



# Creating Iris-istible Arrangements

Alexandra Najacht  
Assistant Editor

## Advanced Floral Design Students Learn Floral Business Basics

Eyes dart across the table in front of them, flowers, ribbons, and a variety of vases all scattered. Pictures in their brains shyly begin to show themselves as the arrangements come to life. All the students finally step away from their creations and sigh with content.

Teacher Courtney Webb, the school's floral design teacher, does more than just teach about flowers, she teaches about the tools, arrangements, and different certifications you can get while taking the course.

"So through FFA, we have our floriculture team, which consists of four students and they go and compete as a team. The makeup of the contest is floral ID, a test. They also have practicum as well and then tool ID is also a part of that as well," Webb said.

Competitions are a big part of FFA and floral life, so Webb does her best to teach flower and tool ID early on.

"So the big thing is studying the full ID list, being sure that we can identify the plants and flowers that are on the list. That's a big part of it, so I try to set up our practices as if it was a real contest. Having live plants, having live flowers or cutting flowers so

they have hands-on experience so they aren't just looking at them when they go to a contest," Webb said.

Each year Webb gives promising floral design students the opportunity to show off their skills at the FFA competitions.

"When we go and compete, only four can actually compete, but they take the top three scores from those four. I can take as many as I want. And so this year I'm gonna try to bring eight to ten kids. I can train them up so when my current kids graduate I have new ones to help the younger kids," Webb said.

Webb said she hadn't had a creative bone in her body before she knew floral existed and now here she is teaching it.

"When I did my student teaching, my mentor teacher had owned a floral shop for like 20 years. Everything I learned I had picked up from her and over the years I just exposed myself to getting out of my comfort zone and I just fell in love with it."

There are so many steps to take to get past the difficult aspects to floral design, but it's a class made for fun and determination.

"The most challenging thing about floral design would be remembering where and exactly how to place the flowers in all the different flower arrangements, but my favorite part is seeing my designs come to life from my head," junior Emma Babineaux said.

Each year comes with new challenges for students and teachers and with Webb being on Maternity leave for the time being, her students are going to continue to work hard until she gets back so they are prepared for contests and certifications.

"I'm having a baby, but when I come back, I'm really hoping to get these kids some hands-on experience with a round design. I'm just really trying to get them exposed to as many different arrangements as possible so that they can figure out if this is something they'd want to study," Webb said.

Webb and the advanced floral classes wanted to try something new last year and hope to continue it this year to deeper explore the realm of careers in floral design.

"It's a way for us to be able to work with more flowers without the cost associated with the class-

room budget. Last year was the first year, so we just offered it to teachers and staff on campus. They would pay a fee and we would deliver an arrangement at the end of the month. The advanced kids do the designing, the planning, every aspect of the subscription. So again, that gives them some business side of things," Webb said.

The students always do their best to support teachers so when floral design got the chance to give back to the teachers they didn't hesitate to



### Eyes For Design

Students in floral classes are learning foundations of floral design. Students can take intro floral to receive an art credit, but many students find joy in the craft. Those students can go on to advanced floral design and can even compete in floral competitions.

show off their support in a way catered to them.

"I signed up for the subscription because I wanted to support the floral design class and I love having fresh flowers. I thought the arrangements were very

pretty and represented the seasons/holidays well. I know how important it is to support

the different fine arts," teacher Lacey Stewart said.

# Celebrate An Evening Of Student Success

From Staff Reports

Students who have demonstrated academic and service excellence were celebrated by being initiated into the AHS Chapter of the National Honor Society on Oct. 12. The National Honor Society welcomed 115 new members at the induction ceremony. NHS is led by sponsors Christi Strange and Michelle Deleon.

"Our induction ceremony is all about honoring those achievements and providing them with the opportunity to see how proud their school, family, and community is of their success," Strange said.



