

Tigertalk



Valedictorian Luke Thurman
Salutatorian Gopi Amin



Tiger Dolls Spring Show



Honors Dinner

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The 2025-2026 MPHS StuCo Officers from left are Special Projects Chairperson Audrey Garrett, Treasurer Karlee Rodgers, Vice President Brissia Alvarez, President Joseline Hernandez, Secretary Evelyn Hernandez and Special Projects Chairperson Makayla Mather.

StuCo elects officers

The Mount Pleasant High School Student Council has selected its officers for the 2025-2026 school year. They are President Joseline Hernandez, Vice-President Brissia Alvarez, Secretary Evelyn Hernandez, Treasurer Karlee Rodgers, and Special Projects Chairpersons Audrey Garrett and Makayla Mather.

The MPHS Student Council hosts two blood drives for Carter Blood Care Center and assists with a number of community service projects during the year including the annual Veteran's Day program at Wallace Middle School, Fall Festivals at the elementary schools, Taste of Mt. Pleasant, plus other various events throughout the year. The Mount Pleasant High School Student Council advisor is Camille Brown.

Tigertalk NEWS STAFF

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Munoz is Teacher of the Year

By JASSIEL HERNANDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Ana Munoz has been selected as the high school Teacher of the Year by fellow campus educators.

Munoz is an Algebra Teacher and a graduate of Northeast Texas Community College with an Associate of Science degree and Texas A&M-Texarkana with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Munoz said she was honored on being recognized by fellow colleagues.

“It’s a huge honor and a humbling experience,” Munoz said. “Being recognized by my colleagues—people I truly admire and respect—makes me feel that all the hard work and dedication I put into my job is truly making a difference.”

Munoz, who was born in Mexico City, started teaching in 2013 at Mount Pleasant Junior High where she taught 8th grade math for two years. She later transitioned to the high school and has taught Algebra 1 for the past 10 years.

Munoz is married to Miguel Munoz and they have two children - Christopher Sorto, a senior, and Aileen Sorto, an 8th grader.

“Both of them keep me motivated and remind me every day why I am so passionate about education,” Munoz said. “My husband Miguel always been my rock, of-



Munoz

fering unwavering support throughout my career.”

Munoz said what she likes best about her job is how everyone works well together.

“What I love most about working at MPHS is the sense of community and collaboration,” Munoz said.

“It feels like we’re all working together toward the same goal: helping students succeed both in and outside the classroom.

See Munoz, Pg. 10

Torres is Employee of the Year

By JASSIEL HERNANDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

English 1 and 2 co-teacher Maribel Torres has been named MPHS Employee of the Year.

Torres, who was born in San Antonio, started her career as a secretary/translator for special education at MPHS. Since then, she has co-taught English 1 and English 2.

Getting honored by other teachers and employees is a humbling acknowledgment for her.

“Being recognized by my peers is both rewarding and humbling. Their acknowledgment of my hard work truly highlights the impact I’ve made,” Torres said.

She said what she likes about working here is the sense of community within the school and district.

“I like the sense of community and the opportunity to inspire and support our students in their growth,” Torres said. “It’s rewarding to see them succeed both academically and personally.”



Torres

Torres attended Northeast Texas Community College, earning her Associate’s Degree in Arts.

She then went to Lamar University and ob-

See Torres, Pg. 11

Tigertalk Pg. 3

Thurman is 2025 valedictorian

By **CHELSEA MENDOZA**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

It is an honor to be named valedictorian; it shows others all the hard work you put into your high school career.

Luke Thurman has earned the honor of being named the valedictorian for the senior Class of 2025. Luke is the son of Tris and Stephanie Thurman.

For Thurman, receiving this honor is “a responsibility to represent my class well in my future endeavors. It is also a huge accomplishment because the Class of 2025 is incredibly gifted and competitive.”

Thurman plans on attending Baylor University and majoring in accounting and possibly finance as well. His role model is his grandfather, who has had a lasting impact on him.

“He has taught me that no amount of strife is an excuse for a lack of love,” Thurman said.

Throughout his high school career, Luke has accomplished much. For example, he served as class president for four years, was the NHS president, band percussion section leader, and a member of the Student Council, UIL Math Team, FBLA and Chick-fil-A Leader Academy.

He is also a four-time academic blanket recipient, and a National Merit Scholar Commended student.

The hardest class he had in high school was dual credit physics, “since I had no background knowledge of physics and some of those topics made absolutely no sense at first.”

His favorite class was band.

“I got the chance to do what I love, which is play music for myself and others,” Thurman said. “A close second would be UIL Math with Mr. Hernandez.”

Thurman credits his parents for motivating him on his path to being valedictorian.

“My success was mainly motivated by my family and their desire to



Thurman plans to attend Baylor.

see me succeed,” Luke said. “Without their support and them constantly pushing me to be my best, I wouldn’t be where I am.”

Thurman’s hobbies include playing music, writing music, playing video games, and sleeping. His favorite memories of high school come from band performances with his section and random hangouts with his friends.

He said if he could have done anything over in high school, he would have redone all of his senior year and spent his time enjoying his time at MPHS while he had it.

His final advice to the underclassman is “don’t let your classes take up so much time that you forget to enjoy life. After you graduate, your best memories will most likely be time spent on the friends and extracurriculars you enjoy.”

