



# Board Meeting Recognitions

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

## February 2025 Recognitions:

<b>Medio Creek ES</b>	<b>Makennah Gonzales</b>
<p>Makennah's kindness and leadership truly set her apart on our campus. As a Student Ambassador and the Public Relations Officer for the club, she embodies what it means to be a positive influence. Throughout the school year, We've witnessed countless moments where Makennah goes out of her way to support others. Whether it's a teacher, a classmate, or a stranger, she is always ready to lend a helping hand. What we admire most about Makennah is her genuine ability to include every student, making them feel valued, welcomed, and loved. If she notices someone alone or feeling down, she immediately steps in—whether it's by checking in with them, inviting them to join in, or standing up for them when necessary. Her empathy and selflessness make a lasting impact on everyone around her. As a Student Ambassador, Makennah frequently represents the school in various settings, including assisting teachers and staff, promoting school spirit, and setting a positive example for her peers. She also demonstrates strong leadership skills by inspiring her classmates to work hard, stay focused, and show kindness to others. Makennah is incredibly humble, but we genuinely believe she deserves recognition for her positive impact on those around her. Her admirable qualities leave a lasting impression, and she needs to know just how much she is appreciated.</p>	

<b>McAuliffe MS</b>	<b>Monica Acosta</b>
<p>Monica is a hardworking, determined student. She is a natural leader and always strives to do what's best for all. She is creative in designing projects and a delight to have in class. Monica is not only an outstanding student but also an outstanding athlete. Monica has played multiple sports for McAuliffe, including volleyball, girls' basketball, girls' soccer, and track. Monica is also a member of our SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) and ranks #2 in our overall Rocket Warrior program, which displays great character skills, trustworthiness, responsibility, and team spirit and attends many district/service events.</p> <p>As a class leader, she inspires her peers with her dedication, always striving for excellence in her studies and encouraging others to do their best. She genuinely cares about her grades but never puts herself above others, always willing to lend a helping hand to classmates who need support. Despite her many achievements, Monica remains humble and kind, treating everyone with respect and compassion. Her positive attitude and strong work ethic make her</p>	

a role model for everyone around her. Monica stated she wanted to serve and protect and, therefore, intends to go post-secondary and receive her degree in law enforcement to work for the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. Congratulations, Monica, on the well-deserved recognition!

<b>SWHS</b>	<b>Daniella Arellano</b>
<p>Southwest High School's student of the month is Daniella Arellano. Daniella is a dedicated member of the award-winning Dragonfire Dance team and dedicates countless hours to practice and perform. Daniela also participates in Dual Credit and On-Ramps advanced courses, challenging herself with her high school coursework. She is currently ranked 5th in the Junior class and is in the health science pathway. Daniella serves her school as a Junior class officer and helps coordinate numerous campus events. After high school, Daniella intends to attend The University of Texas at Austin. We are so proud to call Daniella a Dragon!</p>	

<b>Rising Star Students</b>	
<p>We are proud to announce the SWISD Rising Stars for January &amp; February. These students have shown incredible growth, making positive changes and improving attendance. We are confident that their hard work will continue to positively impact their entire school experience at Southwest ISD. The winners are:</p> <p>Elm Creek - Nathaniel Liam Enriquez - 5th Grade</p> <p>Kriewald - Calia Cantu - 4th Grade</p> <p>Resnik MS - Elena Esquivel - 6th grade</p> <p>Scobee MS - Catherine Isabella Marie Davies - 8th Grade</p> <p>Southwest HS - Froylan Olguin Vargas - 12th Grade</p> <p>Southwest Legacy - Mark Casias - 12th Grade</p>	

January 2025 Recognitions:

<b>Indian Creek ES</b>	<b>Sofia Pedraza</b>
<p>It is with great pride that Indian Creek Elementary presents Sofia Pedraza to the Southwest School Board as our Student of the Month. Sofia Pedraza is a remarkable student who</p>	

exemplifies resilience, leadership, and academic excellence. She consistently displays a positive attitude, even when faced with challenges. She has an incredible ability to persevere and maintain focus, inspiring her peers and teachers. Her strong sense of responsibility and determination to succeed are evident in her academic achievements.

