be used in both



Marcela Mata

general education classrooms as a center activity as well as a special education classroom for instructional support.

"Future educators from The Mount Pleasant High School TAFE chapter competed at the state level for the sixth year in a row in mid-February," said MPHS TAFE advisor, Aimee Sweeden. "MPHS TAFE represented well at the Teach Tomorrow Summit held virtually at the Region 8 Service Center. The uniqueness of the current situation proved to be no issue

for the students in their ZOOM competitions.

"The students were stars in front of the camera and did their best with the technology to advance in three different events to the National Level. I am thrilled to have these students represent the district and the Educators Rising/TAFE Mount Pleasant High School Chapter again at the National level. I am so very proud of these future educators, leaving a legacy of success and Tiger pride for the next group of competitors!"

## FBLA from Page 10

46 national qualifiers over the past four years. Our students have worked hard to reach this point, and I'm excited to see how they will do on the national level. Unfortunately, like area and state, national competition will be a virtual event. I am disappointed our students will miss out on the experience of going to Anaheim, but I know they will step up and do their best."

*Pg. 11 Tigertalk*



# Prom 2021

## The Roaring 20's



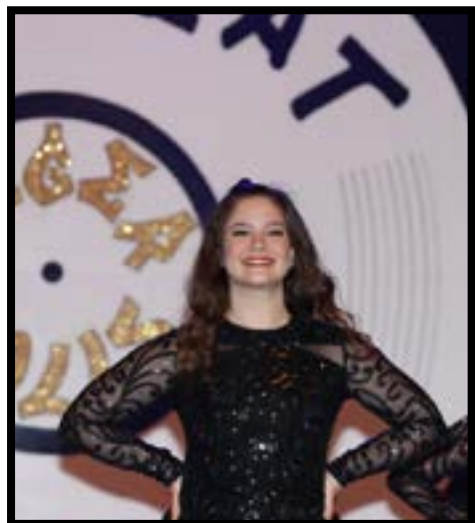
Prom King Gaven Fife  
Prom Queen Ashlyn Brooks





# Tiger Doll Spring Show

## The Beat Goes On



## Academic Blankets awarded

Students were recognized for having the highest average in their respective subject at the annual Academic Awards Blanket ceremony.

Below are the list of subjects and recipients for each blanket.

Accounting-Sherlyn Sandoval; Agriculture-MaKayla Houchin; Ag Mechanics-Ashley Tabor; Algebra I-Conlee Zachry; Algebra II-Manoa Bagsic; Anatomy and Physiology-Reese Loving; Animal Science-Bryce Bartlett; Advanced Quantitative Reasoning-Ke'Mya Davis; Art-Mya Clark; Band-Nia Jackson; Business Information Management-Dayanara Yopez; AP Biology-Taylor Hubbs; Biology PreAP-Abigail Gutierrez; Calculus-Miguel Segura; Career Preparation-Isaac Gallon; Certified Nursing Assistant-Madison Adams; AP Chemistry-Parker Colley; Chemistry PreAP-Ethan Harbour; Choir-Migel Guerrero; Communications-Gavin Rider; Construction Technology-Gabriel Soto; Cosmetology-BreAsia Hargrave; Culinary Arts-Anahi Ramirez; Dance-Madysen Arzate; Education and Training-Mirka Soto; Electrical Technology-Christian Flores; Engineering-Jasper Reynolds; English I-Angelina Hernandez; English II-Chelsea Maldonado; AP English III-Vanessa Buendia; Dual Credit English III-Rachel Rodriguez; AP English

