



Bright Futures Ahead for Alief ISD's Class of 2015

This year's valedictorians and salutatorians are pictured with Alief ISD Superintendent HD Chambers. Turn the page to learn how the Class of 2015 went above and beyond.

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Superintendent's Message

HD Chambers

Dear Alief ISD Parents and Community Members:

As a superintendent, one of my most rewarding experiences of the school year is shaking the hands of our seniors as they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. This year is no exception as I am proud to join others throughout the nation as we celebrate the latest group of high school graduates. About 2,515 excited Alief ISD seniors crossed our stage in June, earning them the title of "high school graduate." These students were awarded an approximate total of \$46 million in scholarships and grants, exceeding last year's scholarship amount of \$37 million.

There are so many possibilities available to graduates from the Class of 2015. Many of our students will go on to be engineers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, physicians, and educators, to name just a few of the careers they might pursue. Graduates from our district have received acceptance letters from prestigious institutions of higher learning across the country, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Vanderbilt University, Howard University, John Hopkins University, New York University and Emory University. Others have decided to stay closer to home to attend one of many outstanding universities in their home state including Rice University, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Houston. And, we also have several graduates who will attend Houston Community College (HCC).

In addition to earning a high school diploma, students from our Alief Early College High School (AECHS) have the opportunity to graduate with an associate's degree from HCC. This program is made possible through the school district's partnership with the Houston Community College System, and I am proud to announce that two-thirds of the graduates from AECHS have earned their associate's degree before receiving their high school diploma. The AECHS Class of 2015 has earned 5,141 college credits, collectively. Not only will this group of young men and women have a jump start towards their post-secondary degree plan, but they have saved their parents an estimated \$344,447 in future college tuition costs. Several AECHS students are also a part of a unique partnership between Alief ISD, Houston Community College System and the University of Texas at Tyler Engineering Degree program. Through this partnership, students can earn a bachelor of science degree in electrical, mechanical or civil engineering for under \$20,000 while attending school in Alief.

In addition to those who have chosen college as their career path, there are those who have chosen to serve in our nation's armed forces in the United States Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Army. We are extremely proud of these brave young men and women.

Another career path for some of our students is to enter the workforce utilizing the skills and certifications earned while in our Career and Technical Education programs. Alief ISD has an outstanding program which continues to expand to meet the interests of our students and the needs of the business community.

As the superintendent of Alief ISD, it is such an honor to shake the hand of each of our graduates and to wish them well in their future. But, it also gives me such a sense of pride knowing that our staff and faculty continue to provide our students with the knowledge, support and tools that prepare them to graduate college and career ready. Congratulations to our Class of 2015 graduates!

Sincerely,

HD Chambers
Alief ISD Superintendent of Schools

Free Summer Athletic Camps

Enroll your student in the free athletic camps provided by Alief ISD's Athletic Department! Different camps will be provided throughout the summer for students of all ages. For more information, please visit Alief ISD's Website at www.aliefisd.net.

New to Alief ISD schools?

Make an appointment for your high school assignment!

If you are new to Alief ISD and have students who will be new to Alief ISD high schools, you can make an appointment online today at www.aliefisd.net to receive your student's high school assignment.

Appointments are from June 22 to August 6 for varying timeslots between 8:00 a.m. and noon. On the day of the appointment, visit the Pupil Personnel Services Office, located within the Alief Support Facility (14051 Bellaire), and please be sure to bring all of the required documents to your appointment.

Alief ISD approves higher teacher starting salary, raises for all employees

The Alief ISD Board of Trustees approved a new higher starting salary for teachers and raises for all other employees. The new starting teacher salary is \$52,000 for the 2015-16 school year, and the raise is 4% of the midpoint for all employees.

We are proud to be a market leader in the greater Houston area when you compare with other districts Alief ISD's combination of salary adjustments and a great benefits package. For more information on how to become an Alief ISD employee, please visit the Human Resources Department Webpage through www.aliefisd.net.

Thank you for supporting Alief ISD!



With support from the Alief community, Alief ISD voters approved the district's bond referendum on May 9. The approval rating for the referendum was 72.3 percent. The 2015 Bond Referendum was the district's first since 2003.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to prepare students for tomorrow by caring for them today.

