



# The Spartan Messenger

## STISD - STPA

PRINCIPAL: ANA CASTRO  
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### Mission

South Texas Preparatory Academy endeavors to serve students through engaging and challenging curriculum that prepares them for future learning.

### Vision

South Texas Preparatory Academy community promotes successful students by focusing on learning, working together, & being accountable for results.

### Motto

We are honest, responsible, respectful. We are leaders. We are Spartans!

### STPA A 2015 National Blue Ribbon School

Phone: 956-381-5522

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Website: [stpa.stisd.net](http://stpa.stisd.net)

### Important Information

The Q3 9-weeks ended on March 10. Report cards were mailed out on Tuesday, March 21. The Q4 3-weeks will end on April 12 and progress reports will be mailed out on Thursday, April 13. Please continue to monitor your child's grades and contact his/her counselor and/or teacher if you have any questions or concerns. At the end of March students took some of the STAAR/EOC tests. The testing will continue for 7th and 8th grade students in the month of May. On testing days for each grade level, students will be sectioned off in areas of the school where it will be quiet during the test. Tickets will be provided to students indicating which rooms they will be testing in.

### Promotion/Retention Criteria

The criteria for promotion at STPA requires that a student must pass three out of the four core subjects, (Language Arts, Math, Science, and History) for the year, and that the student's overall year average of all courses taken be above 70. You are encouraged to review your child's grades to determine if your child may be in danger of being retained. If you have any questions about the promotion status of your

child, contact the counseling department.

### Pre-registration

Seventh grade pre-registration for 8th grade has been completed. Mrs. L. Liguez and Mrs. L. Salinas met with students to help them with their next year's schedule. As eighth graders, they must register for the core courses (Math, ELA, Science, US History). PE and Gateway to Technology that are required for all eighth grade students. All students chose their elective class. The choices are Art 1, Theater Arts 1, Spanish 1 Bilingual (Spanish Speakers), Spanish 1 Monolingual (Non-Spanish speakers) Choir, Band. The state requires for all students to have one year of a Fine Arts in grades 6-8. Any 7th grade student who has not fulfilled this requirement has been registered to take a fine arts course next year.

### Message from the Library

April is National Library Month and this year's theme is Because School Libraries Empower Students, which celebrates the role school libraries have in transforming learning. A variety of activities are planned throughout the month.

Students were given overdue notices for library books and equipment on March 31st. There are no late fees for overdue items as long as they are returned in good condition. Feel free to call the library to check the status of your child's account.

April 18th will be the last day students can AR test to become Spartan Top Readers. A large group of students have word counts over 800,000 and could qualify. Please encourage your child to continue reading. You can log in to Renaissance Home Connect or contact the librarians at 956-318-8526 or 956-318-8527 to find out your child's word count.

### Yearbook Reminder

Don't miss out on the memories! Yearbooks are on sale for \$45.00. Students can pay with cash or check payable to STISD. You may contact Mr. A. Gonzalez, for more details or email him at [alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net](mailto:alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net).

### TMSCA Competition

Best of luck to the students who met the qualifying criteria to advance to the TMSCA state competition to be held on April 22, 2017 at UTSA in San Antonio, TX. Go Spartans!



## LETTERS TO AUTHORS WRITING CONTEST

In December of first semester, over forty students submitted entries in the Letters to Authors Writing Contest sponsored by the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Thirty-five semi-finalists (of the 2,037 essays received from the state of Texas) were announced on March 3rd. Ten of these thirty-five

semi-finalists were English I students in Ms. Patricia Power's classes. Eleven finalists were named, of which four were entrants from STPA. On March 10, Ms. Power was notified that Cynthia Oynurah was awarded first place in the state of Texas for her letter to Jodi Picoult, and Jimena Sote-

lo was awarded third place in the state of Texas for her letter to Michelle Hodkin. Cynthia will be traveling to San Antonio to present her letter on April 20th to the Texas Library Association. Her letter will go into national competition vying with the best letters from all fifty states. The winners of

national competition will be announced in the summer. BIG KUDOS to Cynthia, Jimena and the other semi-finalists from STPA. This is just more evidence of how amazing our STPA scholars are! We are all exceedingly proud of them for their literary prowess.

## TSA REGIONAL RESULTS



## Chess Club State Competition Results

A Big Congratulations to the STPA Chess students who competed at the Texas State Scholastic Chess Tournament on March 11-12 at UTRGV in Edinburg. The STPA Middle School Championship Division received 4th place. Middle School Junior Varsity received 4th place.

