With their A/V experiences, HISD students may very well be the next Oscar nominees. Lake, a community member and former professional photographer, donated approximately $15,000 in cameras and accessories for the district to utilize. Community members and organizations are taking notice of the great work produced by HISD A/V students. Just this past semester, Doris producing a project called The Quill which focuses on student work — photography, drawings, and even literature. Students at Hillsboro High School (HHS) have a plethora of A/V opportunities with Kyle Bodeker. The students have learned to edit footage, students work on a project where they write a script and produce a video or animation. Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) is purchasing raised beds for a garden. The campus is researching and working closely with HISD Director of Dining Services Stewart Murray about the potential for a salad bar. Our goal is to educate the students on all the learning opportunities a garden can provide and promote a healthy lifestyle. Stephanie Tucker, HIS Principal, said: “Our hope is, through educating students about how to best utilize these types of resources, they walk away with real life applications for years to come.” Hillsboro High School (HHS) has purchased several beds, planters, benches, trellises, compost bins, and rain collection barrels. Students have begun putting together the beds and planting in the greenhouse, which is located on campus. We are starting to incorporate the garden into our daily class time,” Jennifer Kolar, HHS Ag teacher, said. “Students are learning how to garden, care for a selection of plants, and become self-sustaining.”

### Hillsboro High School

Little Kids Moving Large - Kendra Fair, Katie Pierce, Sarah Sides, Amanda McCreery, Vicki Ellison, Jennifer Grote, Felipe Barragan, and Courtney Dow

Hillsboro Intermediate School
Robots! Adventure - Melanie Bruckbauer and Arnette Straw

Hillsboro Junior High School
We OTTO be More Flexible in Math - Jamie Stepp
Belt Packs Baby - Hannah Kellar
Models Make Marvelous Master Scientists - Crystal Buxkemper
FTC - Bigger Better Bots - Tammy Fry and Crystal Buxkemper
On the Places We Can Go! - Ray Long and Courtney Hewitt

Hillsboro High School
HHS Saving Spot, Teaching Pet CPR & First Aid - Jennifer Kolar
¡Muevete y Aprende! - Damaris Núñez
along with members of the Hillsboro High School Golden Eagle Band, the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation Board proudly paraded the hallways of Hillsboro ISD campuses to present 12 grants to individual teachers and teams. The grants, totaling $13,739.27, will be used to purchase new technology and tools including iPads, hydroponics gardening equipment and non-traditional student seating to support learning of all types in the classroom. Education Foundation Board President, John Versluis, said: “On behalf of the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation Board, we are so thankful for the continued support from community members, our business partners, and HISD faculty and staff, whose generosity provided the foundation donations to award 12 Innovative Teaching Grants at this year’s Accolade Parade.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018–2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS!

**Franklin Elementary School**
Little Kids Moving Large - Kendra Fair, Katie Pierce, Sarah Sides, Amanda McCreery, Vicki Ellison, Jennifer Grote, Felipe Barragan, and Courtney Dow

**Hillsboro Intermediate School**
Robots! Adventure - Melanie Bruckbauer and Arnette Straw

**Hillsboro Junior High School**
We OTTO be More Flexible in Math - Jamie Stepp
Belt Packs Baby! - Hannah Kellar
Models Make Marvelous Master Scientists - Crystal Buxkemper
FTC - Bigger Better Bots - Tammy Fry and Crystal Buxkemper
On the Places We Can Go! - Ray Long and Courtney Hewitt

**Hillsboro High School**
HHS Saving Spot, Teaching Pet CPR & First Aid - Jennifer Kolar
¡Muevete y Aprende! - Damaris Núñez
5 Steps to 5 - Jennifer Faulkner

Above - From a grant titled Earth and the Final Frontier, students at Hillsboro High School are learning about different rock types and the formations in a hands-on way.

Above - Students from Hillsboro Intermediate School using games that are designed to promote a positive experience while learning math skills and facts from a grant provided by the Hillsboro Education Foundation’s donors.

Below - Students from Hillsboro Elementary School who will be impacted by a grant for science equipment and HHS band students lead the Accolade Parade.
HHS Students Attended Career Fair

In collaboration with Hill College, Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD), Hillsboro Economic Development Corporation (HEDC), Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, and “Go Hillsboro” committee, 240 HISD juniors and seniors participated in a career fair at the Hill College campus this semester.

