



# Faces Of



From Staff Reports

## The Faces Project

Newspaper staff writers wish to compile stories of people and the voices behind all the 2,600 plus students at school.

Everyone has a story to share, something unique that makes them stand out, and the writers wanted to provide a place to showcase all these stories. So many people on campus have stories to tell. We hope you enjoy the 2022 edition of Faces of Alvin High, filled with personality profiles.



# Alvin High School





# Entrepreneurs

## Art That Sticks

Gianna Regan  
Staff Writer

Some students look for jobs at places around town, but others discover ways to create their own jobs.

Sophomore Adam Desrochers recently created an online store where he sells sticker designs.

These stickers are available on Redbubble under the account AdamDuckie. Desrochers' designs are mainly of anime, old cartoons, and video game characters where new designs are uploaded on a random basis.

"The majority of my works are most likely going to consist of fanworks, but I'm going to work on some original

characters too," Desrochers said.

Some of his designs include characters from the show Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and the game Deltarune.

"People have always told me that I was good at art and drawing," said Desrochers. "So I decided to start selling my work on a site that was familiar to me."

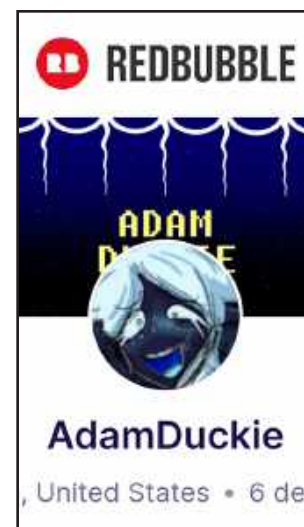
Desrochers' sticker designs are also available for purchase on hats, mouse pads, t-shirts, notebooks, phone cases, and a lot more. Prices range from \$2 for stickers to \$17-20 for designs on other products.

"So far, there are

fifteen designs available for purchase on my account," Desrochers said. "But there are more soon to come."

Not only is he a 15 year old with his own online business, but he's also an inspiration for other teens his age to start pursuing what they love to do as well.

"When it comes to the characters I design, they inspire me," Desrochers said. "They make me feel nice, so I express my admiration for them through my art. I hope that through my art, others can enjoy these characters with me."



## Tay's Local Little Art Shop: Freshman Sells Crafty Creations

Katelyn Moore  
Staff Writer

She sits quietly on her bed with her accessories surrounding her as she works neatly while she sits making pins, clay figures, earrings, resin necklaces, body rollers, rugs, paintings, phone cases, and cups.

When she was having a hard time getting out of bed and really finding a hobby to do, this inspired freshman Tatum Peters to start her jewelry business by using her talents and creating her own accessories.

"I would wake up every morning and just feel like I was repeating the same day over and over again," Peters said. "It was really hard for me to wake up and really get to do things and that led to lots of bad energy, bad thoughts, and bad everything."

Peters wanted to start something new. She then reached for some iron and began bending it. She found charm ideas to make various creations that she liked and enjoyed to make. She creates earrings, necklaces, buttons, punch needle rugs, stickers, and cups.

"I love making buttons," Peters said. "I have this fun button maker, and I love using the lever because it is so fun. I also love making jewelry. I usually make homemade charms from resin or clay, but sometimes I buy charms elsewhere."

Peters has big goals and dreams for her busi-

ness.

"I do wish to expand my business," Peters said. "It is really a big part of my life. I work on it day and night."

It's something that she looks forward to every morning. Peters loves making things and giving them to people to make them smile. When she was really sad, she had to find things that were real time-consuming to help her manage and to help her find a new, better place for her mental health.

"What I would say for other people is to really find a hobby that takes your time with nice creative energy," Peters said. "To not only help yourself feel better, but to help others if you are willing to share that with other people."

Often times, you will find Peters peddling her jewelry at school for friends and teachers. Teachers tend to love her holiday earrings. Often times, the teachers also buy earrings for their own children, or family, as well.