Photography by: Yearbook staffer  
Adrian Garcia





# News

## Recognized For Excellence Always An Advocate

Stephanie Garcia  
Editor in Chief

Hard work doesn't only require dedication. It involves heart, care, courage, sincerity, and an eye for detail.

Teacher Eva Cantu was nominated for the Outstanding Hispanic teacher award by the Brazoria County Chamber of Commerce. Cantu was also awarded Teacher of the year for AHS two years ago.

"She is very deserving of her accolades as she not only prepares students to be educators and teaches them life skills like sewing. She is also a wonderful

role model not only for hispanic students but all students," Principal Karen Taylor said.

Since receiving her bachelor's degree of science, Eva Cantu has been teaching for around 20 years in the Sciences/ Career and Technology department at this high-school.

"Mrs. Cantu is truly one of a kind and we love her," Karen Taylor said.

She teaches a variety of classes, fashion design 1 and 2, principle of human services, Instructional Practices of Education, and Practicum of Educa-

tion. Furthermore her students are involved with the Nasa Hutch program.

"Her students make items that astronauts use in space. Mrs. Cantu truly is one of a kind and we love her."

Cantu is hardworking and sees that each student is capable of great things.



Natalie Horton  
Staff Writer

This year former teacher Marie Tucker finally took on the transition from teacher to administrator after having her certification for years as she led the AVID program and worked with countless students during the span of her teaching career. Over the summer, she just said it felt it was right to make a change, especially with the opening here.

"This year my title is Assistant Principal," Tucker said. "Some of the main things I work with are working with teachers to try and help them manage ways to become better teachers, to improve their skills as teachers so students can learn. And then honestly, the best way I can say it is to try to help make Alvin High School a safe environment for every kid."

Tucker strives every day to help teachers and students all across campus whether that's talking to students, helping in classrooms, or attending meetings for the betterment of our school. She wants what is best for everyone on campus and truly cares for the students and staff around her.

"I knew I wanted to take things I did as a teacher, not saying I'm perfect, and try to help other people," Tucker said. "Whether it be students that weren't in my class, maybe to help them or teachers that I didn't get to see everyday."

Tucker really wants to use her position as a way to help our school become a better learning environment. The switch felt right for her because she wants to help Alvin High School feel like a better place. Her experience prior as a teacher really helps her to achieve her goal to make learning better for her students.

"There's an old saying, you don't know what you got till it's gone," Tucker said.

Her day isn't exactly the same, though. She says she is pulled in so many different directions throughout the day instead of having structured class periods. She has to learn a thousand kids' names instead of just the ones in her class throughout the day. Tucker didn't realize all the secret benefits of being a teacher until she didn't have them anymore. It's

much different than she's used to, but in a positive way.

"My favorite part so far is I've really got to meet some students that I feel genuinely need somebody on their side," Tucker said.

Tucker loves to get to know students around campus and be there for them. She said likes to be there for kids who need someone to listen to them and be there for them. Her favorite part of this new job position is being able to help students whenever they truly need help.



Long time teacher, Marie Tucker, has taken on a new role as assistant principal. Once an AVID instructor, Tucker looks forward to helping different students in new capacities as an AP.

## Gaining Success On Class and Field

Gabriel Neito  
Staff Writer

Baseball pitcher Cooper Williams is recognized for more than his great work on the mound. The junior was recently recognized as a high performing student athlete by Fox 23 news, and was featured in the "Making The Grade" segment. Williams maintains a high GPA as he takes many AP classes.

"It was a really big honor because I always tried to work hard on my grades and then also on the field and just putting

those both together and it's just a mission accomplished," Williams said.

Williams has decided he wants to attend Texas A&M University after graduation, as both his parents attended the school and it has been his dream school since he was little. He is a pitcher and first baseman for Alvin highschool baseball team. Cooper credits his parents for his academic success, which instilled the drive in him to always be willing to succeed.



Junior Cooper Williams is successful on the field and in the classroom. His friends are also celebrating his success.