Amin is 2025 salutatorian

By KRISTINA TIDWELL
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In May, the Class of 2025 will depart and go their separate ways to start their new chapter.

The salutatorian for this year's graduating class is Gopi Amin. Gopi is the daughter of Manish and Deepa Amin. Although the way to the top and maintaining her spot as the top of her class was hard, it is a path worth taking.

"It means everything! To achieve and maintain rank 2nd for all eight semesters in high school is an accomplishment I take great pride in," Amin said.

Amin has been accepted into Rice University where she will major in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Economics to one day specializing in Aerospace Engineering.

Gopi was very active and successful throughout her high school career. She was a part of Yearbook as editor-in-chief, Texas Area 6 FBLA President, MPHS FBLA President, Student Council Vice-President, NHS Vice-President, NTHS member, UIL Speech & Debate, UIL Math & Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, received four honor blankets, FBLA State Champion & have qualified for FBLA Nationals for two years. Her hobbies are photography, pickleball, video games, and sleeping!

She said her role models are her parents.

"They came to America with hopes to give their kids the life they never had, and they did just that," Amin said. "I will forever be inspired by how hard my parents worked while still being there for me every step of the way."

Throughout high school there are things we wished we hadn't done, classes we wished we had taken or people we wished to have created a friendship with. And there are also things we wished we could have done differently. Gopi said she would not have changed anything.

"Nothing. Everything I've done, regretful or not, has shaped my ideal high school experience. However, I would take back all the times I tripped on the stairs," Amin said.

She said her motivation to succeed came from her parents.

"I've always been inspired by all my parents have accomplished, given their background. The life and love they have blessed me with will forever impact me and motivate me to achieve the greatest," Amin said.

Being salutatorian is something most wish to be, but only a few can become.



Amin will be attending Rice University.

"My hardest class was Physics Dual-Credit. Learning physics for the first is very hard to grasp when you have the class right after lunch and you're very sleepy," Amin said.

Gopi said the class she enjoyed the most was yearbook.

"My favorite class is yearbook! My whole squad has always been in the class with me and I've made some of my fondest and silliest moments with them!" Amin said.

In four years, many memories and friendships are made, and there are also lessons we learn in high school.

"My favorite memories are from FBLA! Over my four years in it, I've traveled to various places and got to experience each one with my closest friends," Amin said.

Gopi will complete her high school career and graduate with her class during the month of May. Gopi gave advice to the underclassmen.

"Relax! As important as high school is, you're still just a kid. Enjoy your time with your friends and don't hesitate and jump at every opportunity offered to you!" Amin said.

Class of 2025

Top 10 Percent Graduates



Luke Thurman
Valedictorian



Gopi Amin
Salutatorian

Remainder in alphabetical order



Natalia Aspeitia



Kate Ball



Veronica Bernardino



Elizabeth Buck



Samuel Chappell



Emely Chavelas



Evan Cota



Diya Desai



Gabriella Garza



Jose Gonzalez



Sidney Harbour



Madison Hargrove



Addison Heeren



Karen Hernandez



Hayden Hester



Kelsey Howard



Christian Johnson



Jazlynn Juarez



Tanner Marshall



Amir Martinez



Kevin Mendoza



Jesus Moreno



Yahaira Pina



Cinthya Ramirez



Francisco Rodriguez



Michelle Sandoval



Amy Santillan



Araceli Solis



Christopher Sorto



Katelyn Tejada



Hayden Tennison



Diego Ugalde



Jonathan Ventura

2025 Magna Cum Laude grads announced

In addition to the Top 10 percent, a select number of students were recognized as Magna Cum Laude honorees for Mount Pleasant High School.

Apart from the Top 10 Percent, a grand total of 41 students earned Magna Cum Laude recognition signifying they achieved a grade point average of 5.62.

These students are Mel-

anie Barraza, Jasmin Alvarez, Kaylee Ramos, Stephanie Guerrero, Jeseth Monreal, Katherine Thompson, David Cumpian, Dollian Phan, Jessica Hang, Rachel Albin, Patricia Gonzalez, Luis Alvarado, Jorge Almazan, Allison Nieto, Jeffrey Bond, Eli Hernandez, Misely Ramirez, Emily Robles, Bryanna Nava, Avanleigh Thomas,

Addyson Long, Morgan Lee-Osbourne, Xitlaly Sanchez, Ephram Vaseleck, Trent Milam, Selena Clark, Kimberly Pantoja, Zoey Cato, Daniel Villarruel, Preslee Landrum, Elise Alcibar, Aylin Garcia, Jasmine Landaverde, Kathryn Boldin, Andy Carrillo, Alivia Newman, Alan Barrientos, Rafael Calderon and Jennifer Pena.

Munoz from Page 3

It's a place where everyone genuinely cares about each other's growth, whether it's the staff or the students."

Munoz said what she likes best about her job is when her students learn something they have been struggling with.

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing those 'aha' moments in my students—when they finally understand something they've struggled with," Munoz said. "It's those little victories that make everything worth it, especially knowing that I played a part in their journey."

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Munoz said her biggest challenge this year has been getting students to come to tutorials.