Alief ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap or sex. The career and technology education program operates in accordance with the provisions of Titles VI, VII, and IX and Section 504 of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Alief ISD program admission procedures, facilities and graduation requirements are designed to eliminate discrimination. Alief ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all programs, including career and technology education. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, write the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at P.O. Box 68, Alief, TX 77411, or call 281-498-8110, ext. 3870.

Board of Trustees recognized distinguished seniors

Outstanding Girls and Boys



Alief Early College High School:
Raquel Marcos & Kasarn Jeradachachai

Elsik High School:
Amanda Ho & Prakrut Mehta

Hastings High School:
Stacy Giang & Trevion Heliton

Kerr High School:
My Quan & Tri Pham

Taylor High School:
Bridgette Bilson & Luis Schwedler



College-bound seniors recognized at May Board Meeting

Ten seniors from each of the five high schools were recognized by the Alief ISD Board of Trustees during the May 19 Board Meeting. The students were selected by their schools to be recognized during the prestigious ceremony.



Alief Early College High School
Phillip Diep
Catherine Iglesias
Amreen Khureshi
Edilio Vera
Chidera Alexander Nkem
Han Bui
Adaluz Andrea Castilla
Michelle Garcia
Jocelyn Velazquez
Kasarn Jeradachachai

Elsik High School
Amanda Ho
Tracy Ike
Billal Mabizari
Safa Vaid
Nicholas Stone
Kerry Che
Stephanie Garcia
Vanessa Rivera
Jaleel Carter
Pablo Reyes

Hastings High School
Viet Anh Ho
Kendra Lynn Baldwin
Stacy Kim Giang
Michelle Oluwafunmila Ibadapo
Chuong Pham
Quang Hao Hoang
Eseoghene Daniel Igbru
Jinman Cai
Amy Vuong
Bao Ngoc Thanh Tran

Kerr High School
Lina Bui
Omar Escobedo
Ana Espaderos
Alexander Koufakis
Saira Martinez
Emily Nguyen
Dylan Phu
Melissa Ramos
Kyndhal Stewart
Tadeo Vivero

Taylor High School
Riya Ghosh
Victoria Aylin Rodriguez
Luis John Schwedler
Gabriela Grisel Escobar
Phung Doan Vuong Tat
Bianca Ugomma Uzoma
Paige D'Lanne Williams
Briana Ajani Johnson
Abdallah Mohsen
Richard Trong Dao

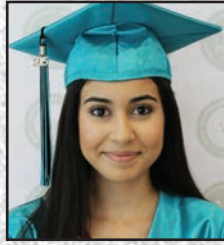
Congratulations to the 2015 Alief ISD valedictorians & salutatorians!

Alief Early College High School Valedictorian – Kasarn Jeradechachai



- *Schools Attended:* O'Donnell
- *College:* Princeton University
- *Major:* Chemical and Biological Engineering
- *Fondest memories:* "I was in the ESL program at O'Donnell Middle School, and classes were in the same hallway. Spending my time there with students who were going through the same experience encouraged me and made me feel welcomed."

Alief Early College High School Salutatorian – Jocelyn Velazquez



- *Schools Attended:* Chancellor, Mahanay, Youngblood, O'Donnell
- *College:* Texas A&M University
- *Major:* Business Administration
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Education is important. Do everything to the best of your capabilities."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "I grew up in Alief, and there is no doubt that Alief has played a role in my success thus far."

Elsik High School Valedictorian – Amanda Ho



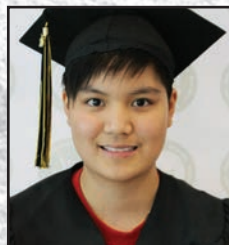
- *Schools Attended:* Rees, Outley, Budewig, O'Donnell
- *College:* The University of Texas at Austin
- *Major:* Business
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Get involved in the Alief community and talk to people you usually wouldn't talk to."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "The diversity I got to experience, including the various cultures and personalities I met, gave my educational career extra meaning."

Elsik High School Salutatorian – Tracy Ike



- *Schools Attended:* Smith, Boone, Klentzman, Olle
- *College:* Texas A&M University
- *Major:* Petroleum Engineering and Business
- *Fondest memories:* "Alief ISD has an excellent education system with plenty of opportunities that you can't find elsewhere."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "I've enjoyed my time here and hope that others can have the same experience."