IV-Reid Pinckard; Dual Credit English IV-Nicholas Segovia; Environmental Systems-Cecilia Phan; Fashion Design-Noemi Rios; Forensic Science-Baker Peterson; French III-Alondra Carrero Villanueva; French IV-Diana Velez; Geometry-Ella Cross; Government and Economics-Alex Rogers; Health Science Theory-Javier Vasquez; Instructional Practice in Education-Emyly Lopez; Journalism Newspaper-Odalys Adame; Journalism Yearbook-Joshlyn Paloblanco; Law Enforcement-Michelle Calderon; Marketing Education-Layne Pinckard; Math Models-Raul Fernandez; Music Theory-Abril Ramirez; Physics C-Isabella Greco; Physics Dual Credit-Connelly Cowan; Piano-Isiah Martinez; Practicum in Health Science I-Hugo Bernardi; Practicum in Health Science II-Maiko Estrada; Pre-Calculus-Nic Chappell III; Scientific Research and Design-Naydelin Martinez; Spanish I Bilingual-Silvia Lopez; Spanish I-Sandy Guerrero; Spanish II Bilingual-Jeisy Munoz Salazar; Spanish III-Reese Ball; AP Spanish Language-Perla Guzman; AP Spanish Literature-Victor Diaz; Sports Medicine-Tyler Welborn; Statistics-Patricia Roque; Theatre-Lexie Humber; US History-Mary Kait Heeren; World Geography-Sophie Greco and World History-Natalie Crockett.



# CX Debate team wins state awards

The MPHS Cross-Examination debate team of Connelly Cowan and Taryn Thurman competed in the online 5A State CX Debate tournament on March 19-20. Cowan and Thurman, nicknamed TarCon, claimed their 3rd District Championship in February, earning them the right to compete at State.

On day one, the field began with 27 teams entered from across the state of Texas, a significant drop from prior years. Due to the pandemic, the UIL only allowed the 1st place team in each district to advance to state creating a more difficult challenge as all teams were the champions of their districts. Mount Pleasant CT debated teams from Pflugerville Hendrickson, Dripping Springs, Mansfield Legacy, and Frisco Independence.

That evening, the teams gathered on a zoom call to learn if they had advanced to the second day. Scores are determined by a combination of wins and losses as well as the speaker points given to each team member.

The first awards given are to the top six speakers in each division. Thurman was awarded the Gold Gavel for having the highest speaker points among all 54 contestants in 5A. She was the first MPHS student to ever receive this prestigious award in 2019 and is the first to repeat the award in 2021.

Cowan was awarded the Silver Gavel for having the second highest speaker points, just 1 point behind Thurman's perfect score, making them the top two 5A speakers in the state of Texas, the highest individual awards given at UIL State.

After speaker awards are presented, the advancing teams in each division are announced in alphabetical order. In a normal, in-person year, 16 teams advance to day 2, but this year would see only the top 11. Mount Pleasant CT learned that they advanced to the top eleven and would debate for state medals the next day.

Day 2 started with Octofinals where MPHS earned a bye due to their winning record from day 1 and high speaker points. MPHS was finally defeated on a close 2-1 decision in the quarterfinal round by A&M Consolidated.

They earned 5th place medals, ranking them the #5 CX Debate team in all of 5A in the state of Texas for the 2020-21 school year.

After being denied the chance at state in 2020 due to the pandemic, the medals would mark the end of their UIL career together, solidifying them as the most decorated CX Debate team in MPHS school history with

*Pg. 16 Tigertalk*



Cowan and Thurman

2 state medals and 3 state speaker awards. They will debate at Nationals this June in their last tournament as a team.

"It has been a wonderful experience guiding these talented students," said MPHS Debate Coach, Enrique Martinez. "These two have done so much work to continue our debate program's growth for the last few months. This year is the third consecutive year that Mount Pleasant has brought home UIL state medals in CX debate, with Thurman and Cowan bringing them home two of the three years."

"These girls adapted to every situation they faced, whether working through a transition period or competing online instead of in Austin. It is hard to convey to the community the obstacles these girls have had to overcome."

Martinez continued, "Individually, both Taryn and Connelly received the Gold and Silver gavel awards, awarded to the best and second-best speaker, respectively. It is rare for the two best speakers in any UIL division to come from the same team. This historic achievement couldn't have been pos-

See Debate, Pg. 17



From left are Hubbs, Sharp, Cowan, Greco, Pinckard, Orellana and Martinez.

## Three reach state in UIL Acacemics

The MPHS UIL Academic team competed at the Region 2 AAAAA UIL Academic Meet on April 16-17 with some students competing at Whitehouse High School and others competing online.

Overall, MPHS is sending three students to State with three others claiming alternate spots.