"Tatum showed me her box of goodies in class one day and I knew my nine year old would love some earrings," newspaper adviser Jessica Tompkins said. "I bought lollipops, boba drinks, and cute little panda bears for her and she loves them."

Students often purchase Peter's earrings as well, with the

mushrooms and lollipops selling the most. Once, a woman came to her booth at a craft show and purchased necklaces and matching earrings for each of her five grandchildren.

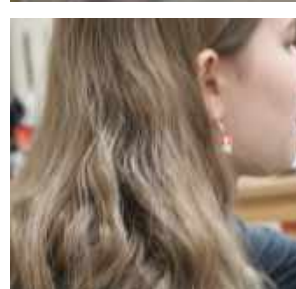
"I was super happy for such a big purchase from the event," Peters said.

Peters sells them at Game & Skate and also does market days in Angleton, TX. In addition, Peters has her own Etsy shop, Tay'sLocalLittleArt. She is constantly searching for more ideas to stay fresh and current.

"I look around for ideas and see what people on social media are wearing and those ideas inspire me," Peters said. "People like to wear what other people are wearing so I try to stay current."

Additionally, Peters enjoys creating clay figurines to sell. She makes monsters, frogs, mushrooms, and even makes little boxes.

"Creating all these things is relaxing," Peters said. "When I'm at school or home, I feel stuck in one place, but when I am doing art it's like exploring different parts of my brain and adding color to my life. It's inspiring to create something with your own hands, and it is especially so when someone else is going to enjoy it too. I love making people smile, it's the best part."



### Crafty Creations

Freshman Tatum Peters enjoys creating jewelry and other crafts. She has made so many pieces that she has taken to selling some of her creations. She can be found on Etsy and other local craft shows. Earrings are her specialty and a favorite among her friends. Things like little ducks, lollipops, and strawberries. Peters' creations are a hit.



# Teachers

## Brisket Is the Answer Teacher Incorporates Creative Methods

Hunter Kneifel  
Staff Writer

Being a Civil Rights historian gives one perspective on life, as one has to become familiar with the conflicts and social issues of the world. While each historian has their own unique take on how to solve these issues, this historian might have the most unique answer of all. A good brisket.

Andrew Deleon's love for brisket is matched by no other. This deep appreciation can be traced back to his love for family and togetherness.

"I think my affinity for it comes from family," Deleon said. "When our family is able to get together, it's often over a meal, and often that meal happens to be brisket."

This concept of brisket and family are integrated

into Deleon's teachings to communicate a simple concept: Unity. Whenever the topic of World War II comes around, Deleon likes to state that if the Nazi regime party was able to sit down with the Jews they were torturing, they would realize they were more alike than different. Deleon tries to preach this message of unity on a daily basis.

"Imagine how many disputes could be settled over some really great food and company," Deleon said. "If we can agree on some similarities with others, hopefully Americans can discover we're more like others rather than different."

This mindset of teaching has made going to

his class interesting and engaging. By cracking jokes and treating his students like family, Deleon creates a friendly and welcoming environment for anybody.

"The way Mr. Deleon teaches is cool," junior Anne Armstrong said. "He makes us laugh, but also lets us know that he cares, which makes the class easy to engage in."

With the world having so much conflict today, we need a solution now more than ever. Maybe, just maybe, Deleon has found that solution: A good brisket.

"Let's set aside the drama and division of today and let's talk about some good BBQ," Deleon said.

### Historical Metaphors

History teacher Andrew Deleon is known for making his lessons interesting and relatable to students.



## Lights, Camera, Fashion

Logan Cockrell  
Staff Writer

For the past five years, the AHS Fashion Design program has been aiding NASA in their quest to the stars after a certain teacher personally reached out to them.