Hastings High School Valedictorian – Anh Ho



- *Schools Attended:* Mata, Holub
- *College:* University of Houston
- *Major:* Biology
- *Aspirations:* "I want to be as successful as my sisters, who are attending medical school."
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Don't procrastinate because time flies by really fast. Before you know it, it will already be the end of senior year."

Hastings High School Salutatorian – Kendra Baldwin



- *Schools Attended:* Petrosky, Miller, Albright
- *College:* Rice University
- *Major:* Chemical Engineering
- *Fondest memories:* "Performing with the Marching Band."
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Turn in all of your homework on time and don't procrastinate."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "It's great to be part of a community that's so diverse."

Kerr High School Valedictorian – Tri Pham



- *Schools Attended:* Youens, Youngblood, O'Donnell, Kerr
- *College:* Rice University
- *Major:* Chemical Engineering and Kinesiology
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Find your passion, and pursue it. Get involved."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "I have met really cool people in Alief, and the diversity I've witnessed was incredible."

Kerr High School Salutatorian – Uyen Vu



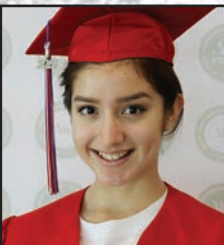
- *Schools Attended:* Collins, Liestman, Youngblood, Killough
- *College:* University of Houston
- *Major:* Nutrition
- *Fondest memories:* "Music classes in elementary school, reading a million books in intermediate school, participating in track & field in middle school, and struggling but enduring high school."
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Work hard but have fun and make memories with everyone."

Taylor High School Valedictorian – Riya Ghosh



- *Schools Attended:* Hearne, Budewig, O'Donnell
- *College:* University of Houston
- *Major:* Biology
- *Fondest memories:* "Meeting amazing and helpful people and being able to give back to the community."
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Apply for scholarships when you have time. Don't wait until senior year!"
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "Everyone accepts each others' differences."

Taylor High School Salutatorian – Victoria Rodriguez



- *Schools Attended:* Bush, Hicks, Miller, Albright
- *College:* New York University
- *Major:* Mathematics
- *Fondest memories:* "Amazing teachers who've made a positive impact."
- *Advice to younger Alief ISD students:* "Never be afraid to take risks."
- *Why are you Alief Proud?:* "I've been attending Alief schools since I was in Pre-Kindergarten!"

Alief ISD's Class of 2015 awarded more than \$46 million in scholarships!

This year's graduating class was awarded more in scholarships and grants than the Class of 2014. Below are some of our distinguished, outstanding seniors and their extraordinary awards.

Gates Millennium Scholars

Taylor High School students Gabriela Escobar and Victoria Rodriguez were named Gates Millennium Scholars.

Tens of thousands of students from around the country apply for the scholarship, and only 1,000 students are selected.

The award provides support for the cost of education by covering unmet needs and self-help aid, renewable awards for scholars, graduate school funding and leadership development programs.



Jones Scholars

Thirteen Alief ISD high school students were named Jones Scholars. The Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Scholars Program is funded by the Houston Endowment, and students will receive \$16,000 over four years.

- *Alief Early College High School:* Alyssa Martinez
- *Elsik High School:* Amiti Busgeeth, Lisa Nguyen, Nicholas Stone and Uniqua Williams
- *Hastings High School:* Michelle Ibidapo, Thanh Le, Stephanie Omaliko and Anh Ho
- *Kerr High School:* My Quan
- *Taylor High School:* Denise Enamorado, Musse Hersi and Chelsea Uzoukwu

POSSE Scholars

Six Alief ISD seniors were named POSSE Scholars.

Vincent McDaniel-Guillory (AECHS), Fausto Rodriguez (AECHS), Tracy Ike (Elsik), Christina Hampton (Hastings), Kynndal Stewart (Kerr) and Luis Schwedler (Taylor) were selected for their extraordinary academic and leadership potential.

They will each receive a four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship from the Posse Foundation's partner colleges and universities.

Dell Scholars



Alief Early College High School students Quan Dat Huynh, Sian Par and Sophie Tuke were named a part of the Dell Scholars Program.

The Dell Scholars Program provides students with resources and mentoring beyond the initial financial assistance of \$20,000, a laptop and textbook credits to ensure recipients have the support they need to obtain a bachelor's degree.

