

Sinton High School T-STEM Academy

The Importance of Being Part of the Circle

"Being a part of circle, and just STEM in general is a special thing. We get to laugh and joke around; see our teachers talk to us about how important our future is on an endless scale.

~Valeena Ortega, 10

"The importance of being part of circle is social skills, leadership responsibility, and teamwork. By using our voices, taking charge and learning how to open our eyes to the community around us, we learn responsibility slowly but surely. We learn by supporting each other."

~Savannah Rodriguez, 10

STEM Ambassadors

Freshmen Class

Savannah Chavez
Faith Basaldua
Alicia Bejaran
Noe Lopez
Colten Trevino
Gabriel (Joe) Urdiales

Sophomore Class

Hayden Blumberg
Erica Hernandez
Alyssa Salinas
Kristen Salinas
Allison Surginer

STEM Students are College Bound!

By Danielle Villarreal

Two weeks ago, the SHS T-STEM Academy received some amazing news that would ease the strain on most parents' pocketbooks when it comes to paying for college. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) awarded our T-STEM Academy a Continuation Grant Fund in the amount of \$550,000.

That wasn't the only great piece of information received; that day we also found out that Sinton High School's T-STEM Academy was named one of the top



Superintendent Steven VanMatre shares the good news about the Continuation Grant Fund and what it means to the SHS T-STEM Academy and students.

4 STEM Academies in Texas.

As part of the STEM blueprint, STEM students must met the requirement of 12 college hours. The money

received will help pave the way for the STEM students to attend college during their junior and senior years.

STEM Best Practices Conference

By Erica Hernandez

On January 23rd, two 10th grade STEM Ambassadors and myself attended the STEM Best Practices Conference at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas where our social and speaking skills were tested as part of a presentation hosted by our very own Sinton High School, 10th grade T-STEM teachers Mary Lankford and Andrea Pena on the Good, Bad and Best PBLs.

In this open forum of more than fifty teachers and administrators, we helped provide insight from the T-STEM student perspective on the STEM program here at SHS. We answered to the best of our ability and gave our opinions on improvement,

which was a great experience for all involved.

Shortly after the presentation we received many compliments on our knowledge of the program and our professionalism. We also received an invitation to present to the Freer ISD School Board.

Also presenting at the conference were Marty Garza and Ben Johnson on STEM & the CCC Connection: STEM Culture, Community, and Cross-Curricular lessons.

The purpose of the conference was for professionals in STEM to come together, share ideas and collaborate with teach-

ers and administrators. The conference had a positive effect on our school and T-STEM in general. Both teachers and administrators came away with new and innovative ideas to incorporate into their everyday teaching.



Left to right: Ben Johnson (Engineering), Mary Lankford (Mathematics), Alyssa Salinas, Erica Hernandez, Kristen Salinas, Marty Garza (English I), and Andrea Pena (English II).

Mark Your Calendar

SHS Open House & Health Fair

Monday, Feb. 27th
7pm

THEA Test

Tuesday, Feb. 28th @
Del Mar College

Explore UT

College visit
Saturday, March 3rd
7am - 9pm

Blood Drive

Friday, March 2nd

TAMU-CC Engineering Competition

Saturday, March 3rd

EXIT Level TAKS Testing

March 5th-9th

TAKS Testing (ELA)

10th & 11th grades
March 7th

Islander Day

College visit
Saturday, March 24th

End of Course Test (ELA)

9th grade
March 26th-27th

2nd Annual STEM Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, March 31st

Relay for Life

Friday, April 20th

Javelina Preview Day

College visit
Saturday, April 21st

Project Deadlines!

Algebra II

Roller Coaster
due March 2nd

Geometry

Polyhedron Community
due March 5th

In the Classroom

In STEM English I Pre-AP, students were recently introduced to a new PBL entitled "Chalk Dust or Guitar Hero?"

Chalk dust is symbolic of the traditional paper, pencil, and lecture methodology in teaching, whereas Guitar Hero represents the "everyday" technology to which students are digital natives.

Students are currently evaluating internet information for validity, appropriateness, content bias, currency, and usefulness. They are also synthesizing the information gathered to write an expository essay concerning the uses of 21st Century technology in the classroom. In their PBL groups, the students are creating an appropriate lesson for English, Math, Social Studies or Biology. Their product will be a media presentation demonstrating how their choice of technology can be used to teach a 9th grade objective.

City Council

By Dominga Olbera

On Tuesday, February 21, T-STEM sophomore Guillermo Lopez and I attended the city council meeting at Sinton City Hall. We presented information about our 2nd Annual T-STEM 5k Race.

The race will begin at 7:30 am Saturday, March 31st at the SHS Library. A pre-registration fee of \$15 per person is required, with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society. Medals will be awarded for each age category.

The SISD S.H.A.K. committee will also lend a hand in helping to get the word out and assisting the day of the event.

We would appreciate your support by coming out and helping us fight cancer.

Geometry students will review last year's 5k course and work on improving a full-scale version of the route

map.

Students will also have the opportunity to use the course as part of a PBL (Project Based Learning) module.



Dominga Olbera, 10 and Guillermo Lopez, 10 at City Hall

Math Competition

On February 11th, 18 Algebra I Freshmen students participated in the 1st Javelinas Cup Mathematics competition.

Students, along with coaches Kristi Hobbs and Joe Flores, braved the early Saturday morning to take a 19 question Algebra test.

Jacky Tang placed 20th out of 140 participants, winning a \$25 iTunes gift card.

Congrats to all the participants.



Above: Algebra I Freshmen students. Left: Jacky Tang, 9

School Board Appreciation Luncheon

By Alyssa Salinas

On Monday, January 23rd, Sinton High School honored Board Member Mr. Andy Villarreal with a Mexican style luncheon and Mariachi music during School Board Appreciation month.

The luncheon provided us an opportunity to sit down and talk about what's going on in STEM and how we can improve it.

Also in attendance were Mr. Arismendi, Mrs. Mercier,

Mrs. Lankford and the 10th grade STEM Ambassadors Allison Surginer, Erica Hernandez, Hayden Blumberg, Alyssa Salinas, and Kristen Salinas.

Previously, Mr. Villarreal was presented a gift basket with gifts and student appreciation letters from the various clubs and organizations at Sinton HS, beautifully

put together by Mrs. Kauk.



From left to right: SHS Principal Albert Arismendi, Allison Surginer, Erica Hernandez, Hayden Blumberg, Board Member Mr. Andy Villarreal, Alyssa Salinas and Kristen Salinas.