The morning started off with a general session where HISD alumni Carlton Whitfield, a 2000 graduate from Hillsboro High School, spoke about his journey to success as a music producer. He ended his talk with giving everyone in the room their first paying job as he used them for a promotional video.

After the general session, the students split into four groups and rotated between areas. Over 25 vendors from companies in the county showcased career paths for students that are located in the area. The Heart of Texas Workforce Board presented on how to dress and conduct yourself during a job interview. Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce President Vicki Hidde discussed how to get and keep a job and provided an overview on resumes.

While some of the vendors showed careers that require a two- or four-year degree, there were some that showed what type of work they have for students who would go straight into the workforce upon graduation.

“The goal was to provide students with information on local employment for immediately after high school or upon their return to Hillsboro and Hill County for work after completing degrees,” Arthur Mann, administrator with the HEDC said.

The event stemmed from Bastrop EDC’s award-winning Career Fair. Plans are already underway for the 2019-20 Career Fair. It will be bigger and the committee will be inviting all 11 high schools in Hill County.

“This was the first attempt at a career fair,” Mann said. “It was a tremendous success, with exhibitors and students both providing positive feedback.”

Robotics Program Soars at HIS and HJHS

Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) and Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) are going beyond Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots by making their own with their robotics program.

Robotics is the designing, building, and programing of robots with many different levels of builds. HJHS participated in the First Lego League (FLL) competitions for the past three years and this is the first year HIS participated. The competitions consist of four parts: core values (team building), project (research and presentation), robot design, and robot games.

Through FLL, a program recognized nationwide, the students not only focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) but they’re learning to solve real world problems within a specific area with researched, feasible solutions by creating and programing a robot to perform specific tasks.

“The competition is very challenging because you must do well in robot games and in at least one other area,” Melanie Bruckbauer, HIS teacher and robotics coach, said.

Between the two campuses, around 50 students participate in the robotics program. HIS sent two teams to FLL and one went to round two of the qualifier on their first year.

In May, the students will be attending a Robot Rumble, which is less structured and more of a fun way to celebrate the hard work the teams have put in. Between the two programs, about 50 kids participate in robotics teams on campus. With the current 8th graders moving in to high school next year, the robotics team may be moving up with them.

“Being able to offer the program at all three campuses gives us the stepping stones we need to be a bigger, better robotics program with stronger competition teams,” Tammy Fry, HJHS teacher and robotics coach, said.

Monsanto Provides Students With AutoCAD

On March 26, the gymnasiums at Hillsboro High School were filled for a showcase of student projects. Almost 800 students presented at the sixth annual Eagle Expo of Excellence, or E3. Projects spanned topics from math and science to history and language arts. Over 1,500 attendees enjoyed band performances, a One-Act play, displays of fine art and got to taste some student culinary expertise. Students were excited to show off their hard work and communicate what they learned in the process.

Through a grant program sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD) was awarded $30,000 that went toward buying computers to run Computer-Aided Design (CAD) programs for the students enrolled in Ag Equipment Design and Welding classes at Hillsboro High School (HHS).

These students have been using the program to build blueprints for projects like a fire pit, benches, and trailers. Already this year, students have started working with the program and have submitted projects into competitions.

“The Monsanto Grant has allowed me to introduce students to a different avenue for a career by giving them first hand experience with 2D and 3D AutoCAD programs that they never knew existed,” Bud Jenkins, Ag Mech teacher, said.
HISD Chooses Love

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a proactive and preventative mental health initiative that has been proven to reduce anxiety, addiction, and behavioral issues while increasing student performance as well as physical and emotional well-being. SEL is a key strategy for schools in their efforts to reduce bullying and improve caring, respect, and responsibility at school.

Studies have shown that social and emotional learning are just as important to a child's growth as academic learning. Using the three words nurturing, healing, and love as the foundational values, the Choose Love movement has made an impact all over, but especially here in Hillsboro ISD.

As a result of a tragedy, Scarlett Lewis started the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement to support the efforts and increasing awareness of choosing love through a social and emotional learning program.

After hearing about the Choose Love program at a conference, Mrs. Flem- ing, counselor at Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS), shared her thoughts on the program with Mrs. Owens, counselor Hillsboro Elementary School (HES), and they worked all summer on ways to implement the program into their lessons for the year. Now, the program has caught on like a wildfire and is taught on all HISD campuses in ways that are appropriate for the age group.