Supported by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, the program places greater emphasis on a student's determination and requires the recipient to demonstrate grit, potential and ambition.

Houston Westchase Rotary Club Scholarships

Four Alief ISD students were named recipients of the Rotary Club scholarship. Congratulations to Karina Gomez (Elsik), Meghan Smith (Elsik), Samuel Anyakwu (Hastings) and Gerardo Bernal (Hastings).

Ronald McDonald Scholarships

Elsik High School student Uniqua Williams was named one of 25 students from across the greater Houston area to be named a recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)/African American Future Achievers Scholarship.

Alief Early College High School student Kasarn Jeradechachai also received the RMHC/Asia Scholarship.

Comcast Leaders & Achievers Scholarship

Alief ISD students Kasarn Jeradechachai (Alief Early College High School) and Michelle Ibidapo (Hastings High School) were selected to receive the \$1,000 Leaders and Achievers Scholarship.

They were two of only 55 local high school seniors to receive this award. The scholarship is sponsored by the Comcast Foundation.

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarships

Sixteen Alief ISD seniors were named recipients of scholarships funded by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Each scholarship winner will receive \$18,000 over four years.

- *Alief Early College High School:* Jocelyn Velazquez (Metropolitan), Michelle Garcia (Opportunity) and Dat Quan Huynh (Opportunity)
- *Elsik High School:* Amiti Busgeeth (Metropolitan), Nicholas Stone (Opportunity), Phillip Asaju (Opportunity), Safa Vaid (Metropolitan), Sidrah Rahman (Opportunity) and Vanessa Rivera (Opportunity)
- *Hastings High School:* Michelle Ibidapo (Metropolitan)
- *Kerr High School:* My Quan (Metropolitan), Thanh Le (School Art), Van Luong (Opportunity) and Yen Tran (Metropolitan)
- *Taylor High School:* Chelsea Uzoukwu (Opportunity) and Phung Doan Tat (Metropolitan)

Soaring Eagles Scholarship

Taylor High School student Kafia Hersi was recognized as this year's recipient of the Killough Soaring Eagle Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded through donations from the Killough staff and namesake Dr. Killough and is given to a senior who attended Killough in eighth grade.

Hersi plans to attend the University of Houston to pursue a career in education.





Congratulations to the Alief ISD Class of 2015!

About 2,515 Alief ISD seniors from the district's five high schools graduated in June. In addition to graduating from their high school, Alief Early College High School students also graduated from Houston Community College with their associate's degrees. Out of 285 early college high school graduates in the Houston area, 66 were from AEGHS.

Alief ISD student athletes score athletic, academic scholarships

Elsik High School

Football: Jaleel Carter Nicholas Stone	Fresno State University Texas A&M University	Full Athletic Scholarship Full Academic Scholarship
Girls' Soccer: Stephanie Garcia Julie Duran Brenda Velasquez	University of Southern Mississippi Texas College Texas A&M University University of Texas at San Antonio University of Houston Alabama A&M University University of Houston-Victoria	Full Athletic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship Partial Academic Scholarship Partial Academic Scholarship Partial Academic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship Partial Academic Scholarship
Cindy Alatorre Karla Baltodano		
Boys' Soccer: Ali Kromah	San Jacinto College	Full Academic Scholarship
	Boys' Basketball: Orowo Eleyae	University of St. Thomas Partial Academic/Athletic Scholarship
	Girls' Basketball: Daijah Henry	Seward County Community College Full Athletic Scholarship
	Girls' Track: Dominique Jackson Ariente Sims	Stephen F. Austin State University Butler Community College Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship

Hastings High School

Football: Dondrei Williams Jordan Tate Arthur Wilson	Tarleton State University Missouri Valley Community College Belhaven University	Full Scholarship Partial Athletic/Academic Scholarship Partial Athletic/Academic Scholarship
Volleyball: Ivete Dim	Lamar University	Full Athletic Scholarship
Girls' Soccer Amalia Ruiz Marissa Marin	Huston-Tillotson University Huston-Tillotson University	Partial Athletic / Partial Academic Partial Athletic / Partial Academic
Girls' Basketball: Annette Crear Raeshawn Jones Sydney Hayes	Frank Phillips College Eastern Oklahoma State College Eastern Oklahoma State College	Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship
Baseball: Gerardo Bernal	Texas Tech University	Partial Academic Scholarship