Teacher Evalinda Cantu, head of the Fashion Design program, has always had an interest in fashion since childhood. However, sewing was not her strong suit. After the position of fashion design teacher fell in her lap, she wasn't left with much choice but to learn, and fast.

"Even when I was little I would draw the sketches of designs I liked," Cantu said. "But when it came to sewing, I absolutely hated it."

According to Cantu, the most challenging part of fashion design is the ideology of the

industry. The belief that one cannot make a living from fashion design. When in fact, it may be one of the highest paying jobs.

"It's a dying industry unfortunately," Cantu said. "So there's a lot of demand and people can be desperate."

There are a number of things that could go wrong during a fashion show. From technical issues to wardrobe malfunctions, Cantu has seen her fair share of unfortunate events happening during shows.

"Lots of models have fallen down," Cantu said. "One model fell down the stairs but really owned it and kept going."

As many people show interest in her class Cantu waits for them

**Fashion Frenzy**  
Fashion design teacher Eva Cantu enjoys teaching and inspiring students with her love for fashion. Her students learn to design, create and compete with their own pieces while in her program.



## WEAVING NEW IDEAS THROUGHOUT ART CURRICULUM

Stephanie Garcia  
Co-Editor in Chief

Vigorously stabbing the fibers together. Looking back on her previously drawn reference to make sure she can get the sculpture as planned. Progress molding toward the lively and rosy maple moth splashing in the felted rain puddles that she had envisioned. Mixing colors and gently blending it as she works with the wool.

Fibers teacher, Tess Stilwell, started the fibers class five years ago. She majored in ceramics in college and has skills with painting and drawing. Her mother is a seamstress so she grew up sewing and knitting. She later furthered her skill by teaching herself book binding, needle felting, weaving, crochet, including other things along the way.

"If I want to learn how to do a thing, I then figure it out," Stilwell said.

She believes that fibers can be for everybody. The process is simple and often repetitive, which

makes it a calming, slow, and soothing experience for the mind. It keeps the hands occupied. It may seem complicated when it's actually simple to understand.

"I think everyone shouldn't have that fear of 'Oh, I can't do that,'" Stilwell said. "I find it nice to be helping anybody realize when they say 'Oh I can't do that' that they could if they gave themselves a shot."

During the District High School Art Curriculum Day, teachers were going around introducing themselves. While Stilwell was introducing herself, Visual Arts department chair, Ms. Little, mentioned that she would also be teaching sculpture, fibers, and even perhaps a digital class as well as her Art 1. Overwhelmed, Stilwell had to figure out how to prepare her classes. She knew what to do for sculpture, but had no idea what to do for fibers. She decided that she was

going to join a lesson to learn a bit of everything that is considered fiberous.

"There are a lot of different ways you can combine these different ways of thinking," Stilwell said. "And in ways that are not what someone immediately thinks."

The class was shut down abruptly during March 2020 because of Covid-19, making it hard for her students to continue their projects and difficult on her to make the class an effective learning experience. Of course few students had digital issues and getting the grades needed for the class was phenomenally difficult. She started making instruction videos and editing.

"It takes a lot of organization to make a virtual workshop when materials are being provided or a new technique is being taught," Stilwell said.



### Fashioning Fibers

Fibers art teacher, Tess Stilwell, is hard at work with her Anthropomorphic Rosy Maple Moth. She is adding felt and adding more detail as she goes. She moves the wired skeleton so she can cover it with the colors of life. Later she will put on the soft pink raincoat outfit that she has laid out and decorated with a sunny yellow stripe.

Stilwell has designed a class where students have the opportunity to learn about many different modes of fibers to create all kinds of art pieces.

She believes that anyone can benefit from learning fiber crafts and she even creates videos to help students as they go.





# Leaders

## Madam President: Senior Answers Call To Lead

Daniel Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

To be a class president, one must be highly involved and show how much school, pride, and helping others means.

