



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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Welcome

We would like to welcome everyone to South Texas Preparatory Academy. We, at STPA, want you to know that it is an honor and a privilege for us to take part in your child's education. The 2018-2019 school year has gotten off to a really good start. The students seem enthusiastic and have been quite cooperative. Thank you for providing them with the good values and the work ethics which they display. We encourage you to please be sure to read the Student/Parent Handbook and the Code of Conduct with your child to be informed with the rules and regulations of STISD-STPA.

Welcome New Staff

A warm welcome to our newest staff additions to our STPA family: Wilmer Romero, Student Services Coordinator, Robert Schmidt, ELA 8 Teacher, Cassandra Garcia, Biology Teacher, Eduardo Torres, AEP Teacher, and Brandee Garza, paraprofessional.

Support/Enrichment Time

This year we will continue with the Support/Enrichment Time (SET) from 3:10-4:00 p.m. During this time students who are doing well and keeping up with work are

given the opportunity to engage themselves in enrichment activities such as Robotics, Film Critique, ping pong and basketball. On the other hand, for those students who have been identified to have academic difficulties or behind in their work, will be given the opportunity to receive extra support. The first 3-week rotation of activities will begin on Monday, September 10.

Homework Intervention

Homework Round-up intervention is a time for students to make up assignments that have not been completed. It will be held Monday thru Thursday, from 3:10-4:00, starting on September 17, 2018. If students are missing three assignments or more they will be placed in this intervention by their team of teachers. Students will be working on their assignments the entire time they are in this class, and will be treated as a time for assignment recovery.

Recognitions

Academic Pep-rallies—"Special Thanks" to all the parents who attended our "Kick-off Academic Pep-rally", held on Friday, August 24th. Also, "Special

Thanks" to Cowboy Cash from Texas State National Bank for joining us at STPA. The students had a great time and went home excited after a long week of hard work. We are looking forward to our next one! It will be organized by Team 71-Lancers and it will be held on October 19th at 3:00 p.m. Congratulations to Team 71-Lancers for being the winners of the "Spirit Stick."

Niche Rankings

South Texas Independent School District (STISD) ranked 2nd in Texas and 9th in the nation in the 2019 Best School Districts rankings.

In the Best Public Middle Schools list, South Texas Preparatory Academy (STPA) ranked 2nd in the state out of 2,066, and 18th in the nation out of 23,783 and received an A+ overall Niche grade. In the Best Public Middle School Teachers list, STPA ranked 2nd in Texas and 10th in the nation.

Contact Changes

Please report any address or phone number changes in writing to our office so that we may be able to contact you in case of an emergency. It is very important that we have updated information on file.

SIGNING OUT STUDENT POLICY

For your child's safety, the procedures for signing out students for early release will require a photo I.D. Only contacts written on Student's Emergency or Census Card will be allowed to check out a student. This year, we will continue to use the Raptor System which we have acquired to help pro-

tect your children. This system is called V-soft. V-soft helps track visitors, contractors, and volunteers who come to our school. Thus providing a safer more monitored environment for the students. When visitors, volunteers, or contractors check in, or parents come to pick up students they will be required

to present a valid state-issued ID for entering into the system. The system has the ability to provide alerts on people who may jeopardize the safety of the campus. We feel this will help us keep our students/campus safer, and ask for your cooperation in presenting your valid ID. For security reasons,

no over the phone or written authorizations will be allowed. Students should not be checked out after 3:30 p.m. Any student being checked out after 3:30 will have to wait until 4:00 when the bell rings to be dismissed.



PLANNERS POLICY / ID CARDS

Student Planners Policy

Every student in 7th and 8th grade at STPA has received an agenda planner. The planner is used to record homework assignments and other reminders every day. They also serve as hall passes. If a student does not have the planner with him/her in the classroom, he/she cannot be excused out of class. For these reasons, all students should have their planner with them every day. Teachers are required to check that students are writing their assignments in the planner on a daily basis. To avoid being assigned consequences for not coming to class prepared, students should have their planners with them for all their classes. We are starting the second week of school, and the teachers have been working with the students to make sure

that they are aware of this requirement. All students should take their planners home every night. Parents are encouraged to check their student's planner to make sure he/she is writing down the assignments for each class and that the assignments are being completed at home every night. A student who loses an agenda planner must replace it at a cost of \$5.00. We ask for your support to help your child to take advantage of this very important tool to teach him/her responsibility and organizational skills.

Picture ID Cards

Every student in 7th and 8th grade at STPA has received a picture ID with a lanyard. The ID is used to check out books in the library, to receive lunch in the cafeteria and to enter open

gym during lunch. Students are required to wear their ID cards at all times when on campus or school-sponsored trips or activities. We have set this expectation for all our junior high students so they may be easily identified, for security purposes. Students may switch their lanyard if the one provided is uncomfortable, but the ID must be displayed on them at all times. Teachers are required to check that students are wearing their ID cards on a daily basis. To avoid being assigned consequences for not coming to class prepared, students should have their ID cards with them at all times. A student who loses an ID must replace it at a cost of \$5.00. We ask for your support by ensuring your child leaves home wearing his/her ID daily.

