Congratulations, Class of 2019!
HISD Honors Teachers of the Year

Hillsboro ISD named Olivia Peasley as its Elementary Teacher of the Year. Born in Columbus, Georgia, Peasley moved around due to being part of a military family. She is a huge Army Black Knight football fan since her younger brother who is currently deployed.

After graduating from Tarleton State University, Peasley began her teaching career at Hillsboro ISD where she has been for the last five years. She started as a 3rd grade science and social studies teacher before moving to math. After school, Peasley can be found spending more time with past, current, and future students by working with the Boys and Girls Club of Hill County and staff members above her own in order to impact instruction and growth, “Stephanie Tucker, Principal at Hillsboro.“

“Ms. Peasley is always willing to put the needs of students and staff members above her own in order to impact instruction and growth,” Stephanie Tucker, Principal at Hillsboro High School. “Her impact is seen on the number of students who want to learn, her students things they will use for the rest of their life,” Davis said. “I get to teach boys how to be men. Unlike core classes, I teach how to change the oil and fix things around the house. I teach these students how to be good husbands and fathers.”

Davis is known at HHS for his ability to be a positive role model for his students, his professional relationships with other teachers, and his impact on everyone he meets.

“My favorite thing about teaching is my students!” Peasley said. “Kids are so honest and their hearts are so pure. Because of them, I look forward to coming to work every morning.”

As well as being from a military family, Peasley is also from a teaching family. Her mother was a teacher and inspired her daughter’s pursuit of a teaching career.

“Ms. Peasley is always willing to put the needs of students and staff members above her own in order to impact instruction and growth,” Stephanie Tucker, Principal at Hillsboro Intermediate School, said. “She is a true lifelong learner and is always eager to try new things in the classroom and share those with others. She is a teacher leader, models the importance of building strong genuine relationships with students, and exhibits the traits of a servant educator and is very deserving of this title and honor.”

HHS Alum Hosts Football Camp

Hillsboro High School alumnus Derek Walker hosted his second annual football camp on April 28th. The free camp allowed 8-year-olds through high school seniors to participate in drills with Walker and his teammates from Texas A&M University (TAMU) or the Canadian Football League (CFL). About 70 students from schools around the area were in attendance.

Walker, who graduated from HHS in 2008, went on to play football for Trinity Valley Community College, TAMU, the National Football League, and the CFL. Walker is currently a wide receiver for the Toronto Argonauts.

I had you asked Kyle Davis, a graduate of Hillsboro High School (HHS), if he thought he’d be teaching when he grew up, the answer would have been no.

“I have a love for the outdoors, so I always thought I would be in farming or construction,” Davis said. “I took a while to adjust to the classroom, but the impact that you get to have on students can change their lives.”

Davis moved to Hillsboro in the second grade. He attended Hill College for his core classes and then got his Bachelor’s in Industrial Technology from Abilene Christian University. He attained his teaching certification through the University of North Texas. He has taught agriculture and construction classes for 19 years, all of which have been here in Hillsboro.

“My favorite thing about teaching would be that I get to teach students things they will use for the rest of their life,” Davis said. “I get to teach boys how to be men. Unlike core classes, I teach how to change the oil and fix things around the house. I teach these students how to be good husbands and fathers.”

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Education Foundation Honors Former Teacher

With Brene Brown’s quote in mind, for the sixth year in a row, seniors in the Hillsboro High School (HHS) Art 3 and Art 4 classes are leaving a little piece of their soul in the halls of their alma mater. HHS Art Teacher Alyssa Bedrick has supported seniors in leaving behind their own unique pieces of art on the ceiling tiles, cabinets, wall, and in frames for incoming students.

Every year she tries to have each of her seniors feature something a little bit different than the year before. “I feel very honored to leave my artwork,” Luis Rodriguez, senior art student, said. “I feel that it represents honor and trust that later generations will appreciate it.”

Education Foundation Honors Former Teacher

In 1983 she was hired to teach at the Philotechnos Kinder- garten in Hillsboro - a position she held until 1996. In the fall of that year, she was hired to teach second grade at Hillsboro Elementary School (HES). After a few years teaching at the second grade level, she returned to teaching kindergarten until her retirement in 2010.

For several years following her retirement, she donated her time to students in HISD. She volunteered as a mentor at Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) and as a remedial teacher at both HES and Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS).