The Technology Student Association participants competed at the regional competition on March 3-4, 2017 at Science Academy in Mercedes. Below are the results for the students who placed in different categories:

**Bio Technology**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Noorani, Muhammad; Nadeem, Kulsoom; Eemaan, Khan; **Career Prep**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Brown, Sylvia; **Challenging Technology Issues**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Morales, Aislyn; Morales, Emma; Team 2--2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Vora, Kenisha; Agarwala, Anisha; Team 3--3<sup>rd</sup> Place--George, Vivek; Jose, Aibel; **Children Stories**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Namboodiri, Veena; Galvan, Aixa; Namboodiri, Varsha; Rodriguez,

Ashley; **CO2 Dragster**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Vora, Kenisha; Team 2--2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Ooi, Jeff; **Digital Photography**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Vora, Kenisha; **Essays on Technology**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--George, Vivek; Team 2--2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Huitron, Dyvia; **Jr. Solar Sprint**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Villarreal, Mauricio; Mendoza, Eric; **Leadership Strategies**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Morales, Aislyn; Morales, Emma; Agarwala, Anisha; **Medical Technology**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Uribe, Geevana Amber; Leal, Alejandra; Huitron, Dyvia; Team 2--2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Morales, Aislyn; Morales, Emma; Agarwala, Anisha; **Prepared Speech**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Agarwala, Anisha; **Problem**

**Solving**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Villarreal, Mauricio; Mendoza, Eric; **STEM Animation**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Giang, Celine; Sibi, Irene; De Jesus, Deisiree; **Technology Bowl**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Villarreal, Adrian; Ooi, Jeff; Vora, Kenisha; **Video Game Design**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Villarreal, Adrian; Yazji, Ajad; Hawk, Samuel; **Website Design**--Team 1--1<sup>st</sup> Place--Garcia, Hannah; Son, Stella; Maldonado, Victoria; Brown, Sylvia. Congratulations on a job well done! These students will be competing at the TSA State competition on April 5-7 in Waco, TX.

## AMBASSADORS / HONOR ROLL / PERFECT ATTENDANCE

**Q4- Student Ambassadors**- Congratulations to our Q4 student ambassadors. These students were chosen to represent their specific team by being their voice and vote. Each team chooses two representatives which are recommended by the teachers. Q4 Ambassadors are as follows: Team 71--Varsha Namboodiri & Caden Karr; 72--Veena Namboodiri & Victor Pardo-Flores; 83--Soske Kubota & Jesutofunmi B.

Ajayi-Bembe; 84--Allison Sokoloff & Alessandro Bernini. The new ambassadors will be having lunch with administration on Monday, May 22nd from 11:15-12:15.

**Honor Roll Recognitions**-Honor Roll Celebrations- 7th grade/ April 10, 2017 -8th grade / April 11, 2017 @ 3:30 in the Cafeteria.

-A GREAT BIG HIP-HIP HOO-RAY! To our Honor Roll students--They worked so hard

this Q3 to pass all their classes. In 7th grade, there were 74 students that earned all --A's and 112 students that earned --A & B's. In 8th grade, there were 50 students that earned all --A's and 94 students that earned --A & B's. These students will be rewarded with pizza and drinks at their celebration. Again- Great Job Everyone!

**Perfect Attendance**--A Great BIG CONGRATULATIONS to

our Q3 9-Weeks Perfect Attendance students. Here are the grade level counts of student attendance recognitions:

7th Grade-104 students

8th grade-89 students

Great Job to those students!

Remember, every class takes attendance, therefore if you're out one class period that is an absence already.

**UIL DISTRICT MEET RESULTS**

A High Five and a BIG Congratulations to the following students in 7th and 8th grade for placing at the District UIL Meet held on February 11, 2017 at Longoria MS. STPA received 1st Place Sweepstakes!

**7th Grade Number Sense**-2nd Place-Sarah Park, 3rd Place-Danielle Ebaseh-Onofa; **8th Grade Number Sense**-2nd Place- Alvaro Mayorga, 4th Place- Abel Sebastian, 8th Place- Stephano Boyer

**7th Grade Calculators**-1st Place-Danielle Ebaseh-Onofa, 2nd Place-Stella Son; **8th Grade Calculators**-4th Place-Daniel Hernandez

**7th Grade Math**-1st Place-Sarah Park, 2nd Place-Danielle Ebaseh-Onofa, 4th Place-Sebert Feng; **8th Grade Math**-2nd Place-Alvaro Mayorga, 7th Place- Stephano Boyer

**7th Grade Dictionary Skills**-1st Place-Danielle Ebaseh-Onofa, 2nd Place-Cassidy Nguyen, 8th Place-Eric Lopez; **8th Grade Dictionary Skills**-2nd Place-Stephen