## Providing Ways To Cope With Stress And Anxiety

Katelyn Moore  
Staff Writer

One thing kids struggle with the most in school isn't Math, or English. It's their mental state of mind.

School takes a major toll on people's mindset, the stress from exams, tests, and after school extracurricular activities. People use coping mechanisms to help with the stress of school. People that can help with stress and anxiety, etc. are counselors, or teachers you feel comfortable talking to about the issues. There are many counselors around the campus that can help with developing coping mechanisms.

"One coping mechanism that I tell my students to use is the '5-4-3-2-1 coping technique.' This technique helps you shift your focus to your surroundings in the present moment and away from what is causing you to feel anxious," CIS coordinator Jessika McBride said.

The '5-4-3-2-1 technique' is when you want to pay attention to breathing and focus on taking slow, deep breaths. Once breathing is under control, start tapping into the surroundings and try to find:

"If you are still feeling anxious, you can repeat the numbers but try going into more detail... 'I see the green plant sitting on my teacher's brown desk next to the purple picture frame,' until you can feel your body and mind relax," McBride said.

Being a teenager in high school is both one of the best time periods in student's young adult life and also one of the most stressful. Between school work, jobs, learning to drive, friend and home issues, and just general self reflection and discovery. It is important to make sure that students not only learn and implement self care but that they also surround themselves with positive people and

environments. One person can drastically impact their mental health, both positively or negatively so you need to be aware of who you are friends with.

"I personally deal with anxiety. My anxiety really took off my junior year of high school and because mental health wasn't talked about as much in 2006, I wasn't diagnosed until I was in my mid 20s," McBride said. "Therapy/Counseling is a GOOD thing and it is what helped me learn coping skills and gave me a safe space to talk about my worries."

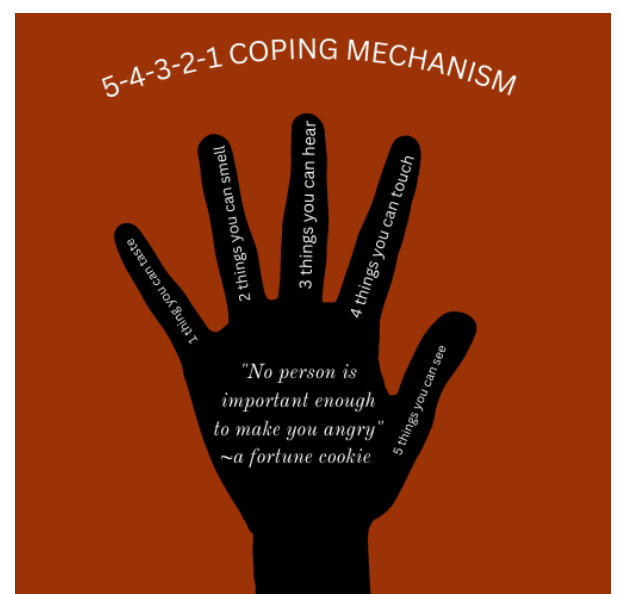
Mental health is such an important topic and should be spoken about openly and without fear of judgment. Emotions, fears, worries...they are all normal. McBride said she hopes more than anything that the students here at AHS know that her room will ALWAYS be a safe place to come process their situations with a person that cares.

Some students have obtained their own coping mechanisms, such as listening to music, cleaning their room, doing self care, going out with friends, etc. Some people journal their feelings in a notebook or diary so they have a way to release all of the bottled up emotions instead of getting too frustrated and "blowing up" on someone.

People also use comfort items as a way to cope with all the struggles they are dealing with in their lives. They also have comfort people, like artists, singers, fictional characters, book characters, etc.

"A way I use to cope with my struggles is by listening to Lana Del Rey. I discovered her music when I was going through a very rough patch in my life. I started listening to her in ninth grade when my depression was really bad. Live, Laugh, Lana Del Rey," junior Mario Valdez said.