"The biggest challenge this year has been motivating students to attend tutorials when they need help. While many students would benefit from extra support, getting them to take the initiative to come in for help has been a struggle," Munoz said.

"It's something I'm continuously working on, as I know the tutorials can make a significant difference in their understanding and success."

The best thing this year for

Munoz is seeing the growth in her students.

"The best thing about my job this year has been seeing the growth in students who take that extra step—whether it's coming to tutorials, asking questions, or just putting in more effort," Munoz said.

"Even though motivating all students to attend tutorials has been a challenge, it's incredibly rewarding to watch the confidence and progress in those who do take advantages of the help. Those moments remind me why I love teaching, Munoz said."

Senior Column

Our Real Journey Begins

By JASMINE BRIONES
Tigertalk Editor

Less than a month until school ends and it all seems so surreal. It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting down with my family, stressing out about the beginning of my high school journey. I was so worried about what was to come, but looking back on the years I wish they would've lasted a bit longer.

High school is such a reality check. You hear so many things about what to expect and how to prepare for the academic part of it, but nobody really talks about the social aspects of high school. I've been through a lot of things, and I've lived through many different friendships. There were moments when I had to let go of people I considered good friends, but those moments always opened the gateway for better things to enter my life.

Remember: everything happens for a reason. Never pull yourself down low



Briones

to please someone else; instead, allow people to come and go, and never lose sight of who you truly are.

Regardless of what you hear, everything will always work out. You will learn so many different things about yourself; good and bad.

You will go through each day and say, "I'm ready to graduate already", but as soon as that moment approaches, it's scary! Coming from someone who doesn't

even completely know what she's doing after graduation, please trust that it will be okay. That's something I've had to learn especially in my senior year.

Everything will seem like it's out of control and you're spiraling, but pain and stress is temporary. Live your life to the fullest and try your hardest to let things go. Protect and put yourself and your grades very first before anything. Make friends with your teachers and learn to ask for help when you need it.

Even when you feel like giving up, there is always that light at the end of the tunnel. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step: the one that YOU take.

High school gives us a head start, but once it's over, it's time for us to take charge. Never lose sight of what's important!

And to all of class 2025, thank you for all the wonderful memories we've made with each other.

Torres from Page 3

tained her Bachelor's Degree in University Studies with a focus on Multidisciplinary Studies.

Torres is married to her high school sweetheart and they have been together for 17 years.

They have three boys who are aged 17, 9 and 2.

She said she enjoys working in the same district where her oldest son attends.

Torres said her favorite part about her job is being able to have an impact in the lives of her students.

"I'd say the best part of my job is knowing that I've made a difference in my students' lives. I'm truly grateful to be a part of their journey," Torres said.

A challenge that Torres said she has had to overcome are the ongoing struggles that come with technology and impact it has on students' writing.

"My biggest challenge this year has been helping students who struggle with writing," Torres said.

"The increase technology,

especially cell phones, has led many students to shorten words and avoid writing complete sentences, which makes it harder to teach proper writing skills."

Probably the biggest positive about this year are the relationships that Torres has been able to foster with students and fellow teachers.

"The best part of my job this year has been the relationships I've built—not only with my students but also with my fellow English teachers," Torres said.



MPHS Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Top 10 percent honor graduates recognized

Thirty-five Mount Pleasant High School seniors were honored at a formal recognition dinner on Thursday, May 1 at the Region 8 Education Service Center.

The event was catered by Creative Catering with members of the National Honor Society and Student Council serving as wait staff. Each student was introduced and given their Honor Graduate cord and tassel. They were also able to honor their most influential teacher with an audio recording thanking that educator and presented them a special gift.

Each senior wrote a message to their teacher which was then engraved onto a clipboard by MPHS teacher Jack Jones and his Engineering students.

The top 10 percent Honor Graduates of the MPHS Class of 2025:

Valedictorian- Luke Thurman is the 2025 MPHS Valedictorian. He will attend Baylor University and major in Accounting and

Finance. Luke honored Brian Bass.

Salutatorian- Gopi Amin is the 2025 MPHS Salutatorian. She will attend Rice University to major in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Economics. She honored John Whitten.

Top 10% Honor Graduates (listed alphabetically)

Natalia Aspeitia will attend Sam Houston State University and major in Psychology. She honored Gina Crouch.

Katherine Ball will attend Texas A&M University College Station with plans to Major in Society, Ethics, and Law. She honored Barbara Case.

Veronica Bernardino will attend East Texas A&M University Honors College and major in Mathematics. She honored Lindy Merriam.

Elizabeth Buck will attend Stephen F. Austin State University and major in Nursing. She honored Tammie Tigert.

Samuel Chappell will

attend Baylor University to major in Film/Digital Media. He honored Scott Crouch.

Emely Chavelas will attend Northeast Texas Community College. She honored Donna Davis.

Evan Cota will attend Texas A&M University College Station and major in Biology. He honored Coach Joey Cluley.

Diya Desai will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Biology. She honored Angela Priefert.

Gabriella Garza will attend Northeast Texas Community College to study Secondary Education. She honored Aimee Sweeden.

Jose Gonzalez will attend Texas A&M University in College Station. He honored Larry Russell.

Sidney Harbour will attend the University of Arkansas and major in Psychology with a minor in Cinematography. She honored Ann Jenkins.