Senior Gricell Garcia became class president because she cares about AHS and about making a difference. Differences such as helping other people promote school spirit and just trying to be involved as much as she can in order to impact other peoples' lives. Garcia also encourages the younger classmen to do their share to help our school as well.

"I like talking to people and helping them find their right path, even though sometimes I don't know what my own path will hold," Garcia said. "Helping others is really good. To me, it encourages myself to be a better person."

She considers being a Hispanic female in leadership a big step, but he hardest part about

being a leader is having everyone else look up to you.

"I put on a brave face about it whenever I'm with other people or trying to speak in public," Garcia said. "I tend to do a really good job of putting up a front and showing that I know what I'm doing even though sometimes I'm like 'oh my gosh what am I doing.'"

When Garcia was younger, she experienced a moment when she thought she could be a future leader. Her cousins could not speak Spanish, and thus could not communicate with their grandmother, so she was put in charge of translating and helping them out. What began for her as one lesson in leadership, then grew for her.

"I can't tell what my future holds," Garcia said. "If it allows me to be a leader then I will be,

but I'm just learning as I go at the moment."

Garcia however has her career goal set in mind to be a pediatric oncologist.

"I'm still only in high school," Garcia said. "I'm still only a kid, so having a lot of people look up to me as to what's going to happen next is stressful, but it's worth it."



**Promoting Leadership**  
Senior Gricell Garcia was voted class president and is excited to lead and guide senior class. Helping others has always been important to her and she is excited to represent the class of 2022.

## Senior Prepares Today For Tomorrow's Leadership

Jordan Hiles, Alicia Buenrostro  
Staff Writers

MCJROTC has helped a lot of people, but one person in particular is Mary Batty. Some people might know her as Elissa Batty, or even the CO (The Commanding Officer) of MCJROTC on campus.

Senior Elissa Batty has a lot to offer and takes on many tasks to help with MCJROTC. She assists with flag details, food drives, and a few other things on campus. Batty spends her time after school either playing with her younger siblings or talking to her brother who is stationed in Virginia for school. She also spends her time working at her job after school.

"After high school, I plan on going to college to become a K-9 officer to help make a difference in others' lives," Batty said.

She plans on going to Alvin Community

College (ACC) to get her associates of the arts in criminal justice to become a K-9 police officer. After serving on the K-9 Police Force for 10-15 years, she wants to start a family of her own and wants to raise them with her family and friends by her side.

Batty has participated in many extracurriculars over the years. She participated in band for 6 years, then in her junior year, she joined MCJROTC and became the CO (captain), and currently works at Cattlemen Western Store as well. She believes leadership is one of her most important attributes.

"I am assertive, and I'm in the top eight percent of the senior class. I have an outgoing personality, I'm funny, I always put family and friends first, and I love meeting new people," Batty said.

She prides herself in being inducted into the National Honor Society, being in the wind ensemble for three of her four years of high school, and being in the AHS Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. After only two years of being in the program, she received the title of Cadet Battalion Commander, or Cadet Captain. Batty will be graduating with proud family and friends.

"The biggest lesson I learn in JROTC is that every decision I make affects the people around me," Batty said. "The best part of being in a leadership role is being able to help my fellow cadets grow as future leaders. I hope these experiences help me to better understand others' situations."



**Goals Meet Dreams**  
Senior Mary Batty is proud of her leadership role in the MCJROTC program and works hard as she tackles her senior year.





# Athletes

## Soccer Ball Hero

Idalia Lira Aleman  
Staff Writer

When he was seven, he was watching a soccer game between Mexico and Panama. Because it was an important game, Mexico had to win. Unfortunately Mexico was losing, but in that moment when he thought everything was lost, player Raul Jimenez scored a bicycle kick to tie.

"It was late in the game and I remember I was happy," Sanchez said. "I knew I wanted to do that when I was older. Be the hero of my country."

AHS has the next soccer legend. Currently captain of the boys varsity soccer team, sophomore Alexis Sanchez plays right mid, and he has a lot to offer. From

a young age he knew he was made for playing soccer.