The MPHS Speech and Debate team claimed the team Regional Championship, outscoring fifteen other teams in Region II.

Individually, in Informative Extemporaneous Speaking, junior Connelly Cowan claimed the Regional Championship with senior Ryan Sharp placing 3rd, advancing

them both to the State meet.

In Persuasive Extemporaneous Speaking, senior Isabella Greco placed 2nd and advanced to State with senior Reid Pinckard placing 5th and claiming a state alternate spot. And in Lincoln Douglas debate, sophomore Anthony Orellana placed 4th and is an alternate to State. MP Speech and Debate is coached by Enrique Martinez.

In Calculator Applications, senior Miguel Segura placed 4th and is a state alternate. The Math teams are coached by Osias Hernandez.

The online UIL Speech State Meet will be May 25-26.

## Debate from Page 16

sible without the drive and dedication that these two girls have for success.

"Taryn's willingness to work has allowed her to continue performing at the highest level during her senior year. Since their last competition, Connelly has continued to work hard, receiving the silver gavel due to her drive to improve. It has been such an honor to guide these two on this successful jour-

ney. They have continued to build on their successes, creating opportunity and growth for future students."

Thurman will attend Texas A&M University in the fall and is the daughter of Tris and Stephanie Thurman. Cowan will return for her senior year with a new partner in the fall and is the daughter of Collin and Kelly Cowan.

*Pg. 17 Tigertalk*



# Students share memories of senior Nataly Montoya

By ODALYS ADAME  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

On March 8th, Colorguard senior Nataly Montoya was involved in a fatal automobile accident.

Many knew Montoya for her extroverted personality and bright smile.

She was regarded as the life of the party and her passing affected the Colorguard, high school and community. Members of Colorguard and friends shared their favorite memories with Montoya.

"We were on our way to a 15 and I didn't know what to wear, so I was going to let her choose. She picked an outfit so I took the exit to go to Keyoli's, and I pulled over and changed in the middle of the road. She covered me & we couldn't stop laughing," senior Faith Logan said.

"Montoya never cared what anybody thought of her. She would do her own thing regardless of what people would say. She was unapologetically herself and it was such an admirable thing about her," freshman Zoe Zittle said.

"At the end of my freshman year, during my weakest times, I remember when Montoya would always try to cheer me up by telling me that the reason why I was sad wasn't worth it. I could always remember how warm her smile would make me feel and how she would yell at me for not trying my hardest or how she would tell me to never listen to people who weren't worth listening to," junior Airam Antolin said.

"Montoya had been a big part of my life and I'm thank-



Montoya on senior night.

ful for having the opportunity to know her. At our Friends-giving, she would always be the mom of the group, organizing who brings what and coordinating the attire. Our friendly get togethers were so important to her," senior Sashi Poudel said.

"Nataly was consistently making others smile. She was like a second mom to many on our team and she always made long practice days feel like minutes," Taryn Thurman, 12th Grade

"A memory I had with Nataly Montoya was when I met her in Jr. High and I remember she had the biggest smile and was so sweet and kind. She literally made me laugh so hard I almost peed my pants," freshman Kaira Leija said.

"In 6th grade we went to the fair and she used to refuse to get on the rides with me. She

hated them. This time I convinced her to get on one with me and she had passed out on it and scared me. After, I kept making fun of her since it wasn't even a scary ride," senior Nataly Castillo, said.

"When she came over to my house for my 16th birthday and she grabbed the cake and shoved it in my face. When everyone left she was the only one that spent the night and we stayed up late just eating and watching movies," senior Joshlyn Paloblanco said.

"Nataly Montoya was wonderful, kind hearted and crazy. The day I met her she made me feel like we were friends that same day. On this Saturday, me and her talked and joked about the YOLO squad and all the other memories we had and

See Montoya, Pg. 19

# Senior Column: High school provides lifelong lessons

By FAITH HAMPTON  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Throughout the four years in high school you learn so much and become the person you are today. The war zone of high school provides experiences and lessons, although not always good, that are memorable and lifelong markers in our lives.

