



# SWISD Board Recognitions

April 21, 2026

<b>Mateo Fernandez</b>	<b>Student of the Month</b>
Southwest Elementary	
<p>It's a pleasure to recognize Mateo Fernandez for his academic excellence and his positive contributions to the Southwest Elementary community. Mateo approaches his learning with enthusiasm and confidence, and his perfect attendance reflects his commitment to school and his love of learning. Through leadership roles such as Safety Patrol and Ranger Buddies, Mateo consistently demonstrates responsibility, loyalty, and compassion. He has a natural ability to bring others together and supports his classmates with kindness and patience. Guided by the strong values instilled by his parents—whom he greatly admires—Mateo faces challenges with determination and leads by example. Southwest Elementary is proud to recognize him as a Ranger.</p>	

<b>Aliyah Perez</b>	<b>Student of the Month</b>
Spicewood Park Elementary	
<p>We are proud to recognize an outstanding 5th-grade student from Spicewood Park Elementary who exemplifies leadership, commitment, and excellence. She is an active member of the Student Council. She contributes positively to our campus through her involvement in the IPLAY team, which promotes teamwork and healthy lifestyles among her peers.</p> <p>In addition to her leadership roles, she has represented our campus in academic competitions, including participation in AAA. Most recently, she played a key role in our chess team's success, helping secure an impressive 3rd place finish at the district Chess Meet—an especially notable accomplishment with a team of only four students.</p> <p>Her dedication, well-rounded involvement, and positive representation of Spicewood Park Elementary truly reflect our mission to Inspire Greatness.</p>	



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<b>Amarika Esquivel</b>	<b>Student of the Month</b>
Resnik Middle School	
<p>Amarika is a natural leader who brings both grit and rigor into everything she does. She approaches every challenge with determination, never saying “I can’t,” but instead asking, “How can I grow?” This was shown during our UIL One-Act Play this year. Not only did she learn and design the Stage Lights and write and program cues, a new skill she took head-on, but she also understudied a role in which she was called upon to perform the day of the contest with 24 hours' notice. We ended up taking 1st place. Her willingness to learn is matched by her commitment to lifting others up—she leads not just by example, but by empowering those around her to reach their fullest potential. Her presence makes every space stronger, and her impact is felt far beyond her own achievements.</p>	

<b>Nathan Williams - Salutatorian</b>	<b>Academics</b>
SW Legacy High School	
<p>Nathan Williams is the President of the Southwest Legacy National Honors Society. He is also the President of his Senior Class and serves as Secretary on the Student Council. Nathan is also a peer mentor on the Southwest Legacy Hope Squad. Nathan plans to attend the University of Houston and study Political Science for his undergraduate degree. His long-term plans are to attend law school and build his career as a medical attorney.</p>	



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<b>Gamaliel Mata - Valedictorian</b>	Academics ▾
SW Legacy High School ▾	
<p>Gamaliel Mata is the Co-President of the SWL Education and Training organization, the Secretary of Cafe College Ambassadors, the Secretary of Mu Alpha Theta, and a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. Gamaliel also holds a part-time job at McDonald's as a Crew Trainer and has interned with the City of San Antonio SAPD. Gamaliel plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin to study Public Affairs, and then attend Law School. Gamaliel plans to build a career as an Immigration lawyer and ultimately serve as a Judge.</p>	

<b>Henry Das - Salutatorian</b>	Academics ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<p>Henry Das is the Salutatorian for the graduating class of 2026 at Southwest High School. Henry has made his mark over the past four years, earning multiple accolades throughout his time as a Dragon. Henry has served as the class president for the last three years and is an active member of the Dragon tennis team, on which he serves as captain. Henry earned the UIL Impactful Leader for team tennis for the entire state this past fall. He is a member of the ACADEC honors team and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Henry will earn his Associate's Degree from Palo Alto this May. Henry is a QuestBridge scholar, meaning he has earned a full-ride scholarship to Boston College in the Fall, where he will major in biology on the pre-med track. We have no doubt Henry will continue to soar to new heights at Boston College and beyond. We are so proud to call him a Dragon.</p>	



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<b>Seth Griffin - Valedictorian</b>	Academics ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<p>Seth Griffin is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2026 at Southwest High School. Seth has been a standout in multiple arenas throughout his high school career. He has participated in NJROTC all four years, including serving as Cadet Executive Officer this year. He is an active member of the cross-country and track teams, qualifying for regionals multiple times in cross-country. Seth has earned many accolades throughout his high school career, including AP Scholar with Distinction, Cross Country MVP, and National Merit Commended Scholar. Seth will also graduate with his Associate's Degree from Palo Alto College in a few weeks. Seth will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study Electrical Engineering and will receive a full scholarship through its ROTC program. Upon graduation, Seth will serve as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Dragon Nation is beyond proud of Seth and cannot wait to see what the future holds for him.</p>	