This honor comes as no surprise to her husband, students Robin and John, and their four grand- children - one of whom was recognized this year at the Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet as a top ten percent graduate from Hillsboro High School (HHS).

Congratulations to Mrs. Fitch and her family!

HISD Asks Facilities Committee For Help

Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD) has formed a Long-Range Facilities Committee at the direction of the 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. After conducting a survey of community members, parents, board members, and staff of HISD, the committee is working on the feasibility of a new elementary school.

Several locations have been scouted and after much consideration of costs, location, and accessibility to utilities, a location has been voted and passed by the Board of Trustees. The 48-acre property sits east of the Hillsboro High School.

The Facilities Committee will continue to explore what grade levels would most benefit from a new elementary school. Once they have a recommendation of grade levels, the committee will present to the school board who will then decide how the district will move forward with the information.

If you are interested in joining the Facilities Committee, contact HISD at 254-582-8856.

Leaving a Legacy

"Creativity is the way I share my soul with the world.” -BRENE BROWN
The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored 14 graduating Hillsboro High School seniors representing the top 10 percent of students in academic achievement at the Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet on May 11th. The distinguished students, their honored HISD employee, parents, and guests enjoyed a catered dinner from R&K Cafe, desserts provided by HHS culinary students, and were served by members of the National Junior Honor Society.

In addition to the recognition of the students’ achievements, each senior recognized and thanked an educator or HISD employee who served as a mentor and was an integral part of their academic success. The students were also rewarded for their accomplishments with all receiving a $500 scholarship.

“This night is less about the Foundation and all about honoring the hard work these students have put in over the past four years,” Deb Hanson, Executive Director of the Education Foundation, said. “We appreciate our donors for giving us the opportunity to host this event and award scholarships to these students.”
On the evening of Friday, May 24, students, families, administrators, teachers and other distinguished guests gathered at Baylor University’s Ferrell Center to honor the achievements of the Hillsboro High School Class of 2019.

Throughout the evening, honor graduates led the ceremony, and the crowd enjoyed the thoughts shared by valedictorian Raj Patel and salutatorian Mary Pratt. Once the graduates were announced by Superintendent Vicki Adams and were presented with their diplomas, they turned their tassels and class rings before doing the traditional cap toss.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

Top Graduates Honored

RAJ PATEL, VALEDICTORIAN

“Never, ever underestimate the importance of having fun.”

- Randy Pausch

Wanting a home-life atmosphere with the perks of a big university experience, Hillsboro High School’s (HHS) valedictorian, Raj Patel, will continue his education at Texas A&M University (TAMU). He will major in biology with the hopes of going to medical school and becoming an oncologist. For a majority of his life, he attended Hillsboro schools and he will miss the time spent with friends. Along with his Hillsboro High School academic achievements, Patel will be graduating with 44 dual credit hours that will be applied to his bachelor’s degree.

When not studying, he was senior class president, National Honor Society president, speech and debate team captain, plus many other organizations and extracurricular activities.

Patel has had the privilege of competing at the state level on multiple occasions. He and his debate partner ended their high school career as the number 12 team in the 4A sized schools in the state.

MARY PRATT, SALUTATORIAN

“And so the adventure begins...”

Hillsboro High School’s (HHS) salutatorian, Mary Pratt, said she knew that she wanted to attend Texas A&M University (TAMU) from the moment she stepped foot on campus because it felt like home. Having attended Hillsboro schools all of her life, she said she will miss the people she grew up with the most and being able to see them every day.

Pratt has spent many hours at the nursing home in Hillsboro as part of her Certified Nursing Assistant program from HHS and says that it’s a memory that she’ll never forget. Her favorite subject is anatomy because she loves learning about the medical field and hopes to pursue a career in Optometry.

She has been a member of National Honor Society, UIL ready writing and mathematics teams, CNA program, varsity golf, the FFA quiz team, and Junior Sesame Club.
**HISD HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING RELAYS**

The weather couldn’t put a damper on spirits at Hillsboro ISD’s annual Spring Relays for students with special needs. In total, 15 schools from around the area participated in the fun.

The event was held at the Hill County Fairgrounds and Exhibits building with bounce houses, face painting, and various games throughout. Hillsboro Department of Public Safety even came out to show the kids their vehicles.

“The relays provide an additional opportunity for our students to experience competition and have fun in a safe, adapted environment” Chris Mata, Life Skills teacher at HHS and event coordinator said.