Some of the most valuable lessons you could ever learn you stumble across deep in the trenches of adolescence.

High school teaches you how to relate with people, how to deal with conflict and to take obstacles in stride. Although chaotic and at times less than ideal, the high school experience has made us into who we are and set the foundation



Hampton

for our future.

You learn all about perseverance, the value of education and about different types of relationships. Not every day is going to be the best day ever and not every person you meet will like you, however, you can control your reaction and make the best out of even the most unpleasant situation.

You discover who you are as you transverse hurdles side by side with your classmates and that creates a bond. Personally my reluctance to leave stems from this.

I am so grateful to be able to spend the remainder of my four year venture here with so many of you that I have come to know as friends and family. The people by your side that journey this minefield of pitfalls along the way to maturity will always have a place in our memories and subsequently our hearts in the years to come.

These pivotal, crucial moments in our lives are colored by the people we experience them with and mold us into the people we become.

## Montoya from Page 18

I think that is my favorite memory," sophomore Yase-nia Paloblanco said.

"There's not just one memory I can pick. We were always laughing and there was never a dull moment. In lunch, she'd sit next to me and she always said 'I want new friends' but we always told her good luck because she would never find friends like us... same way we'll never find a friend like her," senior Maira Rocha said.

"We had gone to Tyler together for senior skip day. I remember we did so many fun things. She was so excited to be with us and she made my toes wiggle when

we went to a park. Seeing her smile is what I miss the most and it's the most vivid memory," senior Desline Chavez said.

"Montoya always had a laugh I will never forget. At our HOSA competition, Sashi, Anna, Montoya, and I all chose each others outfits and took pictures. Being with her was so fun and she kept making me laugh. I won't forget that moment with her," junior Jonathan Tepetate said.

"A memory I have of Montoya is going to dinner with her after a basketball game back in Junior High. That's where I met her mom for the

first time and boy!! That's when I realized she looked exactly like her mom! She hated when we (her friends) called her by her mom's name," senior Karen Trejo said.

"She was one of my best friends and every time I was with her is a moment worth remembering. Like the time she took me to go watch my first Marvel movie, or the first time I took her to try Popeyes chicken sandwich. Even though I have memories with her, the one thing I will never forget is her beautiful smile and amazing laugh," senior Victor Diaz said.



# Twenty questions with Ms. Rolf

By FAITH HAMPTON  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper features a different teacher to spotlight.

This issue spotlights Tam-mie Rolf, who is teaches Algebra and is lead senior sponsor.

**1. What language do you wish you knew?**

Spanish

**2.If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

I'd like to be invisible. Seems like it could be cool to have that power sometimes.

**3. What would you want your last meal to be?**

Homemade pizza I guess. I've never really thought about it.

**4. What secret talents do you have?**

I sing but mostly in church.

**5. What is your spirit animal?**

It's not fair to ask a math person these questions...we are not creative. I'll go with a sloth because at the end of the school year that seems like the amount of energy I have left.

**6. If you could go anywhere where would you go?**

Hawaii

**7. What is at the top of your bucket list?**

Go on vacation more often! Hawaii is #1

**8. What sports do you like?**

Baseball and softball because my kids played those sports.

**9. If you could be an expert at anything what would it be?**

Investments, seems like a good way to grow your wealth.

**10. As a little kid what**



Rolf

**did you want to do when you grew up?**

As a little kid I liked to play teacher a lot so I guess a teacher but it was not my first major when I started college.

**11. If you could be president, what would you change?**

I'm honestly not sure the president has the power to change much of anything long term. If I could, I'd like to make members of Congress have term limits and befits that are more in line with what the rest of us have. The ones who have been there too long seem to lose touch with what "the people" have elected them to do.

**12. If you invented something what would it be?**

If I knew that I'd be rich...

**13. What's something you regret?**

Regrets are a waste of energy. I don't regret any choices I've made so far because they have brought me to this place in my life with all the people that I love.

**14. What's a goal you have for the future?**

Pay off all my debt and travel more.

**15. If you won the lottery what's the first thing you would do?**

Pay off my debt and travel more, lol.