What truly sets Sofia apart is her natural leadership ability. She is a dependable role model for her classmates, always willing to lend a helping hand, encourage teamwork, and lead by example. In group projects, classroom discussions, or extracurricular activities, Sofia brings out the best in those around her with enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Lastly, Sofia is a trooper regarding school activities. She is a school patrol member, in the honor choir, in Beats By Braves, and now in Los Braves, where she will perform for our Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Sofia loves being a part of our School Culture and Community.

<b>Kriewald SA</b>	<b>Cattleya Cantu</b>
<p>Cattleya is an exceptional student who embodies dedication, kindness, and leadership. She shows up daily with a positive attitude and gives her all in everything she does, constantly striving to grow as a learner. Beyond her achievements, Cattleya is a tremendous help to her teachers and peers, often taking the initiative to assist struggling classmates when she sees a need. Her kind heart, remarkable communication skills, and willingness to go above and beyond make her a true joy in class. Her peers look up to her and consistently praise her accomplishments, recognizing the bright future ahead of her. With dreams of becoming a cosmetologist.</p>	

<b>Scobee MS</b>	<b>Zayden Garcia</b>
<p>With great pride and excitement, Scobee recognizes Zayden Garcia as a true embodiment of what it means to be a Tiger at Scobee Middle School. His unwavering commitment to our school community and his outstanding contributions have not gone unnoticed. At Scobee, we strive to live by the values that make us proud to be Tigers, and Zayden exemplifies this "Tiger Mentality" every day. Whether through his tenacious work ethic, integrity in everything he does, or his enthusiasm for helping others, he has set a remarkable example for his peers. Zayden has excelled in his studies by earning straight A's for the 1st semester while taking a course load of Honors classes. Zayden has perfect attendance for the semester and is an exceptional board member of the Scobee Student Council and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). He shows leadership skills as he takes the time to volunteer for every event, helping with both setup and cleanup, ensuring that our school activities run smoothly and successfully. His dedication to service shines brightly. Most recently, Zayden went above and beyond by organizing a service project to support the homeless population in our area. His</p>	

thoughtful act of kindness, providing backpacks filled with essential items such as blankets, hygiene products, and snacks, is a testament to his compassion and empathy. Zayden's efforts to make a difference in the lives of others during the winter weather were heartwarming and life-changing for those in need. Moreover, Zayden's participation in the AASC Student Leadership Conference further showcases his commitment to growth and leadership. Attending such an important event allowed him to enhance his skills, connect with student leaders from other schools, and engage in critical sessions that focused on leadership development, communication, and problem-solving. The insights he gained will undoubtedly inspire him to continue being a leader who makes a lasting impact at Scobee and beyond. Zayden, you are a model of what it means to have a Tiger Mentality. You demonstrate Tenacity in all your endeavors, uphold Integrity in your actions, possess Grit to persevere, radiate Enthusiasm in everything you do, and show constant Respect for everyone around you. You represent the very best of Scobee, and we are incredibly proud of your achievements.

<b>CAST STEM HS</b>	<b>Addison Young</b>
<p>CAST STEM High School proudly recognizes 10th-grade student Addison Young as our Student of the Month. While a student at CAST STEM, she has become a leader and model student. She currently participates on the Electric Car Team, where she is a co-leader for the team, Technology Student Association, Academic Decathlon, and Spanish Spelling Bee. Outside of school, she has participated in the PREP program during the summer and volleyball. She describes her experience on the electric car team as "one of a kind." She is learning the electrical and mechanical components of the cars through mentors, experts in the industry, and parent volunteers (including her parents) who help the team by sharing their knowledge and building bonds with the team. She states that she is learning things she never dreamed of, let alone in high school. Addison hopes to attend UTSA or St. Mary's University and major in engineering or forensic science. Addison is a shining light on campus, and we are so blessed to have her as a student!</p>	

<b>SWL Tennis Team</b>	
<p>The Southwest Legacy Titan Tennis program has seen remarkable growth and success thanks to its athletes' dedication and hard work. The Titans have made significant strides in the sport, with a strong commitment to excellence. In 2023, the team achieved a historic milestone by winning their first District 28-5A Championship, finishing undefeated in district play, and becoming the first team from Southwest Independent School District (SWISD) to win a district championship in tennis. They made history again in 2024, capturing back-to-back District 28-5A Championships, maintaining their undefeated district record.</p>	

In addition to their district triumphs, the Titans also earned the title of Bi-District Champions in 2024 and reached the Area Finals, where a strong Boerne team defeated them. The Titans are determined to build on their success in the upcoming Spring season, with high hopes for both the boys' team, which aims to defend its district championship, and the girls' team, which is coming off a runner-up finish in 2024.