See Graduates, Pg. 13

Graduates from Page 12

Madison Hargrove will attend Northeast Texas Community College to obtain her Registered Nursing degree. She honored Amanda Hutchings.

Addison Heeren will attend Sam Houston State University to major in Forensic Chemistry. She honored Ann Jenkins.

Karen Hernandez will attend Northeast Texas Community College to study Nursing then transfer to UT-Tyler to finish her studies. She honored Gina Crouch.

Hayden Hester will attend Texas Tech University with the goal of getting his Master's in Business. He honored Coach Zac Rolf.

Kelsey Howard will attend Northeast Texas Community College to study Nursing. She honored Mrs. Bloomer.

Christian Johnson will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in Biomedical Science. He honored Coach Zac Rolf.

Jazlynn Juarez will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in Forensic and Investigative Science. She honored John Whitten.

Tanner Marshall will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to study Mechatronics Engineering. He honored Jose Morales.

Amir Martinez will attend the University of Texas at Austin and will major in Kinesiology with plans to change majors to Biology or Nursing. He honored Sarah Carrell.

Kevin Mendoza will attend the University of Texas at Tyler to study Nursing. He honored Kristi Houchin.



Thurman with honored teacher Brian Bass

Jesus Moreno will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in Biology. He honored Sarah Carrell.

Yahaira Piña will attend Columbia University to major in Materials Science and Engineering. She honored Osias Hernandez.

Cinthya Ramirez will attend the University of Texas at Austin to major in Psychology. She honored Angela Priefert.

Francisco Rodriguez will attend Midwestern State University to major in Radiologic Science. He honored Debra Williamson.

Michelle Sandoval will attend Northeast Texas Community College then transfer to Texas A&M Texarkana to major in Elementary Education. She honored Aimee Sweeden.

Amy Santillan will attend Northeast Texas Community College to study Biology. She honored Karen Luckett.

Araceli Solis will attend Northeast Texas Communi-



Amin with honored teacher John Whitten

ty College and then transfer to UT Tyler, to major in Nursing. She honored Amanda Hutchings.

Christopher Sorto will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Kinesiology with plans to change majors to Nursing. He honored Agustin Garcia.

Katelyn Tejada is undecided on her post-graduation plans. She honored Lisa Trimm.

Hayden Tennison plans to begin a career in creative/performing arts. He honored Gabrielle Robbins.

Diego Ugalde will attend Northeast Texas Community College then transfer to UT Tyler to major in Kinesiology. He honored Jovana Young.

Johnathan Ventura will attend Northeast Texas Community College to study Electrical Engineering. He honored Karen Russell.

The MPHS Commencement Ceremony is set for Friday, May 16 at Sam Parker Stadium at 8:00 p.m.

Seniors announce future plans

By **YAHIR GONZALEZ**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

As the 2024-2025 school year comes to a close, seniors are looking toward their future plans for further education or going into the workforce.

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

Rafael Calderon: Go to college and procrastinate like I did in high school.

Anahi Castellano: My plan after high school is to attend NTCC and continue to study Law. I will try my best and give the best version of me.

Haley Carr: Find a school to get my cosmetology license at.

Kristina Tidwell: Make a photography business and travel to places to take pictures.

Katherine Adame: I plan to travel to all 50 states.

Jazlynn Juarez: I plan on attending Texas A&M university and majoring in Forensic and Investigative sciences.

Hayden Tennison: After high school, I aspire to work my way up to prominent success in the creative/performing arts.

Natalia Aspeitia: Focus on getting my bachelor's degree in psychology.

Sarahi Gonzalez: Go to college to get my bachelors in criminal justice.

Carolyn Loeza: My plans are to attend NTCC and get my degree on criminal justice.

Gopi Amin: I will attend Rice University to major in mechanical engineering and minor in economics to one day specialize in aerospace engineering.

Jennifer Castro: I plan



Rafael Calderon



Haley Carr



Katherine Adame



Fatima Villalva

to attend NTCC to get my basics and then transfer to UNT to finish studying psychology.

Fatima Villalva: My plans after high school is to join the military for 4 years then become a flight attendant.

Ilsy Pintor: After high school, I plan on getting my certification to be a licensed court interpreter here in Texas. I also plan to travel the world.

Kaylee Ramos: I plan to attend NTCC.

Brenda Cruz: Go to NTCC and major in nursing.

Francisco Rodriguez: Attend Midwestern State University and study Radiology.

David Cumpian: I plan to go to UT Tyler and earn an MSN.

Yasmin Trejo: Plans to attending NTCC and major in nursing.

Addison Heeren: I will

See Plans, Pg. 15

Plans from Page 14

attend Sam Houston State University and major in Forensic Science and Chemistry.

Christopher Sorto: I plan to attend college and pursue a career to become a nurse practitioner.

Ariana Cruz: I plan to attend NTCC and major in nursing.

Amy Santillan: Will attend NTCC and major in Biology.

Elizabeth Buck: I plan to attend Stephen F. Austin State University to get my bachelors of science in nursing.

Diego Ugalde: Will attend NTCC for basics and then transfer to UT Tyler and major in Kinesiology.

Autumn Leroy: Will attend UNT and earn a degree in Kinesiology.

