



# The Spartan Messenger

## STISD - STPA

PRINCIPAL: ANA CASTRO  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: MARI OCHOA

### 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

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### Important Information

The end of the first semester will be on Dec. 20th. December 17-20 have been assigned as exam release days. Students will be released from school at 2:00 p.m. on those days. **There will be no late buses for those four days.** Please make arrangements to pick up your student early those days at the bus stop or on campus. Report cards will not be mailed out until after we return from the break. The Winter Break will begin on Friday, Dec. 21 through Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. Students will return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

### Music Program Information

Mrs. Jeter's music students will perform at Brook Ridge Retirement Center and Retama Manor Nursing Center. They will bring the holiday spirit and joy to the residents on December 7.

### Christmas Concerts

Join us for two great Christmas concerts. On Thursday, December 6, STPA String and Choir students in Ms. Martinez's music classes will be hosting their annual music concert. On Tuesday, December 11, the BETA/STPA music students in Ms. Jeter's classes will perform their annual music concert. Both concerts will be held at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.

### UIL Results

STPA Students participated in the UIL meet that was held on December 1st, at Kennedy Middle School. The students did

very well! STPA received 1st place Sweepstakes. The following are the individual results for students that placed in their respective categories:

**7th grade Number Sense:** 1st Raven Cabasag, 3rd Mateo Boyer, 5th Sameera Agarwala,

**8th Number Sense:** 3rd Evan Tomai, 4th Nikhil Veeramachaneni, 5th Hannah Jin, 7th Edward Lee

**7th Math:** 1st Sumita Dantu, 2nd Mateo Boyer, 7th Nataly Callaway

**8th Math:** 1st Nikhil Veeramachaneni, 2nd Hannah Jin, 4th Edward Lee, 5th Evan Tomai, 6th Matthew Salinas

**7th Calculator:** 4th Raven Cabasag

**8th Calculator:** 5th Dante Tovar

**7th Science:** 1st Saiyid Yusha Wahid, 2nd Samarah Balmores, 3rd Andree De Jesus

**8th Science:** 1st Nikhil Veeramachaneni, 2nd Bipul Soti, 3rd Gabriel Escovilla, 4th Matthew Salinas, 6th Dante Tovar, 7th Emilio Repetto-Ayala, 8th Joseph Zambrano, 7th grade Listening Skills, 8th Angel Jose

**8th grade Listening Skills:** 2nd Bipul Soti, 4th Madeline Trujillo, 5th Aditya Nair, 6th Onyeze Chineke, 7th grade Social Studies, 8th grade Social Studies, 2nd Onyeze Chineke, 5th Dante Tovar, 7th Matthew Salinas

**7th Ready Writing:** 2nd Elisa John, 3rd Sameera Agarwala,

4th Samarah Balmores

**8th grade Ready Writing:** 1st Diane Joseph, 2nd Joseph Zambrano

**7th grade Dictionary Skills:** 1st Raven Cabasag

**8th grade Dictionary Skills:** 5th Samara Mendoza, 6th Ghya Salinas

**7th grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts:** 1st Mateo Boyer

**8th grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts:** 2nd Nayaab Khan

**7th grade Spelling:** 1st Sumita Dantu, 2nd Saiyid Yusha Wahid, 4th Shreya Patel

**8th grade Spelling:** 1st Yaseen Tasnif

**7th Poetry:** 2nd Frances Pepito, 6th Natalie Garcia

**7th grade Impromptu:** 1st Elisa John, 8th grade Impromptu, 5th Bipul Soti

**7th grade Modern Oratory:** 1st Allysa Torio, 2nd Alivia Shaju, 3rd Daniella Fonseca

**8th grade Modern Oratory:** 2nd Evan Tomai

**7th grade Duet:** 5th Christine, Teju and Alivia Shaju

**7th grade Chess Puzzles:** 1st Saiyid Yusha Wahud, 3rd Kiran Revisanker, 4th Marco Sanchez, 6th Nicholas Mathew

**8th grade Chess Puzzles:** 1st Emilio Repetto-Ayala, 2nd Rishi Pokhrel, 3rd Dante Tovar, 6th Sachin Chapra

Congratulations to all the students and sponsors on a great 1st semester! Go Spartans!