Students can find access to help at school through various counselors around campus who offer tools to assist the students.





# Opinions

## Student Forges Ahead, Thankful For the Lessons



Miriam Lara  
Staff Writer

Nacida entre padres Mexicanos y criada en Estados Unidos como primera generación americana es un reto , porque mis padres dejaron todo lo que ellos algún día conocieron y lo que fue hogar por muchos años. Mis padres a lo largo de su travesía para venir a este país hicieron muchos sacrificios con la esperanza de tener una mejor vida y darme lo que ellos no tuvieron . Mis padres dejaron a su familia para encontrar mejores oportunidades en este país, a pesar de haber llegado sin nada y haber tenido que empezar desde cero y sin el conocimiento de otro idioma, desde ahí han construido poco a poco lo que hoy tienen . A pesar de que mis padres no tuvieron las mismas oportunidades en cuanto al tema de estudios por la falta de recursos , ellos me han enseñado que a base de esfuerzo todo se puede y que si tu te propones una meta, tu la puedes lograr. Estos consejos dados por mi madre y padre siempre me han motivado a terminar mis estudios porque yo misma he experimentado lo que es no tener ciertas comodidades, los dos trabajan de sol hasta puesta del sol para poder proveer la comida que ponen en la mesa y esto ha sido algo que me motivaba día a día . Se que algun día todo lo que ellos sufrieron será recompensado porque yo me encargare de que ellos no tengan que trabajar de sol a sol nunca más . Desde los cinco años sentí una responsabilidad muy grande porque aparte de ser la mayor de mis dos hermanitos menores tengo que ser un buen ejemplo para ellos y sacar a mi familia adelante ,enfrente muchos obstáculos en el camino para empezar en mi casa , mis padres no hablaban otro idioma solo español , y cuando emenze mi primer año escolar me sentía muy perdida por la impotencia de no entender el inglés , al igual no sabía leer ni escribir y a base de mi esfuerzo logre aprender y dominar el inglés en 2 años . Otro obstáculo que enfrente fue tener que aprender a traducir , adicionalmente por que mis padres no sabían inglés tuve un peso muy grande encima de mi, aparte de aprender y dominar el inglés tuve que aprender a

traducir a una corta edad . nadie me guió durante todo el proceso yo sola me tuve que enfrentar a estos obstáculos y hoy día me siento agradecida por haber caminado sola porque gracias a eso aprendí que no todo es fácil y que uno tiene que tropezar muchas veces y seguir adelante. Esto me ha enseñado mucha determinación y perseverancia . Tal vez la falta de alguien que me guíe me haga falta aun mas pero con el apoyo de mis padres es suficiente. mi experiencia siendo primera generación americana ha sido muy difícil he pasado muchas noches con estrés y siempre pensando sobre mi futuro y como puedo sacar a mi familia adelante, ansiedad y muchas lágrimas y desveladas , pero se que esto no es nada comparado con los esfuerzos que mis padres hicieron para poder darme lo que ellos no tuvieron . Ahora que solo me faltan unos cuantos años para poder graduarme , se está acumulando la incertidumbre y muchas dudas de como se verá mi futuro porque sigo caminando sola y porque mis padres solo me apoyan y no me pueden aconsejar ahora más que nada me gustaria que me aconsejaran en como formar mi futuro pero quiero que sepan que todo lo que hago es por y para ellos . Mi mayor inspiración para seguir adelante y no dejar que algo me derrumbe por más difícil que sea es poder representar mi bandera mexicana y mi apellido, estas experiencias me han moldeado a ser más determinada y mirar para atrás . Gracias a ellos puedo decir que mis padres me lo han dado todo y esta es mi manera de agradecerles todos sus esfuerzos y lo que han hecho por mi. Hoy gracias a mis padres yo misma me he propuesto graduarme y aprovechar al máximo todas las oportunidades que mis padres no tuvieron , y lo más importante, mis estudios. Tal vez ser primera generación americana tenga sus obstáculos, pero estoy agradecida de que mis padres me enseñaron a tener mis prioridades siempre claras. Quiero que mis padres se sientan orgullosos de mis logros y de mí, quiero que ellos sientan que al final de cuentas sus sacrificios valieron la pena .