Atmos Energy sponsored a free lunch and Hillsboro Lions Club sponsored the event through their annual golf tournament, which provided t-shirts for all athletes and volunteers.

“We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year,” Mata said. “Thank you to the Hillsboro Lions Club, Atmos Energy, Sonic, Fly Away Crafts, and our transportation department for transporting everyone to the event safely.”

**FES Gym Gets A New Look**

The gymnasium at Franklin Elementary School (FES) has had a facelift. Thanks to the Smith Foundation, funds were donated to refurbish the gym floors, which prior to the refurbishment, were in poor condition.

The floor was thoroughly sanded, removing all the old layers of finish and paint before boards were replaced and three coats of sealer were applied. This provides a new and improved area for the students to utilize during the school day.

After the floors were completed, this inspired Hillsboro ISD and FES PTA to join together to provide the funds for plywood and carpet for the walls as a display space, helping soundproof the gym, and giving the walls a more aesthetically pleasing look.

Thank you to the Smith Foundation, Cunningham Construction, Kingdom Hardwood Floors of Georgetown, Sammy Steele Construction, and the Last Inventory of Lancaster for your generosity and help in this project.

**HES Awarded Technology Grant**

The Education Service Center (ESC) Region 12 Technology Foundation surprised Marion Ramos from Hillsboro Elementary School (HES) with a $8,677 grant to add interactive technology to a newly adopted social and emotional learning curriculum. The technology will help support academic proficiency through engaging, whole group, interactive digital learning and restorative practices.

“Our focus is to explicitly teach social and emotional learning qualities such as patience, empathy, risk-taking, collaboration, and relationship building during lessons when using the boards,” Ramos said. “We believe that by focusing on social and emotional learning, students will make academic gains and improve their behavior. We can’t wait to start using the new boards on our campus.”

This is the third year in a row for HES to win this grant. Librarian Christine Robinson was the recipient of the previous two grants. Ramos was one of six award winners selected by ESC Region 12.

**Field Day**

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HJHS Band Had Outstanding Year

Hillsboro High School band had a successful year in 2019. The band competed in various competitions and events, including a trip to the Heart of Texas Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The band also received several awards, including the title of "Band of the Year." The band's performance at the College Band Festival was particularly noteworthy, as they received a Division One rating.

HHS Athletes Show Off Heart and Skill

Hillsboro High School athletes had a successful year in 2019. The baseball team won a regional championship, and the track team set several records at the regionals. The girls' basketball team also had a successful season, winning several games and making it to the state playoffs.

Education Foundation Awards Campus and Educator Grants

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation has awarded several grants and scholarships to students and educators. The grants include funding for technology, music, and other educational programs. The scholarships are awarded to students who excel academically and demonstrate leadership skills.

Thank You For Your Years of Service!

Congratulations to all the educators who have dedicated their careers to education. The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation has awarded several grants and scholarships to students and educators. The grants include funding for technology, music, and other educational programs. The scholarships are awarded to students who excel academically and demonstrate leadership skills. The foundation also recognizes the contributions of former educators who have retired and have dedicated their careers to education.

HES Hosts 2nd Literacy Night

More than 80 Hillsboro Elementary School (HES) students and parents recently attended the school's second Family Literacy Night. Activities centered on different aspects of literacy including phonics, sight words and comprehension. Teachers also showcased computer reading programs such as Lexia and Accelerated Reader. Support for the evening came from many different sources. Hillsboro High School student council members dressed as book characters for a photo booth and Hillsboro ISD (HISD) administrators read their favorite stories. The Hillsboro City Library and Sonic partnered with Hillsboro Elementary to help make the event a success.

"This was an important night for our campus, and with everyone working together, we were able to provide rich language experiences for our families and students," Kimberly Bogue, kindergarten teacher at HES, said. "This year we were able to equip parents with resource cards from each station to help parents foster their children's literacy skills at home. We are looking forward to a bigger and better Family Literacy Night next year!"

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What's next?

- Open my own practice
- Become a lineman
- Go to Optometry school
- Start a military career
- Major in Computer Science
- Work towards building a house in Mexico
- Work in Early Childhood Development
- Be the first in my family to graduate college
- Become a nurse practitioner
- Work for Child Protective Services
- Start a farm
- Become a registered nurse
- Become an Ag Teacher
- Be in the top of my college class
- Become a nurse practitioner