At HIS, Fleming is teaching the students how our brains and bodies react to certain emotions and the difference a negative and positive thought or action has. She has also chosen a grade level to use a journal as a way to express emotions and has assigned them weekly topics to discuss with their journal partner, which are advice on campus.

“I think it’s important to teach kids about their feelings and emotions,” Fleming said. “We are not born with the innate abilities to regulate our emotions or even understand them. The program gives us the opportunity to teach kids they allowed to feel and have each emotion, how to regulate those feelings, and choose to turn negative emotions into more positive and loving thoughts.”

Both HES and HIS have taken their practices of choosing love outside of the classroom and into the community. Partnering with Natalie’s Floral and Gifts in the community, and visited with students at Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) and Hillsboro High School (HHS) to share what they’ve learned about choosing love.

“I believe Choose Love has positively impacted our campus,” Owens said. “Hearing students share what they have learned and how they have practiced choosing love in real-life situations, as well as seeing them use the strategies lets me know that this is truly becoming part of our school culture.”

Collaboration between Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) counselor, Lesleigh Smith, and the English Language Arts Reading teachers on her campus, they incorporate the Choose Love into lessons, as SEL is often overlooked at the middle school aged kids. They add in real world connections and motivate the students to embrace the curriculum and Choose Love by creating posters, poems, and videos to share what they have learned with their peers, teachers, parents, and the community. HJHS is also planning to start a Choose Love Student Committee and videos to share what they have learned with their peers, teachers, parents, and the community. Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) is also planning to start a Choose Love Student Committee that will meet monthly to discuss upcoming events and ideas for future outreach ideas.

At the high school level, the counselors are doing short morning activities each week to get the students thinking about the four components of the Choose Love formula - Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness, and Compassion in action. Each day during morning announcements, they read a Choose Love thought of the day to spark student conversations.

“Every student gets something different and unique out of each lesson,” Smith said. “There is nothing more fulfilling than hearing students share what impacted them most, based on their own life experiences.”

You search “what is a school counselor?” on Google, you get 108 million results, with each one being a little bit different. Those differences can be due to the varying roles counselors play at each age and stage of school - from working with younger students on their development of decision-making, character values, and life skills, to working with older students as they transition into adulthood - the foundation of a school counselor remains the same, to be an advocate for the students.

After sitting with each counselor at Hillsboro ISD, I learned a little bit more about what a school counselor is in their eyes and why they love what they do.

Hillsboro Elementary School
Shae Owens
What is a school counselor? Someone who supports and advocates for the social, emotional, and academic growth of each and every student. As a counselor, I am a resource and support to staff. I feel that with the help of my Leadership Team, it is important to provide a positive, caring school culture in which all students and staff feel safe, supported, encouraged, and loved so we can all work toward the same goal of student success.

Why did you want to become a school counselor? As a third grade teacher, I noticed more and more how students’ social and emotional well-being impacted their academic success. I wanted to be part in assisting students with their needs school-wide, rather than just within my one classroom.

What is your favorite part of your job? The time I get to spend interacting with students definitely tops the list. It makes my heart happy when I see students applying the skills they’ve learned to build positive relationships, manage their emotions, be problem solvers, and make good choices.

How long have you been working as a school counselor? I’ve had the privilege of serving at HES school counselor for 15 years.

Hillsboro Intermediate School
Alessia Fleming
What is a school counselor? An advocate for our students, parents, and teachers. I want each child to come to school feeling good and having every- thing they need to be ready to learn. I want the students to know that I am a harm to them get what they need each day and listen to what they have to say. I want to make sure that my role gives me the opportunity to help students understand that all actions, behaviors, reactions, and emotions are a choice they get to make for themselves.

Why did you want to become a school counselor? We spend more time with our school family during the week than with our own personal families. I had been teaching for 11 years and I saw the need for a counselor on our campus that teachers and kids could rely on. Even children need help working through issues that weigh them down so they can continue to be productive and learn while at school and I felt that becoming a school counselor enabled me to help on a more personal level.

What is your favorite part of your job? When a student I've been working with finds success, it's confidence, managing their emo- tions, or learning to ask a teacher for what they need. I love when a teacher talks to me about positive changes they see in children in the classroom.