<b>Howard Roberson - Salutatorian</b>	Academics ▾
CAST STEM High School ▾	
<p>CAST STEM High School would like to recognize Howard Roberson as the Salutatorian for the Class of 2026. Throughout high school, he has been an active member of the Southwest High School Band, Student Council, National Honor Society, Math Club, Theatre, and Love &amp; All Club, demonstrating his active engagement and dedication to his school community. Howard's achievements reflect his strong work ethic and passion for excellence. He will be earning his Associate of Science degree from Palo Alto College this May. This fall, Howard will attend The University of Texas at San Antonio, where he plans to major in Physics and Mathematics.</p>	



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<b>Jhazmin Lim - Valedictorian</b>	Academics ▾
CAST STEM High School ▾	
<p>CAST STEM High School would like to recognize Jhazmin Lim as the Valedictorian for the Class of 2026. Jhazmin has made a lasting impact through her leadership, service, and academic excellence. She served as President of the National Honor Society, Vice President of Student Council, and Treasurer of the Class of 2026 Council. Her commitment to student voice extended to roles on the CAST Schools Advisory Board and as a Student Ambassador. Jhazmin’s passion for mentorship shone through her work with the Penguin Project, where she was honored as Mentor of the Month. She also excelled in competitions, earning top placements in drone and technology events, and was recognized as her team’s highest scorer in the Academic Decathlon Honors category. In addition, she will be earning her Associate of Arts degree from Palo Alto College this May. This fall, Jhazmin will attend the University of Notre Dame, where she plans to study Accounting and Data Analytics.</p>	

<b>Multiple Students</b>	Rising Stars ▾
<b>Karianna Elmore - Southwest Elementary</b>	
<b>Mikayla Misha Pineda - Resnik Middle School</b>	
<b>Jesilyn Gonzales - CAST STEM High School</b>	
<p>Our SWISD Rising Stars have shown incredible growth, making positive changes and improving attendance. We are confident that their hard work will continue to have a positive impact on their entire Southwest ISD experience.</p>	



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<b>Destination Imagination - BCE</b>	Academics ▾
Big Country Elementary ▾	
<p>The BCE Bears proudly advanced to the Destination Imagination Lone Star Finals State Tournament, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills at the highest level of competition. Their hard work and dedication have earned them the opportunity to represent their school and community among the top teams in Texas. Congratulations to the Bears on this outstanding achievement!</p> <p>Team Members include: <b>Jaeden Guerrero, Christian Martinez, Clara Martinez, Castiel Vasquez, Analicia Puente, and Jerik Garza</b></p>	

<b>Destination Imagination - SWHS</b>	Academics ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<p>The SWHS Destination Dragons proudly advanced to the Destination Imagination Lone Star Finals State Tournament, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills at the highest level of competition. Their hard work and dedication have earned them the opportunity to represent their school and community among the top teams in Texas. Congratulations to the Destination Dragons on this outstanding achievement! Sponsors - Raevan Batt and Marylu Rodriguez</p> <p>Team Members include: <b>Rachel Garza, Adrean Trinidad, Calub Vasquez, Amia Deleon, Karley Aguilera</b></p>	



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<b>Destination Imagination - SWHS</b>	Academics ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<p>The "Bobs" from SWHS proudly advanced to the Destination Imagination Lone Star Finals State Tournament, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills at the highest level of competition. Their hard work and dedication have earned them the opportunity to represent their school and community among the top teams in Texas. Congratulations to the Bears on this outstanding achievement! Sponsors - Raeven Batt and Marylu Rodriguez</p> <p>Team Members include: <b>Alyna Cruz, Madison Coward, Laura Olvera, and Ezra Ruiz</b></p>	

<b>Destination Imagination - SWL</b>	Academics ▾
SW Legacy High School ▾	
<p>The Purple Dragons from SWLHS proudly advanced to the <b>Destination Imagination Lone Star Finals State Tournament</b>, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills at the highest level of competition. Their hard work and dedication have earned them the opportunity to represent their school and community among the top teams in Texas. Congratulations to the Purple Dragons on this outstanding achievement! Sponsor - Kaitlyn Larson</p> <p>Team Members include: <b>Julian DeHoyos, Jordan Menchaca, Alexander Vasquez, Arianna Menchaca, Mason Quintanilla, and Lucas Cape</b></p>	

<b>SWHS State Swimmers</b>	Athletics ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<p><b>James Kipp</b> - The first male swimmer to qualify for the 5A State Swimming Championship in the history of the District. He placed 4th overall in the 100 Yard Freestyle and 5th in the 200 Yard Freestyle.</p> <p><b>Aiden Diaz</b> - Qualified for the 5A State Diving Meet for the 3rd year in a row, where he placed 5th overall in 1 Meter Diving.</p>	



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<b>SWHS Boys Water Polo</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
The Dragon Water Polo team was the District Champions for the first time since the team's establishment in 2022, going undefeated in District play.	