Ebaseh-Onofa, 5th Place-Swadepto Chakraborty

**7th Grade Maps, Graphs and Charts**-1st Place-Sarah Park, 2nd Place-Caden Karr, 4th Place-Andrea Cantu; **8th Grade Maps, Graphs and Charts**-1st Place-Stephano Boyer, 5th Place-Kenisha Vora, 8th Place-Kevin Garcia

**7th Grade Spelling**-1st Place-Greeshma John, 2nd Place-Danielle Ebaseh-Onofa, 3rd Place-Veena Namboodiri.; **8th Grade Spelling**-1st Place-Deborah Lagas, 7th Place-Faith Alvarez

**7th Grade Science**-1st Place-Sarah Park, 2nd Place-Muhammad Noorani, 3rd Place-Arthur Cabo; **8th Grade Science**-1st Place-Adrian Villarreal, 2nd Place-Abel Sebastian, 7th Place-Abrianna Carrera

**7th Grade Social Studies**-2nd Place-Mario Salinas; **8th Grade Social Studies**-3rd Place-Jerry Garcia, 5th Place-Kevin Garcia, 6th Place-Adrian Villarreal

**7th Grade Ready Writing**-2nd Place-

Kulsoom Nadeem, 3rd Place-Susannah Lynn-Macrae, 8th Place-Eemaan Khan; **8th Grade Ready Writing**-3rd Place-Daniel Kim, 5th Place-Allison Sokoloff

**8th Grade Listening Skills**-1st Place-Sebastian Sy, 6th Place-Daniel Hernandez, 7th Place-Alberto Salinas

**7th Grade Prose**-1st Place- Sara Smith; **8th Grade Prose**-2nd Place-Kenisha Vora

**7th Grade Modern Oratory**-1st Place-Susannah Lynn-Macrae, 3rd Place-Miranda Lozoya, 4th Place-Sophia Villarreal; **8th Grade Modern Oratory**-2nd Place- Raul Hernandez, 4th Place-Thomas Saenz, 5th Place-Madeline King

**7th Grade Solo**-2nd Place-Delanie Sanchez, 4th Place-Seema Shaheen

**8th Grade Duet**-6th Place-Kenisha Vora/Jana Silva

**7th Grade Impromptu**-4th Place-Isabel Saldana; **8th Grade Impromptu**-2nd Place -Michael Moreno

**STAAR / EOC EXAM SCHEDULE**

Please make note of these important dates on your calendar so that your child is not absent on these days. We would like all of our students to be prepared mentally and physically for the STAAR Tests coming up soon. Make sure the students gets a good night's rest the night before and eat a good breakfast on testing days.

**STAAR/EOC Testing Schedule**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>7th Grade</b>	<b>8th Grade</b>
Mon. May 1	None	Algebra I EOC
Wed. May 3	None	Biology EOC
Mon. May 8	Math 8 STAAR (7th) retest	
Tues. May 9	Reading 7	Reading 8 retest
Wed. May 10	Science 8 (7th graders)	
Thurs. May 11	None	Social Studies

**Summer Testing Dates**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>7th Grade</b>	<b>8th Grade</b>
Tues. June 20	Math 8 (7th grade) retest	
Wed. June 21		Reading 8 STAAR retest (if needed)
June 19-23		English I/Algebra I/ Biology (If needed)

## SOUTH TEXAS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

## 2017-2018 2-YEAR COURSE SEQUENCE

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Language Arts 7 Pre-AP (2)	Language Arts 8 Pre-AP (1) ◇ English I Pre-AP (1)
Reading 7 (1) if required for the student	Reading 8 (1) if required for the student
Math 8 Pre-AP (1) Math 8 (2)	◇ Algebra I Pre-AP(1) ◇ Algebra I (2)
Science 7 (2) ◇ IPC (2) Integrated Physics & Chemistry	◇ IPC (2) Integrated Physics & Chemistry ◇ Biology Pre-AP (2)
Texas History Pre-AP (1)	U.S. History Pre-AP (1) ◇ W. Geography Pre-AP (1) *(Pilot Course)
Physical Education (1)	Physical Education (1)
◇ Fundamentals of Computer Science (1)	◇ PLTW Gateway to Technology (1)

\*\*One year of a fine arts course is required for all students in grades 6-8.

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment Courses	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment Courses
Instrumental Music or Choir	◇ Fundamentals of Computer Science (1) ◇ Art I ◇ Theater Arts I Instrumental Music, Choir ◇ Spanish I

(1) Meets Every Other Day

(2) Meets Everyday

◇ High School Courses

• English I & W. Geo (Prerequisite: Credit By Exam)

\* W. Geo (criteria must be met to enroll in course)