How long have you been working as a school counselor? I started teaching at HESD in 1999 and have been the HIS Counselor for 9 years.

Hillsboro High School
Karen Schroeder
What is a school counselor? We help students in areas of academic achievement, career, and social-emotional development to ensure today’s students become productive, well-adjusted adults.

Why did you become a school counselor? I love working with young people and I knew I wanted to do something in the helping profession. With my undergraduate degree being in education, obtaining my master's in education enabled me to become a school counselor was a goal I set for myself at a young age.

What is your favorite part of your job? I enjoy helping students plan for college and career post-secondary planning. I have also really enjoyed teaching the Choose Love program in the classroom.

How long have you been working as a school counselor? 28 years, and I’ve been at HHS for 3 years.

Hillsboro Junior High School
Lesleigh Smith
What is a school counselor? A counselor’s most important role is to build relationships with the students and teachers. Junior high is an exciting, yet challenging time for students, their parents, and teachers. During this transi- tion from childhood to adolescence, junior high students are characterized by a need for increased socialization due to the varying roles counselors play at each age and stage of school - from working with younger students on their development of decision-making, character values, and life skills, to working with older students as they transition into adulthood - the foundation of a school counselor remains the same, to be an advocate for the students.

Why did you want to become a school counselor? I wanted to be a counselor to help students – socially, emotionally, educationally, career wise, or any way they need it.

What is your favorite part of your job? I enjoy helping students plan for college and career, and post-secondary planning. I have also really enjoyed teaching the Choose Love program in the classroom.

How long have you been working as a school counselor? All 4 years of being a school counselor have been here at HISD for the high school level.
Steve Hale is coming back home but this time to lead the HHS athletic program as athletic director and head football coach.

After graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1987, Hale attended Stephen F. Austin University to major in kinesiology. Hale has already returned to Hillsboro once, as assistant football coach between 1998 and 2002.

“I love Hillsboro and have great memories from my childhood and coaching experience,” Hale said. “I’m most excited about bringing passion and discipline to an athletic program for both boys and girls sports.”

This will be Hale’s 25th year coaching, bringing his experience from school districts like Irving Nimitz, Sulphur Springs, Hutto, and most recently Groesbeck.

When Hale isn’t coaching sports, he likes to spend his time working out and spending time with his family. His wife, Lana, and children, Allie and Ty, are excited to be coming back to Hillsboro.

HISD WELCOMES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

“Never let anyone question your work ethic.”

Nearly 140 community members and district employees attended the HISD Education Foundation’s fundraising event February 9 at The Eagle in Hillsboro. The casino-themed event raised over $3,000. Community members and organizations had opportunities to serve as table sponsors for the event, and Executive Director Deb Hanson said it wouldn’t have been possible without the sponsors and donors. The Education Foundation also wishes to thank Dr. Stanley Parker and Shea Adams for loaning their casino equipment.

“On behalf of the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation Board, we would like to thank community members who supported the recent Casino Night fundraiser held at The Eagle,” John Versluis, Education Foundation Board President, said. “A fun night was enjoyed by all with proceeds from the evening benefiting teachers and students of Hillsboro ISD.”

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

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Salon 110
Sonic
Up-in-Smoke

HISD Education Foundation, Community Raises $3,000 at Casino Night

HISD Students Work To Better Community

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

Like most school districts around the world, Hillsboro ISD wants to ensure that upon graduation our students soar out into the world and leave a positive mark wherever their path leads them.

Starting in their own community, HISD students continually go above and beyond in understanding the needs and interests of those in and around Hillsboro.

All campuses volunteer by donating to the Hillsboro Interfaith Ministries Food for Families drive around Christmas time. For the holidays, students at both Franklin Elementary School and Hillsboro Elementary School connected to the community by singing carols around town.

For Veterans Day, each campus held a program for veterans in the area to show appreciation for their service.

Students at Hillsboro High School host blood drives, partner with community organizations with events, and help with younger campuses, just to name a few things they have done. The Student Council at HHS sold over 300 bracelets in two weeks for the Pulsera Project - bracelets that are handmade by the women of Guatemala and Honduras and funds collected build new homes for these women and provide scholarships for their children.

Students from various campus organizations help with city-wide and highway clean-ups throughout the year to ensure that the community is a clean and safe environment.

Hillsboro ISD students are working to impact not only Hillsboro, Texas, but are helping impact the world.