Taylor High School

	Football: Kenneth McGruder Joseph Ozougwu Willan Antoine Remi Olonade Anu Somoye Kenneth Robinson Enrique Garza Keon Hudson	Oklahoma State University North Texas State University Navarro College Navarro College New Mexico University Texas A&M University-Commerce Texas A&T (Agriculture and Technology) Texas A&T (Agriculture and Technology)	Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship Full Athletic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship
Girls' Basketball: Khasia Moore Bria McKinney	Fordham University University of Miami		Full Academic Scholarship Partial Academic/Athletic Scholarship
Baseball: Luis Schwedler Zachary Perez	University of Virginia Alcorn State University		Full Academic Scholarship Partial Athletic Scholarship
Tennis: Tram Nguyen	Texas A&M University		Opportunity Award (\$1,000)

Alief ISD Education Foundation scholarship recipients announced

Congratulations to the following Class of 2015 scholarship winners:

Alief Administrative & Instructional Leadership Team Scholarship (\$1,000) –

Sophie Tuke (*Alief Early College High School*)
Jocelyn Velazquez (*Alief Early College High School*)
Ileana Gomez (*Elsik High School*)

Tyler Wilridge (*Elsik High School*)
Okwudili Leslie Nebceolisa (*Hastings High School*)
Billy Deion Nelson (*Hastings High School*)
Omar Escobedo (*Kerr High School*) (pictured on left)
Emily Nguyen (*Kerr High School*)
Emely A. Ramirez (*Taylor High School*)
What-Hoang Thai (*Taylor High School*)



Pay It Forward, It's All About Relationships, A.O. (Chuck) Lang, III Scholarship (\$2,000) –
Genesis Hernandez (*Hastings High School*)
Risikatu Sule (*Hastings High School*) (pictured on right)

Jason Best Scholarship (\$1,500 per year for up to 4 consecutive years) –
Lisa Nguyen (*Elsik High School*)

Alief ISD Education Foundation Scholarship (\$2,000) –
Adaluz Castilla (*Alief Early College High School*) (pictured below)
Amreen Khureshi (*Alief Early College High School*)
Edilio Vera (*Alief Early College High School*)
Prakrut Mehta (*Elsik High School*)
Evelin Caro Gutierrez (*Elsik High School*)
Richard Ocozco (*Elsik High School*)
Eseoghene Igbru (*Hastings High School*)
Stephanie Omaliko (*Hastings High School*)
Hailey Simpson (*Hastings High School*)
Lina Bui (*Kerr High School*)
Ana Espaderos (*Kerr High School*)
Thanh Le (*Kerr High School*)
Thao Ho (*Taylor High School*)
Khasia Moore (*Taylor High School*)
Paige Williams (*Taylor High School*)



Congratulations to the teacher mini grants recipients!

The Alief ISD Education Foundation awarded 32 teacher mini grants ranging from \$138.80 to \$2,500 to staff members from 22 schools. More than 120 applications were submitted.

Cerlito Salarda (*Alief Early College High School*)
Kerry Beth Johnson (*Alief Early College High School*)
Noemi Dimaliwat-Frias (*Alief Early College High School*)
Peter Nguyen (*Alief Early College High School*)
Christopher Arnold (*Albright Middle School*)
Lea Ann Coffey (*Alexander Elementary*) (pictured)
Bridget Watts (*Best Elementary*)
Kristina Rodriguez (*Chambers Elementary*)
Ashley Deneff (*Cummings Elementary*)
Colleen Cox (*Cummings Elementary*) (two grants)
Olga Lopez (*Hastings High School*)

Terry Kenefic (*Hastings High School*)
Lynn Elmore (*Hearne Elementary*)
Gladys Cheng (*Holmquist Elementary*)
Laura Gonzalez (*Horn Elementary*)
Michael Lo (*Kennedy Elementary*)
Carol LeGrand (*Liestman Elementary*)
Michelle LaRoche (*Mahanay Elementary*)
Cheryl Williams (*Martin Elementary*)
Jessica Bennett (*Martin Elementary*) (two grants)
Alicia Cashion (*Mata Intermediate*)
Mary Edwards (*Miller Intermediate*)
Jodi Knuppel (*Outley Elementary*)

Thank you to the Alief ISD Education Foundation's Partner Wednesdays participants

The following business partners hosted fundraisers for the Alief ISD Education Foundation from October 2014 to May 2015. A percentage of the sales from each fundraiser was donated back to the foundation.