The program has also seen individual players excel, with five Titan athletes qualifying for regionals in 2024. The team's goal for 2025 is to send even more players to the regional competition in May. Overall, the Southwest Legacy Titans are proud of their achievements and are excited for the future as they continue to make a lasting impact on the sport of tennis in their district.

<b>SWHS Volleyball Team</b>	
-----------------------------	--

This year, the Dragons were a dark horse in District 28-5A Volleyball, having what everyone believed would be a "rebuilding" year. The Dragons sought to prove everyone wrong and battled in a tough pre-season and a bumpy first district match. After the first district match, Dragon Volleyball flipped a switch and won 6 straight matches, falling to McCollum to finish round one with a record of 6-2. These girls chose to rally and finished the district with an 8-game win streak, only dropping three sets the entire second round. Dragon Volleyball finished the 2024 season with an overall record of 30-15 and a 14-2 District record, winning them a second consecutive District Championship and a third consecutive Bi-District Championship. Notable finishes were a Pflugerville ISD Bronze Bracket Champions, SWISD Third place finish, District Champions, Bi-District Champions, and a third straight area round appearance. The Dragons had multiple All-Tournament selections in each tournament. Audrey Mascorro, Alana Medina, and Mayra Medina were named to the Honorable Mention Team. Deborah Alele and Amiah Gonzales were named to the Second Team All-District team. Alyssa Curd and Amaya Garcia were named to the First Team All-District Team. Lastly, Addison Bartlett was named unanimously District 28-5A MVP, San Antonio Express-News Player of the Week, and San Antonio Express-News 5A All-Area Team.

Dragon Nation is very proud of the grit shown by the 2024 Dragon Volleyball team to Led to this season's successes, we cannot wait to see what this program has in store.

<b>National Board Certified Teachers</b>	
--	--

We are thrilled to recognize and celebrate the incredible achievement of five outstanding teachers from our district who have earned their National Board Certification. This certification is among the highest honors in the teaching profession. It requires a rigorous, multi-year

process that includes deep self-reflection, demonstration of advanced teaching practices, and a comprehensive assessment of their impact on student learning.

Earning this certification is no small feat—it demands a level of dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence that goes above and beyond. These teachers have demonstrated their commitment to their craft and students, setting a gold standard for teaching and learning. Please join me in congratulating the following Teachers on this extraordinary accomplishment. Their success is a testament to the incredible talent and dedication within SWISD.

- Donna Burrell (SVE)
- Sara Maciel (SVE)
- Matthew Martinez (MCN)
- Kristy Pais (SVE)
- Valerie Trevino (SWE)

<b>CREST Award 2024</b>	<b>Cassandra Mata</b>
-------------------------	-----------------------

The Texas School Counseling Association (TSCA) is proud to recognize the exceptional efforts of school counselors who have demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting students' academic, career, and personal-social development. The CREST Awards honor schools that have successfully implemented the Texas Model of School Counseling, significantly impacting students' lives and achievements across multiple domains.

Congratulations to Medio Creek Elementary's school counselor, Mrs. Cassandra Mata, for being one of an elite group of school counselors from across the state to win the CREST Award for Counseling Excellence for 2024. Mrs. Mata's commitment to excellence in school counseling inspires others and is vital to our students' success. Keep up the fantastic work in fostering positive change and empowering the next generation.

<b>SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION</b>	
---------------------------------	--

Governor Greg Abbott has declared January 2025 School Board Recognition Month a tribute to the hard-working school board members who play an essential role in our communities and schools. Although showing appreciation should be year-round, taking advantage of the designated month ensures these critical people receive some of the thanks they deserve.

<b>CPS Presentation</b>	
-------------------------	--

Mr. Bob Nelson with CPS Energy will be presenting Southwest ISD with a symbolic "big check" for \$138,567.69 for our participation in the CPS Energy Demand Response Program for last spring/summer.