Born to Mexican parents and raised in the United States as a first generation American is a challenge, because my parents left everything they once knew and what was home to them for many years.

My parents made many sacrifices throughout their journey to come to this country in the hopes of having a better life and giving me what they couldn't have. My parents left their family to find better opportunities in this country, despite having arrived with nothing and having to start from scratch and without knowing another language, from there they have gradually built what they have today. Despite the fact that my parents did not have the same opportunities regarding the subject of studies due to the lack of resources, they taught me that with effort everything is possible and that if you set a goal for yourself, you can achieve it. This advice given by my mother and father has always motivated me to finish my studies because I myself have experienced what it is like not to have certain comforts, both of my parents work from sunup to sundown to be able to provide the food they put on the table and this has been something that motivates me day to day. I know that one day everything they suffered will be compensated because I will make sure that they do not have to work from sunrise to sunset anymore.

From the age of five, I felt a very great responsibility because aside from being the eldest of my two younger siblings I have to be a good example for them and take my family forward, facing many obstacles along the way to start in my house, my parents didn't speak another language, only Spanish, and when I started my first school year, I felt very lost due to the impotence of not understanding English, just as I did not know how to read or write. Based on my effort, I was able to learn and master English within 2 years.

Another obstacle I faced was having to learn to translate, additionally because my parents did not know English. I had a very heavy weight on me, apart from learning and mastering English, I had to learn to translate at a young age. No one guided

me throughout these processes, and I alone had to face these obstacles. I feel grateful for having walked alone because I learned that not everything is easy and that one has to stumble many times and move forward. This has taught me a lot of determination and perseverance.

Perhaps the lack of someone to guide me makes me need guidance now more than ever , but with the support of my parents it is enough.

My experience as a first generation American has been very difficult. I have spent many nights with stress and always thinking about my future and how I can get my family forward, anxiety and many tears and sleepless nights, but I know that this is nothing compared to the efforts that my parents did to be able to give me what they didn't have.

Now that I only have a few years left to graduate, uncertainty is accumulating and many doubts about what my future will look like because I continue to walk alone and because my parents only support me and cannot advise me , now more than ever I wish they could advise me on how to shape my future, but I want them to know that everything I do is for them. My biggest inspiration to keep going and not let something bring me down no matter how difficult it is is to be able to represent my Mexican flag and my last name, and these experiences have shaped me to be more determined and never look back. Thanks to them I can say that my parents have given me everything and this is my way of thanking them for all their efforts and what they have done for me.

Today, thanks to my parents, I myself have decided to graduate and make the most of all the opportunities that my parents did not have and, most importantly, my studies. Perhaps being a first-generation American has its obstacles, but I am grateful that my parents taught me to have my priorities always clear.

I want my parents to feel proud of my achievements and of me, and I want them to feel that in the end their sacrifices were worth it.

## Jacket-tastic Favorites

### What Is Your Favorite Television Series?



Finding Dory because it is inspirational,” Jay Ranjel said.

“I like She Hulk because the main character is very smart and also very realistic,” English teacher Angela Collins



I like the Minions because they are funny and make me laugh, “ Jayden Rodriguez.

I like Heartland because I like horses a lot,” Aixa Deleon said.



Scooby Doo is my favorite becaue they have fun adventures and solve mysteries,” Delaney Blythe said.

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# Jackets Create

## Creative Writing



The news staff would like to provide an opportunity to showcase student work in our published paper. If you have an art or creative writing piece you would like to share for future publications, then please email it to: [jtompkins@alvinisd.net](mailto:jtompkins@alvinisd.net).

