



# The Spartan Messenger

## STISD - STPA

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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**

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### Important Information

The Q3 9-weeks ended on March 7th. Report cards were mailed out on Monday, March 18. The Q4 3-weeks will end on April 4th and progress reports will be mailed out on Friday, April 5th. Please continue to monitor your child's grades and contact his/her counselor and/or teacher if you have any questions or concerns. This April students will be taking 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 I, Music Strings I, Music Instrumental Ensemble and Chinese I. 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

To celebrate National Library Week, the library has several contests and activities planned for the week of April 8 - 12.

Congratulations to the 107 students who became Spartan Top Readers by the April 2nd deadline. To celebrate their success, a field trip, to Barnes & Noble at Palm's Crossing, is scheduled for April 29th. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child to develop a habit of reading for pleasure.

Congratulations also to the winners of the SAM Reading Challenge:

Grade 7                      Grade 8

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Leo, Monteagudo,<br>Comple, I. Rodriguez | 1. Partida |
| 2. Berrones                                 | 2. Garcia  |
| 3. Alejandro                                | 3. Brown   |

April is School Library Month, which spotlights the importance school libraries have in transforming learning. Several activities are planned for the month.

Dr. Sylvia Sanchez Garza will discuss her book *Cascarones* on April 26. *Cascarones* is a coming of age story that takes place in the Rio Grande Valley. Students in Mrs. I. Rodriguez's Spanish classes will have the pleasure of listening to Dr. Garza's presentation.

### Yearbook Reminder

Don't miss out on the memories! Yearbooks are on sale for \$40.00. Students can pay with cash or check payable to STISD. You may contact Mr. A. Gonzalez or Mrs. Cavazos for more details or email them at [alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net](mailto:alberto.gonzalez@stisd.net) or [laura.cavazos@stisd.net](mailto:laura.cavazos@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 27, 2019 at UTSA in San Antonio, TX. Go Spartans!

### Credit By Exam

Students interested in taking Credit by Exam in the summer must sign-up on April 8-12 in the counseling department.

## LETTERS TO AUTHORS WRITING CONTEST

The Library of Congress and the Texas Center for the Book sponsor Letters About Literature, a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a fiction or nonfiction work and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected

them personally. Letters are judged on state and national levels. Each year, tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature, The Texas Center for the Book receiving more than two thousand of those entries. This year, STPA was repre-

sented by fifty entrants from Ms. Power's English I classes. Happily, we were notified that Simon Sy has taken third place in Division II of the state of Texas competition with his letter to Victor Hugo. Simon's letter explains why he finds *Les Miserables* to be his favorite novel. This

is a great honor, and we are all very proud of Simon's accomplishment. Congratulations to this fine writer for his stellar achievement and for being an excellent example of STPA scholarship in action.



**Scripps National Spelling Bee:** Darius Haft was invited to compete at the 92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC this May. He was selected because he has done very well in numerous spelling bee contests including finishing second at the RGV Regional Spelling Bee in 2017. He will be the second STPA student to compete at this prestigious competition.

## PE CLUB / TSA REGIONAL RESULTS

**PE Club Soccer**—A BIG CONGRATULATIONS and best of luck to the Lady Spartans Soccer Team at the state completion on Saturday, April 6th.

**TSA**—The Technology Student Association participants competed at the regional competition on February 23, 2019 at Science Academy in Mercedes. Below are the State Qualifiers in their respective categories:

**Biotechnology**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Tippur, Adhira & Patel, Shreya; 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Sompalli, Srinidhi, Garcia, Luciana & Kunta, Ramya; **CAD Foundations**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Sy, Simon; **Challenging Tech Issues**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Agarwala, Sameera & Dantu, Sumita, 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Morales, Isabela & Fonseca, Daniella; 3<sup>rd</sup> place—Jordan,

Sofia & Hammami, Zeina; **Children's Stories**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Agarwala, Sameera, Dantu, Sumita, Fonseca, Daniella & Daghestani, Mariam; **Coding**—2<sup>nd</sup> place—James, Ashwin & Phillips, Dave; **Dragster**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Starr, Kacey; **Digital Photography**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Do, Sydney; **Essays on Technology**—2<sup>nd</sup> place—Alvarez, Ernesto; 3<sup>rd</sup> place—Sy, Simon; **Forensic Science**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Jordan, Sophia & Hammami, Zeina; 3<sup>rd</sup> place—Sompalli, Srinidhi & Garcia, Luciana; **Junior Solar Sprint**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Lu, Thomas & Chen, Daniel; **Leadership Strategies**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Kunta, Ramya, Garcia, Luciana & Sompalli, Srinidhi; 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Arriaga, Catalina, Alvarez, Ernesto, Balotro, Yumiko; **Mass Production**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Nair, Aditya, Tasnif,

Yaseen & Lu, Thomas; **Medical Technology**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Dantu, Sumita, Agarwala, Sameera & Morales, Isabella; 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Otero, Victoria, Skrzypinski, Kylie & Arriaga, Catalina; **Off the Grid**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Tasnif, Yaseen, Arriaga, Catalina & Nair, Aditya; **Prepared Speech**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Daghestani, Mariam; **Problem Solving**—2<sup>nd</sup> place—Otero, Victoria & Balotro, Yumiko; **STEM Animation**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Do, Sydney, Thomas, Lea & Cristerna, Ana; **Structural Engineering**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Choi, Peter & Espinoza, Diego; 2<sup>nd</sup> place—Daghestani, Mariam & Gutierrez, Trey; **Tech Bowl**—1<sup>st</sup> place—Otero, Victoria, Lu, Thomas & Choi, Peter; **Video Game Design**—2<sup>nd</sup> place—James, Ashwin & Phillips, Dave.



## 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—Saiyid Wahid & Maria Fernanda Brenner; 72—Adhira Tippur & Mateo Boyer; 83—Eduardo Diaz-

Mayens & Victoria Otero; 84—Daniel Chen & Yumico Balotro. The new ambassadors will be having lunch with administration on Thursday, May 9th from 11:15-12:15.

**Honor Roll Recognitions**—Honor Roll Celebrations—7th grade / April 3rd, 2019—8th grade / April 4th 2019 @ 3:30 in the Cafeteria.

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

this Q3 to pass all their classes. In 7th grade, there were 81 students that earned all —A's and 95 students that earned —A & B's. In 8th grade, there were 61 students that earned all —A's and 106 students that earned —A & B's. These students were 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—125 students

8th grade—98 students

Great Job to those students!

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