Christian Johnson: I plan to attend Texas A&M and major in Biomedical Science.

Kelsey Howard: Will attend NTCC and major in nursing.

Daniel Villarruel: Plans to attend Texas A&M Texarkana and major in Kinesiology and play soccer.

Araceli Solis: I will attend NTCC and major in nursing.

Amir Martinez: Attending -UT Austin majoring in Kinesiology.

Madison Hargrove: A attend NTCC to pursue nursing degree.

Evan Cota: Go to Texas A&M and major in Biology.

Jesus Moreno: Plans to attend Texas A&M majoring in Biology.

Patricia Gonzalez: Attending UT-Tyler to major in nursing.

Hayden Hester: I plan to attend Texas Tech and earn a masters in business.



Christopher Sorto



Autumn Leroy



Daniel Villarruel



Kelsey Howard



Patricia Gonzalez



Hayden Hester



Academic Blanket recipients

Academic Blankets awarded to students

Sixty-one Mount Pleasant High School students were presented Academic Blanket Awards for having the highest overall average in his or her respective subject in a ceremony in the MPHS auditorium on May 9.

Those 61 students make up only about 4% of the population of MPHS. The Academic Blanket Awards have been sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce for many years, with businesses vying for the chance to sponsor and purchase a blanket for a student.

Representatives from each of those businesses were in attendance to present the awards to the students.

Those awarded Academic Blankets and the sponsoring businesses include:

Accounting (Baker and Johnson CPA) Emely Chavelas

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (1st Federal Community Bank) Ke'aundra Evans

Ag Mechanics (Stansell Construction) Aidyn Botello

Agriscience (Priefert) Jay'cee Alvarez

Algebra I (Guaranty Bank) Nancy Gil

Algebra II (Vera Bank) Adriel Bagsic

Anatomy & Physiology (The Pediatric Clinic and NE TX Pediatrics) Kevin Mendoza

Animal Science (Titus County Fair Association) Emily Miklos

Art (Brenda Home Services) Josue Vega
Band (Chick-Fil-A) Angel Farias
Biology (Pleasant Smiles Dental) Maria Beltran

AP Biology (Titus Regional Medical Center) Diego Ugalde

Business Information Management (Castillo Realty) Anna Lucio

Calculus (Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant) Tanner Marshall

Career Preparation (CadVibe) Daffne Martinez

Chemistry (Robert C. Sikes DDS) Conley Johnson

Choir (MP Pack N Mail) Alivia Newman
Communications (Ruby & Begonia) Ephram Vaseleck

Construction Technology (Stephenson Dirt Contracting) Teodoro Martinez

Cosmetology (Prodigy Salon and Spa) Raquel Martinez

Culinary Arts (Tacos by Queen) Javier Valerio Basaldua

Dance (Patrick Redfearn Realty) Kaylin Castañeda

Education & Training (AA Treehouse) Michelle Sandoval

Electrical Technology (Marmon Industrial Energy & Infrastructure) Alfredo Pineda

See Blankets, Pg. 17

Albin signs with Arkansas Colorguard

Mount Pleasant High School senior, Rachel Albin, signed a letter of intent to perform as a member of the Razorback Colorguard, part of the Razorback Marching Band at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Albin auditioned in April and learned she would be part of the 36-member team.

Albin is a five-year member of the MPISD Colorguard program. She will attend the University of Arkansas as a Business major. She is the daughter of Antoine and Ashley Albin.



Razorback Colorguard member Rachel Albin (center) with her family from left brother Lance Albin, mom Ashley Albin, and dad Antoine Albin