**16. If you could meet anyone famous who would you want to meet?**

I'm not that impressed with many famous people. I'd like to meet people who tried to change the world for good like Mother Teresa or Martin Luther King.

**17. What's the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you?**

I can't think of anything so it must not have embarrassed me too badly.

**18. What's your favorite memory?**

I love memories of my grandparents and family gatherings at their house.

**19. Who has had the greatest impact on your life?**

Jesus. Without his influence, I would not be the person that I am today.

**20. What is something you wish you could do over?**

High school boyfriends, lol.

# Brown, Easley elected FFA officers

Sam Brown and Ethan Easley have been elected to Area and District offices within the FFA organization.

Brown, a junior, was elected the Area 6 FFA President. His campaign included an extensive interview process, testing, and delivering a speech in front numerous members of FFA in Area 6, which is made up of over 100 chapters. He is the son of Tommy and Carolyn Brown.

Easley, a sophomore, was elected Reporter of the Paris District. He also went through an extensive process to be elected. He is the son of Heslie Zacarias Carrera, Kacey Easley, and Marco Gutierrez.

"This year Mount Pleasant holds the Area 6 President Office as well as an office in the Paris District," said MPHS Ag Coordinator, Blake Rice. "Mount Pleasant FFA has not had an Area Officer since 2012. It is a huge honor to be elected



Easley and Brown

into office, let alone President. These are huge accomplishments for these young men and for our FFA Program."

Brown and Easley will serve in their roles through March 2022.

# Ramirez wins annual talent show

MPHS held its annual talent show on Monday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the MPHS Auditorium. Winners were presented certificates and a gift card of their choice.

Taking 1st place for her vocal solo "Never Enough" from the movie, The Greatest Showman, was junior Abril Ramirez. Placing 2nd singing "Hopelessly Devoted" from Grease was sophomore Madeline Tumey-Simmons. And placing 3rd with their vocal duet "The Shallow" were seniors Mya Clark and Peyton Hein. Emcees for the evening were seniors Faith Logan and Jaycee Woods.

The talent show is an annual fund raiser benefitting the MPHS Journalism Department led by John Whitten.



Ramirez



# Seniors announce future plans

By ANGEL ACUNA  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

With the 2020-2021 school year winding down, seniors have started looking toward their future whether that includes college, military, trade school or work.

A few members of the senior class share what their plans are for the future.

**Khia M. Shaw** – attend Langston University and major in Early Childhood Education while minoring in Special Education.

**Luis Espinoza** – go to college, major in Criminal Justice, then become a police officer, and five years later join Dallas SWAT Team.

**Haidie Fielder** – go to NTCC to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Psychology.

**Moises Ramirez** – attend NTCC and start my business with 18 wheelers.

**Brianna Garcia** – go to NTCC for basics then transfer to Texas A&M & major in Veterinary Medicine.

**Yahaira Perez** – start at NTCC and begin my basics, then transfer to Texas A&M and pursue my masters for Nurse Practitioner.

**Aaliyah Simms** – go to Texas A&M-Commerce to study Criminal Justice.

**Richard Hall** – go to TJC to study Kinesiology.

**Chloe Garrett** – go to NTCC to major in Criminal Justice and Athletic Trainer.

**Alexa Moreno** – plan to attend NTCC to study to become a Registered Nurse.

**Lexy Caddell** – attend Stephen F. Austin University and major in psychology.

**Ashley Gonzalez** – attend NTCC in the fall to work towards my Cosmetology Certification.

**Alex Harrah** – plan to get an Associates Degree in Jour-



Caddell



Rodarte



Dorantes



Cooper

nalism, than plan to move to the United Kingdom.

**Maribel Rodarte** – pursue a Business Degree at NTCC for 2 years then transfer to Texas A&M University.

**Adriana Dorantes** – go to NTCC for basics, than transfer to UT Tyler for a Nursing Degree.

**Hector Castaneda** – Attend UTI to become an Auto/Diesel Technician.

**Ericka Morales** – go to college and pursue a career in cinematography.

**Cristian Gonzalez** – plan on joining the work force for a while, then go to a

trade school to get his Diesel Equipment Certifications.