Below is the first semester exam schedule that will be followed from Dec. 17-20:

**Monday, December 17, 2018**

Period 1A Exam 8:35 —10:35 a.m.

Lunch 10:40 a.m.—11:15 a.m.

SAM 11:20 —11:55 a.m.

Period 3A Exam 12:00—2:00 p.m.

STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR 3A CLASS DURING SAM.

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018**

Period 1B Exam 8:35—10:35 a.m.

Lunch 10:40—11:15 a.m.

SAM 11:20—11:55 a.m.

Period 3B Exam 12:00—2:00 p.m.

STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR 3B CLASS DURING SAM.

**Wednesday, December 19, 2018**

Period 2A Exam 8:35—10:35 a.m.

Lunch 10:40—11:15 a.m.

SAM 11:20—11:55 a.m.

Period 4A Exam 12:00—2:00 p.m.

STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR 4A CLASS DURING SAM.

**Thursday, December 20, 2018**

Period 2B Exam 8:35—10:35 a.m.

Lunch 10:40—11:15 a.m.

SAM 11:20—11:55 a.m.

Period 4B Exam 12:00—2:00 p.m.

STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR

4B CLASS DURING SAM.

Please make sure your child studies for the semester exams. This grade will be averaged as part of the semester grade. The exam weighs 25% of the semester average for any class.



**Student Council**—is hosting a Christmas Toy Drive from November 27 to December 14. Students are encouraged to bring in a new unwrapped toy for 3-5 year old children. All donated toy items will be given to less fortunate children at Headstart Program. Toys will be delivered on Monday, December 17th.

**STPA's NJHS**—Just a friendly reminder. We are coming to the end of the 1st semester at STPA. NJHS will be evaluating your child's cumulative 1st semester grades to determine eligibility for induction into the South Texas Preparatory Academy NJHS Chapter. To be eligible for consideration, your child must have a cumulative 1st semester average of 90 or higher. Grade point average is calculated using the candidates exact grade from Infinite Campus. A notification letter with an application will be provided to your child to complete and must be submitted by the given deadline. Further information will be provided on the next newsletter

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**Scripps National Spelling Bee**—Practices are held every Tuesday in Mr. Compe's Room, 106. The campus Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Romeo Villarreal Student Lounge.

**Yearbooks**—Parents and students, don't forget to order your 2018-19 yearbook! Visit [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) to order yours today! Price is now \$30, but will go up to 35 on Saturday, Dec. 22nd. This would be a great holiday gift for your child. If you have any questions please email Mr. A. Gonzalez at [alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net](mailto:alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net) or Ms. Cavazos at [laura.cavazos@stisd.net](mailto:laura.cavazos@stisd.net).

**STPA Mentors**—Student Mentors are hosting a Christmas Toy Drive. All students are encouraged to bring in a new unwrapped toy to Ms. Ramirez. Toys will benefit the children battling cancer at DHR Children's Hospital. Toys will be delivered by STPA Mentors in conjunction with SuperRami & Friends, Inc.

**PE Club**—The Basketball Club will be starting the season with their first game at home on Monday, Dec. 3rd. The Lady Spartans will play at 6:00 p.m. and the Spartans will play at 7:15 p.m. against IDEA Rio Grande City. On Monday, Dec. 10th Both Spartans and Lady Spartans will play at IDEA North Mission.

A complete schedule of games is posted on the STPA website.

## LIBRARY & TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

### **Library Message**

Long road trip or airplane flight during the winter break? Then your child should check out books, ebooks or audiobooks from the Gateway to the World Library. We have an extensive collection of books, ebooks, and audiobooks on OverDrive.