Blankets from Page 16

Engineering (Diamond C Trailers) Jose Gonzalez

English I (McGuire Dyke CPA's) Lincoln Dyke

English II (Phil & Jennifer Scudder) Mary Beth Snyder

English III (Sandlin Motors) Brissia Alvarez

English IV (Mayben Realty) Samuel Chappell

Environmental Science (Manish Enterprises) Gopi Amin

Environmental Systems (Republic Services) Mayson Graham

Fashion Design (House of Fashion) Allison Nieto

Forensic Science (Bates Cooper Sloan Funeral Home) Hayden Tennison

Geometry (KRB Investments) Jayden Baker

Government & Economics (East Texas Children's Dentistry) Katherine Ball

Health Science Theory (Luigi's) Alba Zeqaj

Instructional Practice in Education (NTCC) Haylee Zaldivar

Journalism Newspaper (Lions Club) Jasmine Briones

Journalism Yearbook (Etex Septic and Supply) Jazlynn Juarez

Law Enforcement (RC21 LLC) Xitlaly Sanchez

Marketing Education (Lori Chism Attorney at Law) Carter Chism

Math Models (Pilgrim Bank) Peyton Robinson

Patient Care Tech (Cypress Basin Hospice) Kimberly Victoria

Physics (Shumate Flooring) Julian Chancellor

Physics C (US Pet Foods) Yahaira Pina

Piano (Castillo Realty) Cooper Rider

Practicum in Health Science Tech I (Mount Pleasant Pet Resort) Jamie Garrett

Practicum in Health Science Tech II (American National Bank) Elizabeth Buck

Pre-Calculus (Cypress Bank) Audrey Fisher

Scientific Research & Design (Mid-America Pet Foods) Morgan Lee

Spanish I (East Texas Professionals Credit Union) Victoria Salmeron

Spanish II (EAG Automotive) Rebecca Dunn

Spanish III (Denney Land Surveying) Esmeralda Perez

Spanish IV (Glossy Nail Lounge) Emily Garcia

Spanish Language and Culture (MP Rentals) Sandy Farias

Sports Medicine (Tumey Mortuary) Abby Torres

Statistics (Thurman's ProMed Pharmacy) Luke Thurman

Theatre (EAG Automotive) Jeffrey Bond

US History (Dermatology Center of Northeast Texas) Alessandro Greco

World Geography (Greater Hope Church of God in Christ) Leslie Hernandez

World History (Ester Smith Efinity Mortgage) Araceli Salazar

Prom 2025

Crystal Gala



**Prom King Luke Thurman
and Prom Queen Jennifer Pena**



Tiger Dolls Spring Show



Softball Senior Night



Adriana Lucas-Kessler



Jakeivia Williams



Bianca Garcia



Kelsey Howard



Ayraonne McCoo



Coach Tarrant with 2025 Seniors

Baseball Senior Night



Trent Milam



Hayden Hester



Christian Johnson



Jayden Tarrant



Baseball Coaches Stewart, Rolf, Ernest and Colbert with 2025 Seniors

MPHS Health Science students honored at pinning ceremony

MPHS held its third annual pinning ceremony for Health Science program students who have completed certifications in electrocardiogram (EKG), Phlebotomy Technician, Patient Care Technician Assistant, and Clinical Medical Assistant.

The ceremony was conducted in the MPHS auditorium on Tuesday, April 29. MPHS senior, Christian Johnson, offered the opening prayer followed by MPHS Career and Technology Director, Jay Silman, and Health Science instructor, Amanda Hutchings, with opening remarks. And senior, Sam Chappell, served as the announcer for the evening.

Health Science teacher Sarah Carrell pinned those who have tested and are credentialed Certified EKG Technicians. EKG Technicians work with patients to monitor and interpret their cardiac health using EKG tests that measure the electrical activity in the patient's heart.

Those students were Brissia Alvarez, Preston Arnold, Valerie Cassio, Alyse Cervantes, Valerie Colacho, Nathan Copado, Liliana Cruz, Sandy Farias, Emily Garcia, Maria Garcia, Jamie Garrett, Audrey Garrett, Esther Gonzalez, Joseline Hernandez, Marisol Hipolito, Summer Jimenez, Jordan Krumrie, Ana Lara, Rosario Lopez, Jennifer Luna, Jaydy Martinez, Samaya McCarty, Alaya Organista, Aidan Perez, Ailin Quinonez,



Certified EKG Technicians and Certificate of Completion recipients



Certified Phlebotomy Techs, Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants, Certificate of Completion recipients, and instructor Kristi Houchin
Karlee Rodgers, Adeline Rosewell, Alondra Ruiz, Ninel Ruiz, Rebecca Torres, and Jose Vargas.
And receiving certificates of completion of the EKG program were Karen Alvarez, Ceslie Beltran, Maria Castaneda, Jahayra Chavez, Jazlynn Chism, Humberto Damien, Aaliyah Delarosa, Neftali Delgado, Sara Evan, Jaqueline Fernandez, Starlie Fernandez, Ava Fite, Azlyn Fluellen, Arlyn Gonzales, Atalee Gonzalez, Kimberly Gracia, Riley Guereca, Jai'lyn Gutierrez, Ja'liyah Hall, Aylin Hernandez, Devon Keith, Rossmeli Leyva-Molina, Kynslee Mayben, Ariel Medina, Yolanda Nicholas-Abrego, Rosali Niño, Annette Olivera, Laura Ramirez, Maribel Ramirez, Zadquiel
See Ceremony, Pg. 23

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Ramirez, Leinad Rodriguez-Aguilar, Ashley Rosales, Kaylee Salas, Candy Sanchez, Chloe Smith, Wendy Valdez, Yvette Vargas, Yair Vega, Dakota Voegelé, Jaeda Walker, Leticia Willis, and Geraldine Zermeno.

Health Science teacher, Kristi Houchin, awarded completion cords and pinned the Certified Phlebotomy Techs and the Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants.

Phlebotomy Techs perform the following tasks to aid in patient care - venipunctures, explaining procedures and making patients feel comfortable during lab draws, performing Point of Care (POC) testing, preparing specimens for testing, and maintaining medical lab equipment. Certified Patient Care Technician-Assistants assist with activities of daily living (ADLs), routinely check on patients to maintain safety and wellness, and perform EKGs.

Receiving those cords and pins were Katherine Adame, Yoselin Amador, Danika Beckham, Ariana Brena, Zoey Cato, Alessandra Cervantes, Stefanie Espiritu, Alejandro Fernandez, Aylyn Gerardo Garcia, Makiah Gholston, Nayeli Gomez, Eli Hernandez, Devon Keith, Jamesia Lamb, Audriana Lucas-Kessler, Kevin Mendoza, Virginia Olvera, Cristal Organista, Valeria Ramirez, Dylan Ramirez, Misely Ramirez, Emily Robles, Sendy Sandoval, Kimberly Victoria Pantoja, Mishelle Ysasi, and Haley Zavala.