Last year, Sanchez was the only freshman on the varsity team. Even though a lot of people were happy, some did not agree.

"It was hard to get there," Sanchez said. "I felt like I didn't belong. Being the youngest one there, I felt I was out of place, but at the end of the year I felt comfortable."

With a lot of goals and ambition, Sanchez is willing to fight to achieve all his goals and make his mom proud.

"My major goal is to show my family that you can do what you want as long as you are dedicated and willing to

put time into what you want," Sanchez said.

His ultimate dream is to play in the Premier League Club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, as a mid right and inspire the young audience. He spends time everyday after school, including weekends, practicing to better himself. He knows that all that hard work is going to pay off one day.

"Keep working," Sanchez said. "Talent doesn't mean anything. Hard work is what defines you."

Sanchez is willing to take more steps to the path of success. Meanwhile, Sanchez is ready to make his coach proud this soccer season and hopefully make it to the playoffs.



Courtesy Photo  
Kicking Big Goals

Sophomore Alexis Sanchez defending the ball during a game last season. Sanchez said that soccer has always been a dream and he won't give it up anytime soon.

## Going for the Goal

## Staying Afloat

Allie Najacht  
Staff Writer

## Facing Water Polo Challenges

She breathed in and out, calming her nerves as she was preparing to play the last game of the season with the team she loved. The team gathered around and talked about the game plan and what they could do to take home a victory. They were all smiles as they began to warm up.

Sophomore Jillian Bates is a truly hardworking and determined person when it comes to doing what she loves, such as playing her favorite sport, water polo.

"I've wanted to play water polo ever since my brother started playing and I actually learned what the sport was about," Bates said. "All throughout my 7th and 8th grade year, I went to as many high school games as I could and watched every moment so that I could learn the game before my freshman year."

Watching and learning the game was always something she was passionate about, even before she began to play the game. To Bates, the sport is rare and not spoken of often.

"Water polo is such an interesting and unusual sport, which is why I love it so much," Bates said. "There is always something new you can learn and there is never a dull

polo," Bates said. "We are a part of a club team, Southside Badgers, where we attend practices every week throughout the entire year. This is the team we go to the



Courtesy Photo

### Dominate or Drown

With ten seconds left on the clock, Jillian Bates makes a pass to set in the final period of the game against Sarasota.

moment during a game or practice."

She never stops learning things from the upperclassmen and her coaches as she continues her years on water polo teams, in school and outside of school.

"For me, and several other Alvin Water polo players, school isn't the only place where we play

Junior Olympics with and travel with to play the sport we love."

Bates is a determined player with dreams of getting a polo scholarship. She hopes to attend Mount St. Mary's University as it has been her dream college since she first started playing.

## A Knockout Experience

Katrina Tadlock  
Staff Writer

### How Boxing Changed a Life

While sparring a guy with 7 years of experience, with only three months of learning, Ramirez got in the ring and did his thing. His opponent had beat him up badly. While dizzy and bloody, his coach then walked up to him and asked if he was okay. Though seeing three of himself, Ramirez got up and proceeded to the second round. After getting beat up again, he got up one last time for the third round, and with one hit, he got up on the floor and won.

Junior Joaquin Ramirez started box-

ing around two years ago. He started boxing because he wanted to learn how to fight for himself and his family for protection. He goes to Muay Thai Academy to box at 7:00pm and finishes at 8:00pm. In addition, he also works out every morning before school to stay active.

"Boxing makes me more disciplined and focused," Ramirez said. "And I box to be a champion. I started boxing because I wanted to feel better about my body. Then I found out I was good at it."

Boxing has helped

Ramirez become more confident in his own skin, and he has gotten really good at boxing with all of the practice he's been doing throughout the years.

"It's good to know how to defend yourself in serious situations," Ramirez said.

