



Board Meeting Recognitions  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Sun Valley ES	Iker Fuentes
<p>Sun Valley Elementary is proud to recognize Iker Fuentes for his outstanding character and academic achievement and for being a wonderful role model to his classmates. Iker has integrity and consistently shows strong character, a love for learning, and kindness towards others. His dedication to doing his best in the classroom and his respectful attitude make him a student others look up to. Iker sets a powerful example of what it means to be responsible, honest, and hardworking. His efforts and leadership inspire his teachers and the entire school staff. Sun Valley looks forward to seeing all the amazing things he will continue to accomplish.</p>	

Scobee MS	Matthew Rodriguez
<p>We recognize Matthew Rodriguez as Scobee Middle School's Student of the Month with great pride. Matthew is an exceptional young leader whose character, service, and initiative exemplify the very best of what we hope to inspire in our students.</p> <p>Matthew is a dedicated member of both the National Junior Honor Society and the Scobee Student Council, where he consistently goes above and beyond to serve his school and community. He takes the initiative to lead individual service projects and demonstrates growing leadership skills by involving others in his efforts. Whether it's organizing donations of personal hygiene products for individuals experiencing homelessness, helping with food and clothing drives, or gathering supplies for those in need, Matthew is always willing to lend a helping hand—and to encourage others to do the same.</p> <p>What sets Matthew apart is not just his willingness to serve, but his thoughtful approach to leadership. He reaches out to his family and community for support, modeling how collaboration can create a broader impact. He's learning that leadership is not about doing everything alone but inspiring others to join you in making a difference.</p> <p>Matthew has also played a vital role in welcoming future Scobee students to our campus. He is one of the student ambassadors providing campus tours to incoming</p>	

6th graders from our feeder elementary schools. After a recent tour, elementary teachers shared that it was the best tour they had experienced in the last seven years—a testament to Matthew’s kindness, professionalism, and genuine enthusiasm for our school.

Polite, respectful, and responsible, Matthew Rodriguez is not only an outstanding student—he is a role model for his peers. We are proud to honor him and share his accomplishments with the board and our community.

<b>CAST STEM HS</b>	<b>Jason Eslora-Castillo</b>
<p>CAST STEM High School proudly recognizes senior Jason Eslora-Castillo as our student of the month. Jason has been a standout in everything he has been involved in throughout high school. He has excelled on the football field as the starting center for the Southwest Dragons, where he earned recognition as first team all-district center and was recognized by KSAT as their Athlete of the Week. On the theatre stage, Jason has been recognized twice as Best Performer, Honorable Mention All Star Cast, and he is currently the president of the theatre club. In the classroom, Jason excels academically and will graduate from Palo Alto College next week with his associate’s degree. After graduation, he plans to attend St. Mary’s University to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering. Congratulations, Jason, on all of your accomplishments. CAST STEM High School is extremely proud of you!</p>	

<b>SWL Salutatorian</b>	<b>Daniela Olivo</b>
<p>Daniela Olivo, our salutatorian, may be quiet, but her impact is anything but small. A natural leader, she serves as President of the National Honor Society and Secretary for the Early College High School for Education and Training while actively being involved in the Math Honor Society, Truancy Club, and Interact Club. Daniela is always the first to raise her hand—whether to tutor a peer in math or English, read to elementary students, clean up local parks, or lend a hand to a teacher in need. She gracefully juggles a demanding schedule of dual-credit courses, making even the most challenging work seem effortless. Her drive, humility, and dedication speak volumes; she leads not with words, but with action and heart.</p>	

<b>SWL Valedictorian</b>	<b>Jose Espitia, Jr.</b>
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Jose Espitia, our valedictorian, is the kind of student who inspires everyone around him. He's taken on the challenge of dual credit courses like Art Appreciation, College Algebra, Sociology, and Calculus—not just to get ahead, but because he truly values learning. He is a proud member of the National Honor Society and spends time reading to elementary students, sharing his love of education with the younger generation. But what really sets Jose apart is his heart—he's always there for his family, helping out in any way he can. His dedication, kindness, and quiet strength have left a lasting impact on our school.

### **Rising Stars**

Our SWISD Rising Stars have shown incredible growth, making positive changes and improving attendance. We are confident that their hard work will continue to impact their entire school experience at Southwest ISD in a positive way. The winners are:

SHE - Miracle Virginia Lopez  
MCN - Gilbert Mendez  
CAST - Christian Gonzales

### **Fine Arts**

### **Penguin Project**

We proudly announce that the SWISD Penguin Project received the Magna Silver Award from the National School Boards Association's Conference in Atlanta this March! This national honor celebrates our commitment to inclusion, creativity, and the transformative power of the arts. The Penguin Project pairs students with disabilities and peer mentors to perform musicals that build confidence and community. This award shines a spotlight on the incredible heart and talent of our students, staff, and supporters. Thank you to NSBA for recognizing the impact of our program and thank you to our board and Senior staff for their continued support towards this unique and life changing program for our students!

### **Athletics**

### **SWHS Boys Soccer**

This year, the SWHS Boys Soccer team made school history by becoming the first team to ever reach a State Final.

They showed what can be achieved when a group comes together and works toward a common goal. Throughout their playoff run, they faced adversity repeatedly and consistently demonstrated this team's character and resilience.