With their generous support, the Alief ISD Education Foundation raised funds for senior scholarships, teacher mini grants, and school supplies/uniforms for students.



The new Potbelly located at 13410 Briar Forest Drive (on the corner of Eldridge) went above and beyond for the Alief ISD Education Foundation.

Prior to their grand opening, Potbelly hosted a community service event to specifically support Alief ISD. The business offered an Original Sandwich, a bag of chips, and a fountain drink to anyone who presented a flyer and made a minimum donation of \$5.

All of the proceeds were donated to the Alief ISD Education Foundation. Special thanks to General Manager Christi Senf, a proud Elsie High School graduate, for naming the foundation as the recipient of proceeds from this generous community service event!



Vianey Pena (*Rees Elementary*)
Itoyer Brown (*Smith Elementary*)
Justin Burris (*Smith Elementary*)
Corrine Knowles (*Sneed Elementary*)
Derek Davis (*Speech & Debate*)
Raymond Pocquette (*Taylor High School*)

Why we are #AliefProud: Alief ISD Points of Pride

- **Kerr High School student Denny Dang** (*pictured on right*) was selected to compete in Certiport's 2015 Microsoft Office Specialist US National Championship in Orlando. Dang was invited to this prestigious event for receiving a perfect score on his Microsoft Office Specialist PowerPoint 2010 exam.



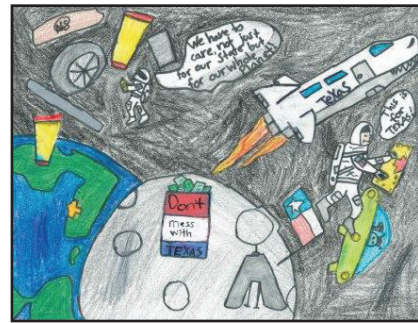
- **Hastings High School student Jelilat Odubayo** won a bronze medal and \$150 from the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering and Environment Project Science Olympiad (I-SWEEEP). With representatives from 71 countries in attendance, Odubayo represented the United States at the competition. Odubayo is the Alief ISD 2014 JASON Learning Argonaut, district and regional science fair winner and state science fair participant.



The **Alief Superstars** (*pictured on left*) medaled at the Special Olympics Texas Summer Games. The basketball team won a bronze medal, and members included students Emmanuel Castro (Albright), Jaramoji Graham (Hastings), Sierra David Latin (O'Donnell), Catalina Ortiz-Valencia (Elsik), Jesus Patino (Killough), Makayla Polk (Elsik) and Terrance Simms (O'Donnell). In track, Timothy Hinson (Hastings) won silver in his 50 meter run, and Martha Chang (Hastings) won gold medals in the softball throw and in her 50 meter assisted walk. Amanda Santana (Taylor) won silver in her softball throw and 8th place in the 50 meter run. Students competed against more than 3,000 athletes from across the state.

• **Nine Alief ISD seventh grade students** qualified for state recognition through the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). These students received high scores on the ACT or SAT college entrance exam and were recognized during a state ceremony in May for their achievement. Congratulations to Leonardo Gomez (Albright), Kelly Thai (Albright), Somto Ugonna (Albright), Ardian Kuswanto (O'Donnell), Joshua Lu (O'Donnell), Anh Nguyen (O'Donnell), Alexander Rosales (O'Donnell), Jenny Alvarado (Olle) and Brianna Butler (Olle).

- **Sneed Elementary student Bryan Garcia** won the Don't mess with Texas Art Contest. His art work (*pictured on right*) will be featured in the 2016 Don't Mess With Texas calendar. Garcia is the only winner from Houston out of thousands of student entries, and he competed against more than 8,228 other elementary school students.



- Alief ISD high school fine arts students won medals at the State Solo & Ensemble Contest.