Certified Clinical Medical Assistants and instructor, Amanda Hutchings

Health Science teacher Amanda Hutchings awarded completion cords and pinned the Certified Clinical Medical Assistants. A Certified Clinical Medical Assistant works in a physician's office.

They schedule appointments, verify insurance, take patient history and chief complaint, vitals, assist the physician with exams and in office surgeries, administer injections, perform phlebotomy skills, and perform an in-office EKG and identify abnormal readings. CCMA's work directly with physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Being a CCMA allows you to work anywhere in the United States as it is a national certification.

Cord and pin recipients included Elise Alcibar, Elizabeth Buck, Emely Chaveles, Evan Cota, Brenda Cruz, Ariana Cruz, David Cumpian, Diya Desai, Haley Garcia, Patricia Gonzalez, Madison Hargrove, Addison Heeren, Karen Hernandez, Hayden Hes-

ter, Kelsey Howard, Christian Johnson, Autumn LeRoy, Addyson Long, Amir Martinez, Jesus Moreno, Kaylee Ramos, Francisco Rodriguez, Amy Santillan, Araceli Solis, Christopher Sorto, Jayden Tarrant, Avanleigh Thomas, Yasmin Trejo, Diego Ugalde, and Daniel Villarruel.

The 2025-2026 Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) officers received their graduation cords. Officers for this year were President Patricia Gonzalez, Vice President Elizabeth Buck, Secretary Karen Hernandez, Historian Amir Martinez, Historians Amir Martinez and Jesus Moreno, Reporters Francisco Rodriguez and Amy Santillan, Treasurer Diya Desai, and Representatives David Cumpian and Christopher Sorto.

In all, 101 MPHS students received recognition for at least one certification that will follow them after high school and allow them to work in the medical field immediately after graduation.

Seniors entering military honored

Mount Pleasant High School held a ceremony on Wednesday, April 30 in the MPHS Auditorium honoring seven seniors who have committed to entering the armed forces after graduation.

In front of the American flag and with their families in the audience, each senior was introduced by Mount Pleasant High School Principal, Jason Adams, and presented a red, white and blue cord to wear at graduation. Also in attendance to help present cords were MPHS Class of 2025 Counselor Todd Burns, Army Staff Sergeant Green, Army Staff Sergeant Braze, Marine Staff Sergeant Gonzalez, and Marine Private Williams.

Those seniors and their military branches include Sunny Bui (Army), Andy Carrillo (Marine Corps), Mariah Cheatum (Air Force), Cesar Garcia (Army), Seth Robertson (Army), Alessandro Trejo (Army), and Itzia Urbina (Marine Corps).



From left are MPHS Senior Counselor Todd Burns, Marine Private Williams, Marine Staff Sergeant Gonzalez, Mariah Cheatum, Itzia Urbina, Andy Carrillo, Sunny Bui, Alessandro Trejo, Cesar Garcia, Seth Robertson, Army Staff Sergeant Braze, Army Staff Sergeant Green, MPHS Principal Jason Adams

son (Army), Alessandro Trejo (Army), and Itzia Urbina (Marine Corps).

The Mount Pleasant High

School commencement ceremony is set for Friday, May 16 at Sam Parker Stadium at 8:00 p.m.

2025 MPHS Baccalaureate



Madison Hargrove



Tanner Marshall



Xitlaly Sanchez

Fashion Design students hold showcase displaying their work

Mount Pleasant High School Fashion Design students showcased their work on May 2 in the first annual MPHS Fashion Show.

The main open area in the MPHS academic building, known as “Tiger Alley”, was transformed into a runway, ready for the models to reveal the designers’ creations.

Students in Fashion Design 2 constructed and styled a hoodie or pull-over and had the option of walking their look on a model or on themselves.

The Fashion Design 3 students constructed and styled a three-garment mini collection that had to work cohesively as a fashion line. They had the option of using a commercial sewing pattern, upcycling a former item, or drafting their own design. Student volunteers from MPHS served as models for these collections.

Fashion Design 2 participants included Yvette Cervantes, Mariah Cheatum, Colt Covey, Anny Delgadillo, Avery Hale, Brandie Houston, Taylor Lee-Osbourne, Morgan Lee-Osbourne, Gracie Martinez, Emily Ortiz, Dayanara Pulquero, Bella Reyes, Eva Salas, and Lizbeth Soto.

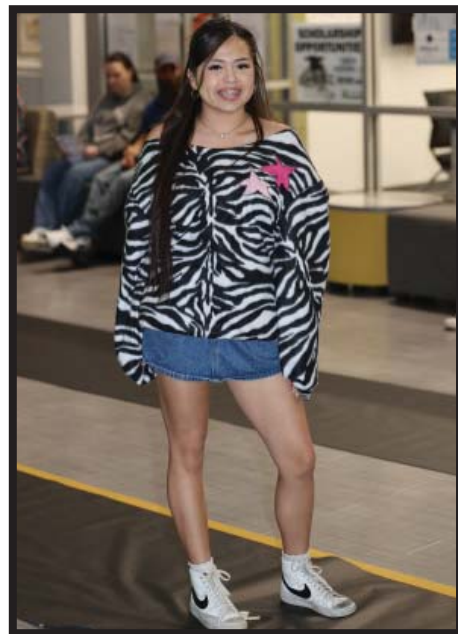
Fashion Design 3 participants included Destiny De la Rosa, Maleah Duenez, Emily Floyd, Melanie Logue, Allison Nieto,



Chris Sorto models for Fashion Design 2 student, Emily Ortiz.