They battled through injuries, came from behind in key moments, and stayed united in pursuit of their goal. Many of these players had reached the regional tournament twice before, only to fall short. Those experiences became valuable lessons that helped them believe that reaching the State tournament wasn't just a dream—it was something they could and would accomplish.

Although we fell short in the final, this team never gave up. They fought until the very end, and their journey will forever be remembered as one of determination, heart, and history-making effort. Coach Juan Romero, Coach Michael Ludyen, Taylor Molina.

<b>Mathew Campos</b>	
<p>For more than 11 years, Mathew Campos has served as a dedicated AV Technician, and in recent years, Mathew has gone above and beyond his official duties, consistently stepping up to support the Communications Team in critical moments. Whether it's picking up time-sensitive materials from vendors, managing live streams for events like district spelling bees, or embracing new creative challenges, Mathew approaches every task with reliability..</p> <p>Most recently, Mathew was called upon to cover the Boys Soccer State Semifinal game. With a one-day crash course in photography and under challenging rainy conditions, he captured one of the most iconic and emotional moments of the season as the team advanced to the State Championship.</p> <p>His willingness to step outside his comfort zone, learn quickly, and deliver results speaks to his dedication and team spirit. Thank you, Mathew, for your hard work and commitment to SWISD.</p>	

<b>Assistance League of San Antonio</b>	
<p>Southwest ISD is proud to recognize the Assistance League of San Antonio for their amazing support of our students. This year, they awarded our district a \$25,000 grant through their <i>Enhanced Learning Program</i>, giving students hands-on learning experiences like trips to iFly, PInstack, and Twin Lakes that connect to what they're learning in class. Here's a video of some of the great work they do and a look at our students enjoying its impact. (((Play video)))</p> <p>We'd like to thank the dedicated volunteers who make this possible: Kathy Bustos (President)</p>	

Ruth Heller (VP of Programs)  
Jo McCollum (Enhanced Learning Committee)  
Linda Patton (Volunteer)

Their team also supports our students through *Operation School Bell* and *TOGS for TOTS*, which provide

### Salina Paloma- Scott

While serving as administrator for the day at Medio Creek Elementary, Salina Palomo-Scott was alerted by a student searching for her missing brother near a house fire. Without hesitation, Mrs. Palomo-Scott notified district authorities and ran toward the burning home—despite loose dogs and a propane tank outside. She rescued a man, a young woman, an infant, and several pets, then alerted nearby neighbors to the danger. The student was later reunited with her brother.

Mrs. Palomo-Scott received minor injuries, including losing her eyelashes from the heat, but her brave and selfless actions made a life-saving difference. She is a true hero and a shining example of leading with care and courage. We are proud to have her at Southwest ISD.

### Teacher Incentive Allotment

This year, we are proud to announce that our district is able to designate *Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA)* educators for the first time. We are excited to recognize many of these outstanding teachers this evening. Collectively, our TIA-designated teachers have generated over **\$730,000** in incentive funding—a powerful testament to their impact on student learning and excellence in the classroom.

Tonight, we will recognize the teachers who were able to join us and celebrate their designation levels:

- **Recognized** – top 33% of teachers statewide
- **Exemplary** – top 20% of teachers statewide
- **Master** – top 5% of teachers statewide

Please join us in congratulating these exceptional educators for their dedication and achievement.

**Recognized Designation**

Jeanine Garcia, SPE  
Jacquelyn Huerta, BCE  
Liliana Lopez, ECE  
Beronica Martinez, ECE  
Monica McMorris, SVE  
Jake Olvera, LHS  
Jose Luis Perez, SWHS  
Sarah Rocha Barnes, MCA  
Anna Thetford, SPE  
Hannah Toussaint, SVE  
Stephanie Trevino, MCE  
Valerie Trevino, SWE  
Alexis Zamora, KRSA

**Exemplary Designation**

Priscilla Aldana, BCE  
Christine Bendele, SWE  
Amber Boggs, SPE  
Donna Burell, SVE  
Regina Castillo, ECE  
Samantha Cordaro, MCE  
Maria Diaz, SCO  
Erin Drew, SVE  
Anaid Duenes, SVE  
Leonor Gallegos, BCE  
Krystal Garcia, SVE  
Angela Garza, ICE  
Nancy Gonzalez-Barta, ICE  
Nicole Hazen-Richards, MCN  
Gina Huerta, BHE  
Stephanie Laird, SVE  
Sara Maciel, SVE  
Jennifer Main, BCE  
Matthew Martinez, MCN  
Delicia Mendez-Villegas, SHE  
Kristy Pais, SVE  
Aida Perez, BCE  
Cecilia Rodriguez, MCN  
Abigail Rodriguez, SVE  
Yara Schutter, SWE  
Cyntia Sosa, BCE  
Cynthia Soto, MCE  
Bridget Stuart, ECE

Melissa Torres, MCE  
Jessica Welch, SVE

**Master Designation**

Jorge Alvarez Luna, ICE  
Diane Hernandez, MCE  
Angeles Leal, BCE  
Irene Mauricio, BHE  
Norma Perez, KRSA  
Michele Vardo-Garza, SVE  
Ana Villarreal, HCE  
Danielle Waldie, MCE