- **Elsik High School**
 - Band: 2 gold and 8 silver
 - Choir: 10 gold and 17 silver
 - Orchestra: 1 silver and 4 bronze
- **Hastings High School**
 - Choir: 2 silver
 - Orchestra: 1 gold and 1 Outstanding Soloist Award

- **Kerr High School**
 - Band: 4 gold and 2 silver
 - Choir: 4 gold and 6 silver
 - Orchestra: 7 gold and 13 silver
- **Taylor High School**
 - Band: 4 gold and 2 silver
 - Choir: 1 gold and 3 silver



- **O'Donnell Middle School student Isaiah Osazuwa** (*pictured above*) and **Miller Intermediate teacher Mallory Paulsen** are the Alief ISD 2015 JASON Learning National Argonauts. They were selected to participate in a summer research trip at the Cape Eleuthera Institute in the Bahamas. The opportunity was provided by JASON Learning and district business partner Chevron.

- **Boone Elementary teacher Carlos Pierson** was named the 2015 Houston West Chamber of Commerce Elementary Teacher of the Year. Pierson was the 2014 Alief ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. District business partners Sew Much Fabric and First Community Credit Union were also named the 2015 Houston West Chamber of Commerce Business Partners of the Year. These two partners were nominated by Business & Community Partnerships Coordinator Dee Jones for their outstanding contributions.

- **Alief ISD** beat out the competition at the Guiding Star Awards hosted by Parents for Public Schools of Houston. **Mahanay Elementary teacher Damon Barone** (*pictured on right*) was awarded a Guiding Star Award for his work in and out of the classroom. He was nominated in the parent/grandparent category. **Cummings Elementary** was named the Parent/Community Friendly School, and the **Cummings custodial staff** won a Guiding Star Award in the non-certified staff category.



- **Elsik High School students Ivis Mejia and Linh Truong** and **Hastings High School student Edwin Barajas** won the prestigious gold seal medal from the state Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) competition. Their art pieces will tour the state. A total of 26 students qualified for state VASE this year, and 23 earned the highest rating of 4 at regionals, area and state judging. Alief ISD middle schools also won 16 medals from Junior VASE. Albright cleaned up the competition with 11 medals, including one silver medal. Holub Middle School students were awarded four medals, and O'Donnell Middle School received one medal.

Mark Your Calendars: Important 2015-16 School Year Dates

Registration Times and Dates for All Campuses

August 11-12 - 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

August 13 - Noon to 7:00 p.m.

August 18-21 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration Hours During the School Year:

High School: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Elementary, Intermediate & Middle School: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Open House Dates

Elementary: Week of September 21-24

Intermediate: Thursday, September 17

Middle School: Tuesday, September 15

High School/ALC: Tuesday, October 6

Family Center Grand Openings

Elementary: Wednesday, September 16

Intermediate: Thursday, September 17

Middle School/High School/ALC/Crossroads: Tuesday, September 15



Alief Employee Alumni Association awards first scholarship recipients!



Recipients of the Alief Employee Alumni Association's various scholarships were recognized during the May Alief ISD Board of Trustees Meeting.

Alief ISD high school students Amiti Busgeeth (Elsik), Eseoghene Daniel Igbru (Hastings), Junyuan Tan (Kerr) and Bridgette Bawaah Bilson (Taylor) were selected as the first recipients of the Alief Employee Alumni Association (AEAA) scholarship.

Hastings High School student Brenda Ann Jones was chosen as the winner of the AEAA Raising Cane's Scholarship, while Kerr High School student William Wei-Quan Huang was selected as the AEAA Keith Mervish Memorial Scholarship recipient.

All AEAA scholarships were made possible through the support of Alief ISD staff and community members, and the group aims to continue to give scholarships to Alief ISD seniors every school year.

AEAA consists of district employees who are proud Alief ISD graduates. For more information, please contact Alief ISD Web Specialist Tracy Lau at TYLAU@aliefisd.net or call 281-498-8110, extension 2242.

Roy Folse Fighting Bear Memorial Scholarship continues to support Hastings High School students

Hastings High School graduates and other community members turned heartbreak into continued support for fellow Bears through the Roy Folse Fighting Bear Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship, which seven Hastings students received this year, is made possible through the Roy Folse Tie-Dye Classic Foundation. The non-profit organization was established by family and friends in memory of Roy Folse, a proud Hastings Class of 1987 graduate who passed away in an accident. The foundation has awarded about 30 scholarships to Hastings seniors since 2010.

Folse's widow Chere and proud Hastings graduates Pat Pollard (1987), Steve Holbrooke (1987) and William Folse (1988) congratulated this year's winners in person on behalf of the foundation and the 10 scholarship committee members who reviewed scholarship applications. These scholarship recipients demonstrated through their application that they value faith, family and friends and met all other requirements set forth by the foundation.