**WELCOME
BACK!
HAVE A
FANTASTIC
YEAR!**

**Detention for Tardiness**

Any student arriving late to class is considered tardy and is assigned after-school detention. Students have five minutes between passing periods to get to their next class. This is more than enough time for students to get to class on time; however there are students who decide to walk their friends to class, then they return to their class and walk in late. Some students will be late getting to class because they went to the restroom. This is

not an excuse for late arrival. Students must report to class first and ask for permission to leave the class with their agenda planner signed. At times something happens that is out of the student's control and he/she will ask to be excused. But the policy is not about each single tardy; it's about a pattern of tardies. The teachers have been working with the students the first two weeks of school to make sure they are all aware of the policy. All students should be aware of

the consequences.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

When in question, communication between parents and teachers can make all the difference. To schedule an appointment with your child's teacher, please call the school. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled during the teacher's conference period, or you may contact the teachers by phone or email as well. The students are divided into teams. There are two teams per grade level. Team 71 and

Team 72 consist of seventh grade students; Team 83 and Team 84 are made up of 8th grade students. The teachers on each team have a common planning period. This time can be used to schedule parent/teacher conferences for parents to meet with all core subject and some of the elective teachers. Please visit our website for information on the teachers conference periods at stpa.stisd.net or contact the school at 956-381-5522 for information.

2018 - 2019 UIL COACHES AND EVENTS

The following is a list of the UIL events with their respective sponsors. Students may start signing up for UIL events September 10th with the assigned coaches. Students may join no more than 3 UIL events for the school year. Visit our website at stpa.stisd.net for a detailed schedule of meeting days and listen to announcements for meetings coming up. The information for after-school clubs and other organizations will be sent and posted once it is finalized.

Event	Sponsor	Room Number
History	Ms. B. Nieto	131
Number Sense	Ms. J. Alejandro	140
8 th Math	Ms. J. Alejandro	140
7 th Math	Mrs. Y. Magana	143
Maps, Graphs and Charts	Ms. R. Monroe	115
Spelling	Ms. R. Monroe	115
Listening Skills	Mrs. S. Kaiser	139
Dictionary Skills	Mrs. S. Kaiser	139
Solo and Duet Acting	Mrs. H. Garza	Gym
Impromptu	Mrs. H. Garza	Gym
Prose and Poetry	Ms. I. Rodriguez	109
Science 7	Mrs. C. Garcia	112
Science 8	Mrs. M. Mon	110
Calculator	Mrs. S. Brown	142
Ready Writing	Mrs. E. Figueroa	133
Modern Oratory	Mrs. E. Figueroa	133
One Act Play	Mrs. Auensmith/Ms. I. Rodriguez	301/109

PSTO

STPA invites you to join our Parent Student Teacher Organization (PSTO) to help make a difference in the education and quality of life for all our students. We recognize that you want the best education possible for your children, and PSTO is a great opportunity for you to be involved in your child's education. We all know children learn more when parents, school faculty/staff, students and the community work together.

PSTO is a place where these groups can come together to share thoughts and ideas about programs and activities that benefit children. So we encourage you to be involved. You may choose how and how much you wish to be involved. The organization held its first meeting for the 2018-2019 school year on Mon., August 27, 2018. Officers were elected and are as follows: President: Yerika Colombon (Gael Felix-7); Vice President: Edna Cedillo (Daniella Cedillo-7) & Maritza Lara (Matthew De Leon-8); Treasurer: Nilsa Escobar (Alyssa Escobar); Secretary: Marivel Barrera (Eva Barrera-7); Parliamentarian: Maria Rodriguez (Isabela

Garza-7th); Historian: Angela De La Garza (Sofia De La Garza-7); 8th Grade Representatives: Ester Volpe (Madelyn Volpe); 7th Grade Representatives: Ruthebeth Contreras (Lejandrei Contreras). We thank them very sincerely.

PSTO has already started working on the upcoming events and are inviting everyone to get involved. The next monthly meeting will be held on September 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the library. For further information on PSTO, please contact Patricia Power at 381-5522 or patria.power@stisd.net.

Library Message

All students are enrolled in the Accelerated Reader Program and are currently testing over assigned summer reading. Students who read one million or more words by 5:15 pm on Monday, April 1, 2019 will be distinguished as Spartan Top Readers.

Renaissance Home Connect letters will be sent home with students by September 7th. Make sure to ask your child for the form, which contains the website and username/password to view your child's AR pro-

gress. You will also receive the results of the STAR Reading Assessment showing your child's current reading level. If you don't receive either form, contact maryedna.sandoval@stisd.net or nathaly.garza@stisd.net or call 318-8525. Students may check out equipment, such as laptops, Nooks, cameras and tripods, from the library if a signed permission slip is on file. Students can request a permission slip at the circulation desk. Signed permission slips should be returned to the circulation desk as well.

Let's Talk Parent Connection

On Thursday, September 6, 2018, STPA's administrative team wants to provide parents an opportunity to share informal conversations regarding topics of interest. There will be no formal agendas, just time to get to know each other and enjoy a chat. Please join us from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the STPA Teacher's Workroom.

Mother/Daughter--Father/Son

The Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Program applications will soon be available in the counselors' office. Students need to listen to morning announcements for this information. If you need information regarding this opportunity contact us.