<b>SWHS Girls Water Polo</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
The Lady Dragon Water Polo team was the District Champions for the first time since the program's establishment in 2022, and they did so while going undefeated in District play.	

<b>SWHS State Powerlifters</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
<b>Sofia Pusateri</b> - 5A Division 1 State Champion--220 lb Equipped--Bench Press State Record--335 lbs. <b>Danieliz Villafane</b> - 165 lb Unequipped State Champion--Deadlift State Record--380 lbs--Overall Total State Record--880 lbs. <b>Blaine Chessher</b> -5A 5th place State Medalist--198 lb Equipped <b>Jeremiah Reyes</b> - SHW Unequipped State Qualifier	



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<b>SWL State Powerlifters</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
SW Legacy High School ▾	
<p><b>Savannah Vargas</b> - Southwest Legacy's Junior Savannah Vargas won 1st place at State. Our first-ever State winner. 660lbs total</p> <p><b>Arianna Sanchez</b> - Southwest Legacy's Junior Arianna Sanchez won 1st place at State. Our first-ever State winner. 1130 lbs total</p> <p><b>Marissa Chavarria</b> - Southwest Legacy's Senior Marissa Chavarria won 4th place at State. 840 lbs total</p> <p><b>Jacob Perez</b> - Southwest Legacy's Sophomore Jacob Perez State Qualifier. 1,620 lbs total</p> <p><b>Luis Rubio</b> - Senior Luis Rubio State Qualifier. 1,500 lbs total</p>	

<b>SW Legacy Titan Boys Basketball Team</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
SW Legacy High School ▾	
<p>The Legacy Boys Basketball Team had a historic year for their school. They were the first Basketball team to win the District Championship. The first Basketball team to win a playoff game. The first team sport at Legacy to win a second-round playoff game. The Titans finished the season with a 27-10 record.</p>	

<b>Southwest Girls Soccer</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
District Champs, Bi-District Champs.	



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<b>Southwest Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
<b>Southwest High School</b> ▾	
<p>We're proud to have captured our 8th district title this season, a testament to the hard work, commitment, and character of this group. While we fell short of our ultimate goal in the playoffs, this team represented our program with heart and resilience every step of the way. Thank you to our players, families, and supporters for being part of another good season.</p> <p><b>Emiliano Romo, Jose Perez, Sebastian Huerta, Jesus Angel, Edgar Davila, Samuel Plascencia, Kevin Lopez, Caleb Barajas, Milan Jaramillo Guillermo Lazcano, Alfredo Plascencia, Luis Perez, Noe Villalobos, Brian Ortiz, Ezra Scott, Diego Leon, Juan Leon, Brian Plascencia, Giovannie Armando, Emmanuel Vargas, John Cervantes, Miguel Melendez, Geovanie Huerta, Jesus Gonzalez, Jeyden Lee, Jacob Rojas, Eyden Lee, HC: Juan Romeroo, Michael Ludyen, Gabriel Romero</b></p>	

<b>SWL Boys Soccer</b>	<b>Athletics</b> ▾
<b>SW Legacy High School</b> ▾	
<p>The Titans finished the year with a 19-9 overall record, proving they were one of the elite programs in Texas. Competing in UIL 5A Division 1, the team fought through a grueling schedule to finish 2nd in the District with a 12-4 record. By the end of the run, Southwest Legacy was ranked #8 in San Antonio and #46 in the entire state of Texas for Division 5A. The post-season is where this team truly etched its name into the history books. The Titans went on an incredible tear, knocking off powerhouse programs to reach the UIL State Tournament for the first time in school history. The Titans finished among the top 4 teams in the state in 5A Division 1. The success of the 2026 Titan Soccer season was made possible by great team effort and community support.</p>	



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Emerging Educator Awards	Employee ▾
Southwest High School ▾	
Big Country Elementary	Sarah Valle
Elm Creek Elementary	Hailey Gaylor
Hidden Cove STEAM Academy	Fara Ramirez
Indian Creek Elementary	Kimberley Gardner
Kriewald School of the Arts	Rebekah Coronado
Medio Creek Elementary	MaKenzee DeCook
Sky Harbor Elementary	Hilda Garcia
Spicewood Park Elementary	Robert A. Dreamkowski
Sun Valley Elementary	Chloe Davis
McAuliffe Middle School	Sophia Rodriguez
Resnik Middle School	Jackeline Ramos
Scobee Middle School	Jose Sanchez
Southwest Legacy High School	Nick De Leon
CAST STEM HS	Cesarina Fernandez
Crossroads Academy	No Eligible Nominee
District Finalists:	
Elementary Finalist:	
Alissa Salazar - Southwest Elementary	
Secondary Finalist	
Bianca Pena - McNair Middle School	
SWISD District Emerging Educators:	
Elementary:	
Karol Jau Lopez Lima - Bob Hope Elementary	
Secondary:	
Reaven Batt - Southwest High School	