**Didier Serrano** – attend UT Arlington and major in Nursing, than to go Medical School.

**Brock Cooper** – attend TJC and play baseball while trying to get a degree in Business.

**Valerie Moreno** – attend the University of Texas at Tyler and pursue a degree in Nursing to become a Travel Nurse.

**Nataly Castaneda** – attend at NTCC, than transfer to

See Seniors, Pg. 23

# Seniors from Page 22

Tyler University to study to be a Dental Hygienist.

**Hassel Moreno** – Attend TSTC and study for Diesel Mechanic.

**Isaac Gallon** – go to college in Waco to become an Electrical Lineman.

**Cecilia Garcia** – attend NTCC for basics and associates in Biology, than transfer to University of Texas at Austin to continue my major in Forensic Science.

**Ke'Mya Davis** – attend Stephen F. Austin State University and major in Nursing.

**Joel Ontiveros** – planning to join the workforce, then get Associates as a Mechanic and open up own shop.

**Madeline Organista** – Will be joining the United States Marine Corps after graduation, than attend school to become a Veterinarian.

**Jakybrien Hines** - join Military-Navy.

**Erick Jaimes** - join the Army

**Elias Mendoza** - join the military/Air Force

**Reese Loving**- I plan to attend NTCC for two years to learn more; then transfer to study to be a medical examiner/work with forensics.

**Jaylene Zuniga** - I plan to attend NTCC for my basics, and get an associates for an accountant.

**Anthony Jenkins** - Go to TJC for two years get my associates degree for power plant technology.

**Logan Saldivar** - become a certified combo welder.

**Aunesti Brannon** - attend Southern Methodist University majoring in psychology and also cheering!

**Jada Douglas** – to go to NTCC and get a degree in biomedical science and train with my brother to become a dental lab tech.

**Lessete Cruz** – attend



Davis



Gallon



Tabor



Torreblanca

NTCC on a soccer scholarship. Then transfer to become a nurse practitioner.

**Allie Fincher** – I plan on going to NTCC then transferring to Texas A&M's Nursing program to work as a pediatric nurse.

**Fatima Rotuna** – Attending NTCC then transfer to Texas Tech to major in Biology, from there go to the marines.

**Noelia Yanez** – attend A&M Texarkana to major in nursing.

**Juan Pablo Juarez** – earn a bachelors in Criminal Justice to become a state trooper.

**Ashley Tabor** – go to college to major in Agriculture or welding.

**Autumn Jackson** – go to Texas A&M Commerce to

either play volleyball or basketball.

**Liliana Torreblanca** – graphic design and photography don't know what college yet.

**McKala Price** – attend Texas State and majoring in kinesiology

**Jose Olvera** – go to TSTC in Marshall to get my Certificate in lineman.

**Makayla Grant** – attend Texas A&M Commerce to major in criminal Justice.

**Jennifer Soto** – I plan to attend Texas Women's University to major in communication science & disorders.

**Abrann Ramirez** – will follow studies at NTCC and chase an associate of applied science degree at Carroll Shelby automotive Technology center.



# Softball team reaches playoffs

The Lady Tigers softball team had another successful season as they reached the playoffs.

The Lady Tigers advanced to the second round of the playoffs before coming up just short against Royse City.

In the first round of the playoffs against Whitehouse, the Lady Tigers rallied to win the bi-district series. After losing the first game, the Lady Tigers rallied back to win the next two games to advance to play Royse City.

After losing the first game to Royse City, the Lady Tigers went back and forth in Game 2 but saw a late-inning lead go away. Royse City won in extra innings.

It was the final game for seniors Carson Zachry, BreAsia Hargrave and Jalissa Alvarez.



Ella Cross celebrates after homering against Royse City.

## Seniors awarded Shavers Memorial Scholarship

Eleven MPHS seniors have been awarded Theo Shavers Memorial Scholarships. Longtime friend Lisa Rider set up a GoFundMe drive in the hopes of raising \$2000 for a scholarship to be awarded to a 2021 senior in his name.

In the end, the account raised \$8000, giving the family the opportunity to award five \$1000 and six \$500 scholarships.