Anahi Castellano walks the runway for designer Allison Nieto.



Hillary Burnett strikes a pose wearing a creation from Gracie Martinez.

and Daniela Pina.

MPHS students volunteering to model were Jasmine Alvarez, Hillary Burnett, Anahi Castellano, Yatziri Cuevas, Ailen De La Rosa, Lyric Doddy, Danna Escobar, Sandra Flores, Paty Gonzalez,



Veronica Regalado models a piece Yvette Cervantes’s collection, “Cheetah Chic”

Emileigh Hobbs, Trixz Kimball, Nayeli Lujano, Kimberly Pantoja, Michelle Ramirez, Veronica Regalado, Hector Salazar, Jacob Sims, Christopher Sorto, Tatiana Vazquez, Alexandra Velez, and Fatima Villalva.

20 Questions with Ms. Chamness

By RAYMOND SANCHEZ

Tigertalk Staff Writer

In every issue, Tigertalk features a story on a staff member here at MPISD as they too have something interesting to offer about themselves outside of school.

This issue highlights Ms. Melonie Chamness, who teaches U.S. History.

1. What do you like about history?

I love that there are often patterns. I like studying those patterns and making connections.

2. How do you spend your summers when you're not teaching?

I spend most of my time with my three kids, but the past couple of summers I have taught summer school. This year I'll teach summer school and work at my second job, Ignite.

3. What is your favorite movie and show?

My favorite movie is Fresh. It's like an indie horror movie. My favorite show changes. Right now, it's The Vampire Diaries.

4. What is your favorite memory from school? (Teaching)

My favorite memory from teaching.... Man that's a tough one. I really enjoy watching when something clicks for a student. Their face lights up and they get so excited!

5. What is one of your core beliefs?

To treat others the way you want to be treated.

6. Where were you born and raised?

I was born here in Mt. Pleasant. I lived here until 2nd grade and went to E.C. Brice. Then I moved to Wylie and was raised there until about 12 years ago when I moved back here to Mount Pleasant.

7. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

My history class in college was so good and the way my professor taught made me want to learn more. Also, the schedule was desirable since I have kids. I wanted to be able to have weekends and holidays off with them.

8. Where did you study and what was your major?

I went to NTCC where I studied History and Education and then went to A&M – Texarkana and my major there was History.

9. What makes teaching worth it?

Building relationship with students. Helping them learn and reach their goals.

10. What dreams do you have?

I want to have my doctorate one day, but I'll be ecstatic when I finally finish my master's degree.

11. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Here at MPHS, teaching U.S. History!

12. If you could spend the day with any famous historical person, who would it be?

There are a ton of people I would love to spend some time with. I think anyone who



Chamness

went through integration in the 50s/60s would be interesting to sit down and talk to.

13. If you could go back in time and live at a certain point in history, what period would it be?

Definitely medieval times but only if I could be royalty. I think being a peasant in that time period was probably very miserable.

14. What is your favorite show to binge watch?

I have several on repeat – Shameless, The Vampire Diaries, Handmaids Tale, Schitt's Creek.

15. What would be your dream concert?

There's a Louder Than Life festival this year which features a ton of my favorite artists... That would be pretty sick to go to.

16. Where are some places you would like to visit?

Ireland. That's where my family originates. Anywhere that's rich in history.

17. What advice would you give your younger self?

Keep pushing through. It all works out the way it's meant to.

18. What is the most famous historical event in your opinion and why?

What a tough question. I think the Civil Rights Movement was very important!

19. If you weren't a teacher, what career would you pick and why?

I was actually in school for nursing and then I changed my major to history. If I wasn't a teacher, I probably would've stuck with nursing. I just like helping people.

20. What are your hobbies?

I go to the gym pretty often. I read a lot of books. I knit big chunky blankets. I spend a lot of time with my kids.

WHAT WILL YOU BE AT NTCC?

You've got big goals for your future and NTCC is here to help you achieve them! Whether you want to launch a career or prepare for your dream university - you can start here and go anywhere!

*NTCC is a proud partner
of Mt. Pleasant
High School!*



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Tiger Roar

What is your favorite high school memory?

Page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Kristina Tidwell



"Soccer-freshman year"
-- Axel Fernandez



"Powerlifting"
-- Dylan Ramirez



"Choir"
-- Maleah Duenez



"Football Senior Night"
--- Jesus Moreno



"When Whitten made me cry with the slideshow."
-- Jennifer Castro



"Freshman Year and new beginnings"
-- Ilsy Pintor



"Going to state for Electrical"
-- Jose Padilla



"Beggin people for their chips"
-- Rafael Calderon



"Band Camp"
--- Addison Heeren



"Making Top 10 Percent"
--- Veronica Bernardino



"Meeting new people"
--- Joaquin Arguello



"Accepted into practicum"
-- Nayeli Gomez