He has learned how much happier he is when he is boxing and not sitting around not doing anything. He prefers to stay busy perfecting his skills.

"Boxing has taught me to keep working hard and to not give up no matter what's going on," Ramirez said.

## UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS

Class of 2022

### Senior Panoramic Photo

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH @ 9:00AM  
PRICING RANGES FROM \$30-60. MAKE SURE TO BRING PAYMENT TO PURCHASE AND RECEIVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS THE NEXT DAY DURING LUNCH.

### Cap & Gown Orders

BALFOUR WILL BE ON CAMPUS ONE LAST TIME TO TAKE ORDERS DURING ALL THREE LUNCHES. BE SURE TO BRING CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD FOR PAYMENT.

### Kid Day

COME DRESSED IN COSTUMES SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU WORE ON YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND PARTICIPATE IN KID DAY ACTIVITIES ON MARCH 4TH. TROPHIES WILL BE REWARDED TO BEST COSTUMES!

### Typhoon Texas

GRAB YOUR TICKETS FOR THE SENIOR TRIP TO TYPHOON TEXAS WATERPARK ON MAY 13! TICKETS ARE \$50 WITH THE PRICE INCREASING EACH MONTH.



# Innovators

## Freshman Finds Picture Perfect Opportunities

Kyleigh Elmore  
Staff Writer

As she kneels down in an intense focus, nothing could distract her. She adjusts her angle and gets closer as she gets ready to take the picture. \*click\* She takes the picture of her family's first Christmas together.

Freshman Aaliyah Moore partakes in photography at AHS and home as a hobby. She likes using photography as a way to relieve stress and clear her mind. Moore has been doing photography for two years outside of school, but joined a photography class this school year. She takes her pictures with a Nikon DSLR and likes using different editing features, such as saturation and Monochrome filters.

"I like taking pictures of people with unusual or unique facial features," Moore said.

Her favorite photograph she's taken is of a student in her pho-

tography class, sophomore Checotah Morris. In the photo, he had silver coiled stickers on his face with light and filter editing. This is her favorite picture because, with his strong facial features, it looks cool.

Moore enjoys photography because there are no rules to it and you can make it whatever you want it to be. It has helped her express things through pictures when she couldn't verbally express them.

"I would recommend photography to anyone who just needs something to help them calm down and feel stress free," Moore said.



courtesy photos



### Picture This

Freshman Aaliyah Moore has taken up the hobby of photography and has found it to be a great way to be creative and also finds the activity calming and fun. She enjoys her past time so much that she encourages others to look to photography for a relaxing, fun hobby.

## A Showman's World

Lexi Ventura  
Staff Writer

Sophomore Christopher Trevino is a dedicated, devoted, and strong-willed member of AHS' theater arts program. He first joined during his freshman year and has since continued his journey in his new place of comfort. He has now found a family within the theater community and has decided to call it his home.

"To put it simply, I needed a fine art credit," Trevino said. "I've orbited around electives trying to find what I liked, or rather find me. I was swiftly adopted into the theater family when I joined."

Trevino has starred in several plays ever

since he first joined the school's theater arts program. One of his favorites being one of his most latest roles, Colonel Mustard, in the school's recent play, *Clue*.

"The Colonel is a really strange and interesting character indeed," Trevino said.

In *Clue*, Colonel Mustard's role is characterized by a military man who is dignified, yet dangerous, as he remains storming around the stage demanding answers.

"As much as I love my, Oscar worthy, three lines in *Rough Magic*, as well as the fancy elegance of *Grimly*, Colonel Mustard

is the most fun thing I've done all year," Trevino said. "Running across the stage being the most dumb man on the face of earth was amazing."

Trevino has also done many other activities in the theater arts department, including helping around with the sets.

"The theater arts class has rehearsals for our shows all the time," Trevino said. "Our most recent focus is the play, *The Little Mermaid*."