"I knew from having family members pass away that you have more flowers and plants than you know what to do with," said Rider. "We wanted to donate to whatever cause Emily thought would be appropriate. She without hesitation wanted to start a scholarship in Theo's name and I knew GoFundMe was the place to start. My two older boys had Mr. Shavers for History and UIL and thought the



Front row from left: Jaclyn Marroquin, Emily Shavers, Brock Shavers and Ryan Sharp. Second row from left: Taryn Thurman, Christian Flores, Patricia Roque and Bryan Flores. Back row from left: Faith Logan, Alejandra Ramirez, Isabella Greco and Lily Burrows. (Not pictured Lesley Ortiz)

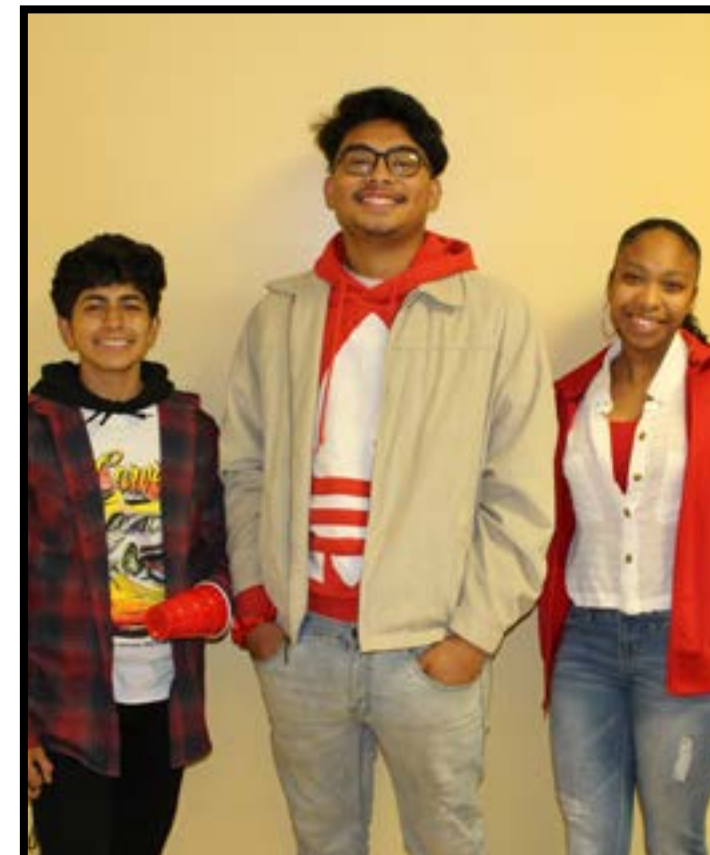
world of him. We just wanted to do something to honor his memory."

"I wanted to honor my husband with a scholarship in his name," said his wife of 20

years, Emily. "He had many careers in his life from Adult Protective Services Caseworker to Sheriff's Deputy to History teacher. But his

See Shavers, Pg. 26

# Thanks for the memories seniors





# Senior Spotlight on Gavin Rider

By MIGUEL ARELLANO  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Throughout the years, students have accomplished many things in their time at high school. One of the best examples is the one and only Gavin Rider. He became an Eagle Scout and served over 400 community service hours through scouting.

Which in itself is very impressive but that's only the beginning of the many accomplishments. He even has built a clothes donation box for Northeast Texas Biker's church as a project. What more can one men do? He plays guitar in the East Texas Youth Orchestra jazz band in Tyler every Sunday.

The music talent doesn't stop there, he's also the saxophone section leader for the MPHS band. He's also the best editor for the MPHS film department.

Even though he has accomplished so much he also has his challenges. The main one he's been dealing with is that he is a huge procrastinator. He said in his own words, "I'm sure most teachers know



that at this point."

It's hard for him to start on work, but he will most definitely tackle the issue once he graduates.

What kind of person is Gavin? Well his friends can answer that question. John Paul Avila one of his best friends says, "Gavin has his ups & downs just like everyone, yet he always makes it to the other side."