This year's Roy Folse Fighting Bear Memorial Scholarship recipients are Minh Van, Michelle Ibdapo, Tommy Nguyen, Stephanie Omaliko, Gerardo Bernal, Caleb Adeyemi and Emily Alvarez.

The 2015 recipients of the Roy Folse Fighting Bear Memorial Scholarship are pictured with members of the Roy Folse Tie-Dye Classic Foundation, Alief ISD Superintendent HD Chambers and Hastings High School College Advisor Jo Gassen.



More Alief Proud Alumni News

- **Alief ISD graduate Michelle Lopez** (*pictured with Superintendent HD Chambers*) was named the 2015 Alief ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. Lopez teaches music to Kindergarten-4th grade students and is a proud alumna of Hastings High School (Class of 1993). She also attended Martin, where she currently teaches, and Olle Middle School.
- **Elsik High School graduate Erin Katribe, DVM**, has been named Medical Director of Animal Trustees of Austin. Katribe was previously the lead surgery veterinarian. She graduated from Elsik in 2001 and previously attended Cummings Elementary and Holub Middle School.
- **District alumni** competed in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Former FFA students Angel Zepeda (Elsik Class of 2010) competed with rabbits, and Sagrario Toledo (Hastings Class of 2013) competed in a floral design event. Zepeda won first place and overall best for best costume for rabbits and placed fifth in Rex rabbits.
- **Hastings High School graduate Dr. James Winkler (Class of 2005)** was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Scholarship to Taiwan. He will be working at National Taiwan University on antibiotic and antitumor drug resistance research. Dr. Winkler also attended Kennedy Elementary and Holub Middle School.
- **Taylor High School graduates Allison Moore (Class of 2010) and Mikaley Brooks (Class of 2012)** made the Houston Texans cheerleading squad. The final 35-member team was chosen from about 50 finalists based on performances at private rehearsals and input from Texans fans. Moore, who was a cheerleader while at Taylor, previously attended Heflin Elementary, Miller Intermediate and Albright Middle School. Brooks was in Alief Jazz Ballet and attended Chancellor Elementary and Alief Middle School.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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President
Tiffany D. Thomas
Vice President
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Secretary
Ann Williams
Assistant Secretary
Nghi T. Ho
Member
Dedre' Jefferson
Member
Rick Moreno
Member

HD Chambers
Superintendent

Board meetings are scheduled the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Alief ISD Administration Building, 4250 Cook Road. All meetings are open to the public.



Independent School District

P.O. Box 68 • Alief, Texas 77411

<http://www.aliefisd.net>

Alief ISD, in collaboration with parents and community, will provide an exemplary education for all students in a safe environment.

Nonprofit
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This is a publication developed by the Alief Independent School District's Communications Department (281-498-8110, ext. 2240). The Alief Communicator is written/edited by Tracy Lau (Web Specialist). For cost efficiency, the newsletter is bulkmailed by zip codes and mail routes. It is possible that some households outside of district boundaries may receive it.



@aliefisd
#AliefProud

2015-2016 Alief Independent School District Calendar

JULY 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2015

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27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**STUDENT HOLIDAYS/
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

August 17 – 21, 2015
January 4, 2016
February 15, 2016
June 3, 2016

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day – September 7, 2015
Columbus Day – October 12, 2015
Thanksgiving Holidays – Nov. 23 – 27, 2015
Winter Break – Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 18, 2016
Spring Break – March 14 – 18, 2016
Good Friday – March 25, 2016
Memorial Day – May 30, 2016

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

August 24, 2015

LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

June 2, 2016

Grading Periods

August 24 – October 16 38 days
October 19 – December 18 40 days
January 5 – March 11 47 days
March 21 – June 2 52 days

Total Days: 177 days

NOVEMBER 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30					

DECEMBER 2015

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JANUARY 2016

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31						

FEBRUARY 2016

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MARCH 2016

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27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2016

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MAY 2016

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2016

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26	27	28	29	30		

Legend

- ☆ First/Last Day
- ▶◀ Begin/End Grading Period
- Student Holiday/Staff Development Day or Staff Workday
- Student/Staff Holiday
- * Bad Weather Day