Forgot your username and

password for Renaissance Home Connect, or you're having issues accessing the website? Call the librarians at 956-381-8525 or email [maryedna.sandoval@stisd.net](mailto:maryedna.sandoval@stisd.net) or [nathaly.garza@stisd.net](mailto:nathaly.garza@stisd.net) for assistance.



**STISD Basketball Tournament**  
Come and support your STISD basketball teams!

BETA/STPA will be hosting a district-wide Basketball Tournament on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 9:00 am. The games will be held at both STPA and Beta Gyms. There will be no entrance fee for the tournament, but the BETA PSTO will be selling snacks

throughout the day. Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place high school teams. All district schools will be playing girls and boys basketball games. A schedule of games will soon be posted on the campus website for your information.

Join us in making this a great event for everyone in the district.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK



**STPA**  
**HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK**  
**DEC. 10<sup>th</sup> – DEC 14<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY 12/10:**      **Red & Green Day:** Mix the colors to be as festive as possible.

**TUESDAY 12/11:**      **Ugly Holiday Sweater Day:** Wear your ugly or wackiest sweater. Be Creative!

**WEDNESDAY 12/12:** **Scarf/Tie Day:** Wear your Holiday Scarf/Tie.

**Thursday 12/13:**      **Holiday Sock Day:** Wear your wackiest and most spirited socks!

**Friday 12/14:**      **Santa/Elf Hat or Antler Day:** Rock your favorite Holiday Hat!

*Don't forget, classes and learning are still in effect!!*

*Last day of class will be Thursday, December 20, 2018 and school will reopen Tuesday, January 8, 2019.*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## 5TH ANNUAL 5K WALK / RUN &amp; SPARTAN OLYMPICS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Walk /Run and Spartan Olympics Event Sets

### New Stride for Success

On behalf of the STPA PSTO Board we would like to send out a huge thank you to all volunteers, staff members, event sponsors, coaches, administrators, and students, who all played a significant role in the success of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spartan 5K and Olympics Day, held on Friday, November 30, 2018. The event was a remarkable experience and was a ton of fun for all those that participated!

Thanks to the dedication and efforts of all our SAM teachers and students who went the extra mile in collecting pledges for the Rio Grande Children's Home, we were able to reach our goal in raising \$5,000. A considerable donation that will stay right here in the Rio Grande Valley to help children in need. Way to GO SPARTANS!

**Top 4 Pledge Funds by SAM Class:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Mr. Gill- \$905 raised; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mr. Leo-\$540 raised; 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ms. Power-\$510 raised; 4<sup>th</sup>- Ms. Mon-\$505 raised. These SAM Teachers are also being recognized for 100% Student Pledge Participation!

**Olympic Winners-Most Medals Awarded- 7th Grade SAM:** Mr. Montegudo, Ms. Power and Ms. I. Rodriguez; 8th Grade SAM: Mr. Lira, Ms. Ramirez and Mrs. Figueroa

**5K Student Top Place Finishers- 7th grade girls-1st-** Marisol Recinas, **2nd-** Isabella Morales & **3rd-** Mia Palomo; **7th grade boys-1st-** Leith Elzaim, **2nd-** Javier Rodriguez & **3rd-** Roman Gonzalez; **8th grade girls- 1st-** Kylie Skrzypinski, **2nd-** Andrea Paredes & **3rd-** Madison Torres; **8th grade boys-1st-** Daniel Alamilla, **2nd-** Tyler Lanoue & **3rd-** Jorge Cavazos

**Top 10 Student Pledgers:** Daniella Cedillo, James Harms, Lejandrei Contreras, Mariam Daghestani, Faith Jackson, Madison Ross, Christine Salazar, Diego Gomez, Mya Berlanga and Frances Pepito.

All winning classrooms and students will be rewarded with a special celebration SPARTAN AWARDS LUNCHEON in January where they will be provided with a spectacular lunch, games and prizes!