With his overflowing passion and enthusiastic spirit, Trevino continues to thrive and is trying his hardest in advancing his talents.



### Farce Meets Murder Mystery

Actor Christopher Trevino performing as Colonel Mustard in the school's first play after hiatus due to COVID-19. Pictured with fellow actors, Bradley Perkins and Alex Blanco. He said this role has been his favorite thus far.

## Hard Work & Motivation

Hayley Touchet  
Staff Writer

A wonderful, helpful student who lets nothing get in his way of succeeding in his classes, and won't let anyone get in his way of helping his fellow classmates, friends, or family.

Passionate about everything he does, sophomore Davian Yzquierdo is in JROTC and Acapella choir as a bass.

"JROTC builds character, such as leading, listening, and following," Yzquierdo said.

He volunteers at the food drive every Wednesday, from 4:00 to 7:30, and also does flag details presenting the colors at football and soccer games. There are six parts of the program. First is the freshman PT team who participate in different exercises for different competitions. Then their unarmed drill team, their armed team that participates in drills with rifles, and the shooting team that shoots for score and other competition, and academics who study information about the

Marine Corps. They wear uniform once a week, with upperclassmen and upper ranks in dress blue uniform and other cadets in a camo uniform.

"JROTC has taught me the meaning of hard work, and to always fight for what's right," Yzquierdo said.

Yzquierdo is also an Acapella choir member and has been in the choir program since 7th grade, but took every opportunity he could get in elementary. As a bass in the Acapella choir he has worked hard to sight read and alter his voice to fit the music. With music being a big part of his life, he's always liked singing since he knew how to talk. Choir, to him, is family. They're all brothers and sisters in the class and see the choir directors, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Simonson, less as teachers and more as best friends who take many risks to create the best.

"Choir teaches me to be myself and to always shoot for the stars," Yzquierdo said.

Yzquierdo finds his strengths and capabilities whenever he's in choir. When he made fifth chair in the region program for choir, he was known for helping his fellow choir members with their music, especially in their state season.

"These extracurricular activities have inspired me in many different ways," Yzquierdo said. "I believe that by working hard in all that you do, that anyone could achieve their greatest goals."



Twofold Leader  
Sophomore Davian Yzquierdo dressed in JROTC uniform



# Motivators

## The Impact Of A Smile

Mahmure Iagjioglu  
Staff Writer

People don't often stop to check on others. They don't worry about the classmates around them or try to think about ways to make them crack a smile. Many don't even know the names of their fellow students they've shared classes with for years.

Senior Antonio Esquivel is part of a smaller population of the student body. He's one of those students that go out of their way to speak to almost anybody and everybody. Esquivel isn't afraid to strike up a conversation or get people laughing, even complete strangers, and finds great pride in putting others first.

"People that are quiet

usually don't care," Esquivel said. "It's the people that seem annoying who care the most. I want to show others I care."

Esquivel is an active participant in band, student council, and other school activities. He's commonly known for randomly coming up to other students and asking them about their day or simply getting to know them. If one was to ask if Esquivel knows everybody, the answer would be a "yes."

"I always think about ways to make people smile," Esquivel said. "It's as simple as telling someone to have a great day. I don't let it get to me when others seem disinterested or

annoyed."

Esquivel believes negative emotions are temporary and suggests not taking it personally when others are rude. He encourages practicing forgiveness over bitterness.

"Like lava, sooner or later they'll cool down," Esquivel said.

Esquivel's extroverted character has been built up throughout the years. Going from a shy kid in elementary school, to the bright, social person he is today.

"When you look out for everybody else, people sometimes forget to look out for you," Esquivel said. "Don't do that. Look out for others."

### Be A Friend To All

Antonio Esquivel is known for his enthusiasm and heart warming personality. He enjoys having a good time in school and getting to know his peers. He says he just enjoys making people smile and be happy.