Elias Mendoza tells a fan-

tastic story between the two. "Gavin is alright he tried to run me over once. Good times :)"

Finally his close friend Ruben Carreon has some few words to say. "He's a cool person who adds a funny and relaxed atmosphere wherever he goes. And contagiousness laugh."

Wherever the wind takes him we wish him the very best.

## Shavers from Page 24

first love was always education. He believed in higher education and opportunities for any student to be able to continue his or her education. He always said 'If I ever win the lottery, I am going to buy big farm equipment and play all day and pay for kids to go to college or trade school.' I wanted to keep his memory alive and honor him. He was a great teacher and loved what he did."

Taryn Thurman remembered, "I along with my brother, Luke Thurman, who was in Mr. Shavers' class just this year, both remem-

ber him saying 'hello my little geniuses' every time we walked in the classroom. Mr. Shavers knew everyone's capabilities, and treated every kid with respect."

"Mr. Shavers was the first teacher to expose me to the idea that not all issues in America are black and white," said Ryan Sharp. "He taught me to think for myself and make conclusions not based off of what others tell me. His ability to understand issues from both sides of the problem inspired me to be as independent as possible and learn to listen to all."

"He had the ability to brighten up the room with his laugh and smile," recalled Isabella Greco. "I remember that he had nicknames for almost every kid in the class which made us feel comfortable and welcomed in his classroom."

Recipients of \$1000 scholarships include Isabella Greco, Patricia Roque, Taryn Thurman, Alejandra Ramirez, and Lesley Ortiz. Receiving \$500 scholarships were Christian Flores, Bryan Flores, Ryan Sharp, Lily Burrows, Faith Logan, and Jaclyn Marroquin.

# WHAT WILL YOU BE AT NTCC?



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# Tiger Roar

What is your favorite high school memory?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writers Angel Acuna and Miguel Arrellano



"Telling Gavin not to make that turn."

-- Rafael Garcia



"Pushing my truck out of a ditch with Raf and Elias."

-- Gavin Rider



"Almost dying in Gavin's truck."

-- Omarian Alcibar



"Gavin leaving mid game in Mario Kart."

--- Castle Campbell



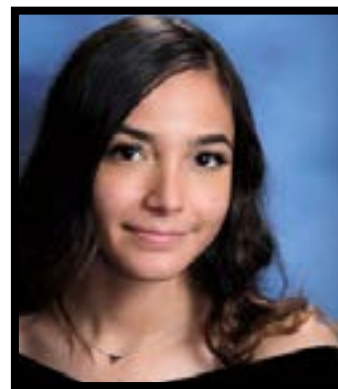
"Getting hit with a drone in the face."

-- Ruben Carreon



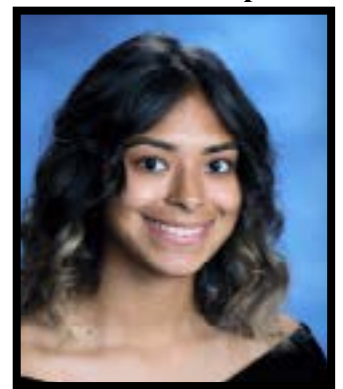
"Hitting Ruben with a drone in the face."

-- Samuel Dorantes



"Hanging out with friends and going to school events."

--- Jennifer Martinez



"Soccer bus rides to the away games. If you know, you know."

-- Lessete Cruz



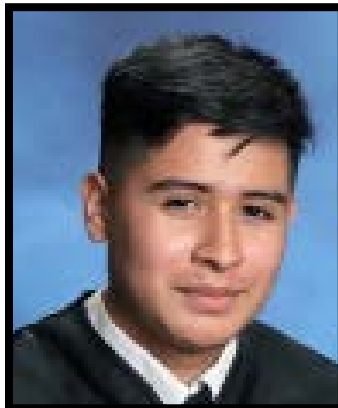
"ISS"

--- Tairielle Chong



"Tripping on the sidewalk."

--- Miguel Guerrero



"Meeting Gary Winthorpe"

-- Oscar Tellez



"When we stayed lated to rehearse and it ended up with a laughing fit while we rehearsed our last plays. I will miss all of the people I have met and become friends with."

--- Reese Loving