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-HISD WELCOMES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

“Never let anyone question your work ethic.”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead
HISD Asks For Public’s Input

Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD) has formed a Long-Range Facilities Committee at the direction of the HISD Board of Trustees. The purpose of the committee is to study the current and future facility needs and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Consisting of community members, parents, board members, and staff of HISD, the committee is looking for input through a survey. Anyone may join or participate in the committee and meetings are open to the public.

The survey asks for opinions about the district’s greatest needs and challenges, and it will assist the district as they plan for the future. The Facilities Committee will explore the issue and present its recommendations to the school board, which will decide how the district will move forward with the information.

Scan the QR code to complete the Facility Committee Survey and have your voice be heard.

If you are interested in joining the Facilities Committee, contact HISD at 254-582-8585.

HJHS Turns Lesson into Vocabulary Parade

Rather than doing a traditional lesson on vocabulary, Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) held their second Vocabulary Parade. In order to bring ‘a-word-ness’ to their English-Language Arts class, students dressed up and taught their peers their word’s definition.

With words like buoyancy, injured, mercenary, and deranged, students were exposed to new academic words from all parts of speech. Each student had a word that they had to identify, define, and creatively portray. Even the teachers got involved with words such as survivor, hypochondriac; and faunal "a-word-ness" to their English-Language Arts class, students dressed up and taught their peers their word’s definition.

Exploring Future Possibilities Through Hands-On Education

Like any student, the work done at school is preparing them for the future. For students with special needs, shifting their mindset from their limitations to viewing possibilities for their future is the goal of their education.

On a day to day basis, their lessons may extend farther than the basics of reading, writing, math, and science. They can include cooking, cleaning, helping with the recycling program on campus, and social skills. Some students even help around the office or administration building to build their clerical skills.

Once a month, students from HIS, HJHS, and HHS also run a restaurant of sorts on their campuses. The students plan the menus and shopping lists, take a trip to the store to purchase the supplies, take and read staff orders, prepare the food, and in some cases, they even deliver!

Outside of the classroom, these students use their interests and talents for different activities. With competitions like bowling and the annual Spring Relays Track and Field event, the students compete with other children in their age range who also have disabilities.

“I believe it is important to help these kids understand that their disabilities make them unique and that they have unique opportunities that others may not have,” Kellie Mathis, Special Education teacher at HJHS, said.

This year at the Hill County Fair, students from schools across the county in special education got to participate in A Day in the Ring. Partnering with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agent Angie Nors, students experienced what it was like to show an animal during the fair.

Beginning in the fall, the students at Hillsboro High School cared for their animal project. Larry the Lamb, donated by Minahan-Hansen Livestock in Seminole. The students handled the day-to-day care with the help of their teachers and Jennifer Kolar, HHS Ag teacher.

“Our goal is to instill a set of real world life skills and expose the students to different work environments with different skill sets involved so that they will be successful,” Chris Mata, HIS Special Education teacher, said. “As well as academics, we are trying to teach them life skills and character traits, like giving back to the community.”

At HHS, the responsibilities of the students create a sense of stewardship in the school and help build skills that will help with employment. Students raise the flags in the morning, put the cafeteria back in order after breakfast and lunch, organize the weightroom and in the coming weeks will start garden- ing and growing food.

“It’s work that has a visible effect on their campus and the world around them,” KC Lopez, HHS Special Education teacher, said. “They’ve responded really well and get compliments on the work they do.”

HHS Students Selected for Honor Band

Hillsboro High School (HHS) had five students selected to represent the district in the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) All Region Honor Band. The students were selected based on an audition that includes over 30 school districts in Central Texas. The students selected were Heather Davis, contra alto clarinet; Kariciaa Ramirez, oboe and Cristian Contreras-Valles, tuba were also selected but were unable to perform on that day.

For the solo and ensemble portion of the contest, Spencer Smith and Hector Manuel Perez earned Division II ratings on solos, and Armonie Haywood and Jesus Laurel earned Division I ratings. Laurel qualified for the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest (TSSC) that will be held in Austin in June. In order to compete at the TSSC, students must earn a Division I at the regional level and are required to perform their solo completely from memory. This is the third year in a row that Hillsboro has had a state qualified solo.

For the first time in school history, HHS Symphonic Band went to the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation and brought back the Sweepstakes trophy based on double superior ratings.