## Building Community From Within

Raegan Frankum  
Staff Writer

She always knew she had a goal to help people, so she found the perfect job to help every day.

Jessika McBride is the Community In Schools (CIS) representative at AHS. She has been teaching for 8 years and one year in CIS. She became a CIS representative because CIS allows her to connect with students, and have an avenue to help many people, just like she always wanted to do.

CIS is a place where students can go to for all their personal needs or to get advice and help if needed.

"I always knew wanted to help people in various ways," McBride said. "CIS allows

me to do that."

If she wasn't working in schools, then she would be a social worker. McBride is a 2007 Alvin High grad, and came back to work on campus 14 years later. She likes being a CIS representative because she can help students and they can trust her with their stories.

"CIS is a safe place for kids to come to with any problem and know that an adult will be there to help," McBride said.

A positive of her job is that she can build relationships, but a negative is that it is mentally taxing, but she still considers it all worth it.

"Is it emotion-

ally heavy some days? Sure," McBride said. "But the positives always outweigh the negatives."

CIS provides different support in various platforms that can be for basic needs such as shoes, clothes, hygiene products, or even academic support with grades and school work. She also helps with mental support for issues students may have going on.

"This job is 100% getting to connect with the students," McBride said.

CIS is useful on campus because it gives another layer of support for students who need as much support on campus as home.



### Cultivating Community

CIS Representative Jessika McBride is excited to help students every day. Her facilities are located in the LK building.

## Always Find Ways To Remain In the Spotlight

Natalie Horton  
Staff Writer

Walking into the Performing Arts Center, freshman Federico Gonzalez was anxious with anticipation. Today was the day he would see if all of his hard work had paid off. The cast list would be put up. That's when he saw it. He walked up and his heart lifted out of his chest. He had achieved his dream.

Gonzalez was the understudy for Sebastian in the school's musical, *The Little Mermaid*, on Jan. 21-22. It is his first year auditioning, performing, and even being in theater. He hopes to use this opportunity given to him to create more theatrical opportunities for him in the near and far future. He hopes continuing in theater will prepare him for a possible career in acting and maybe even directing.

"The thought of the rush and adrenaline before a show or while

you're in the spotlight is just so exciting to me," Gonzalez said. "AHS' theater provides me with a welcoming environment with fun people where I can learn about the basics of theater."

The idea itself of just acting inspired Gonzalez to join the school's theatre program. He is amazed by the idea of his image living on forever in a movie or TV show.

"To me, acting is not easy," Gonzalez said. "Which is what makes it so beautiful. Being able to express someone's art through a character you're playing is amazing to me."

After his inspiration struck, Gonzalez joined the cast in hopes of preparing himself for what he hopes will become his future. Learning the set up of the stage and other factors of performing are all things he can take with him into his future

career.

"This being my first time ever auditioning, getting a part was really exciting," Gonzalez said. "Being able to express myself really allows my worries to leave my body and set me free. I want people to feel the raw emotion of my acting."

As a freshman with no prior experience, having an understudy role in the musical is a big deal to Gonzalez.

He is really proud of his endeavor. Being able to see a big role like Sebastian through someone else's eyes is really helpful to him. He enjoys being able to bounce ideas off of someone and being able to develop the character with someone else familiar with the character.

"Little Mermaid being my first ever performance has given me a lot to learn," Gonzalez said. "I'm always striving to



### Theater of Fun

Gonzalez looking through costumes backstage and preparing for *The Little Mermaid*. Gonzales has found his niche by joining the theater department and is looking forward to three more years of fun and excitement.

get better."

In order to prepare for his roles, Gonzalez has taken to watching videos and listening to the music to get the voices down and make it

sound as realistic as possible. Adding an accent for Sebastian, or making his voice deeper for the Sailor, really helps him add a sense of character when rehearsing.

"I'm super excited to finally perform this show," Gonzalez said. "All of the hard work we have put in will finally be worth it."





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