### *The Rotten*

By Emily Rotten,  
- An excerpt

It’s the middle of June in Texas, and with the sun hotter than ever, Mark peered out of a broken window. The smell of The Rotten was ever-present. He had two choices, one, stay on the eleventh floor and get eaten alive, or two, jump and hope to survive the fall. He quickly ripped curtains from the windows, The Rotten banging on the door, tore the sheets off of every bed, the smell was getting stronger, fumbling for any tool that he could use to fashion a makeshift parachute. Crack! They’re in. With lightning speed, Mark flung open the nearest window, and with his makeshift parachute tied against his waist he jumped. The wind whistled as he plummeted, his heart raced faster than ever before. Mark had gone sky-diving. But this was different. This time there was no safe landing, this time his parachute wasn’t safely attached, This time, he might die.

Mark wakes up, he’s safe, The Rotten thought he was dead. But now there are more pressing matters to attend to. Starting with the huge gash on his arm. He started by ripping up his makeshift parachute. Using the ripped sheets, he tightly tied them around

his wound, stopping the blood from flowing from his arm. Who knows how long he had been bleeding. He couldn’t stay any longer, he could smell The Rotten, and they could smell him. Doing his best, Mark staggered down the cracked road, filled with blood stains and body parts. Mark stopped, there, across the street! He knew that body! It was his step-brother Jeremy, he couldn’t believe it. Right there in front of him was the blue-eyed, red-haired, fun-loving step-brother!

How could this have happened? He was supposed to be on holiday, ten miles south of Chicago, not here in New Texas. Mike could remember fondly the time they had on the marshes of Texas before returning to New Texas. The world was already in ruins- No! This is not the time to think about the past. That wouldn’t keep him alive now. He has to keep pressing on and find a place to rest.

Mark travels through the city and, despite what you might think, wasn’t in ruins, in fact, it was quite the opposite, ignoring the blood splatters, body parts, and The Rotten, the city was clean. No broken windows, no cracked buildings, no

fires, no nothing! It was as if everything had happened overnight and nobody had any time to react, but he knew it wasn’t true. There, perfect! Mark thought. A fully-intact police station, now all he had to do was find a way in. All of the windows were closed, the doors were barricaded, and The Rotten could be smelled from within.

This wasn’t good, night was approaching, and fast, The Rotten fed at night and he was as good as dead if he stayed on the streets. And even a gas station, with all of its windows, would be better than the streets. It was an easy choice, the gas station’s bathroom should do. It was hard for Mark to do it, but the women’s bathroom was safer than the men’s, it had more stalls, or so he hoped. One... two... three... he stepped into the women’s bathroom, which was smaller than expected. But that was okay. It was a safe place to sleep, and in the apocalypse, that’s all that matters. Mark was stocked on food and drinks, but he needed a more permanent food source and a way to purify water. Water is far more important than food, but food takes time to grow....

## Photography & Art



Photo by:  
Genesis Garcia, junior



Art by:  
Jennifer Bozeman, senior



Photo by:  
Mia Castillo, senior



Art by:  
Allison Gonzales



Photo by  
Elbryan Evans

### *Remember When*

by Katelyn Moore

Remember when we used to cry  
So loud so our parents would give  
The attention we wanted, and  
to acknowledge  
We are upset.

Now we cry silently,  
Screaming silently into our pillow  
Late at night  
To make sure no one hears us.

Remember when we used to  
Leave our doors wide open  
Because we feared the  
Monsters under our bed  
And scared of the dark

Now we hardly ever leave  
Or open the door because we  
Somehow find comfort in the  
Loneliness of our own space.

### *Peace*

by Allie Najacht

I’m happiest at night, when my thoughts can be let loose. But also I just think I have a deeper connection to night time, to the moon and stars. I imagine my brain being night and all my thoughts; the tiny twinkling lights that scatter across the sky. They look gentle and small but when in reality they’re enormous and anything but gentle. They’re made of gas and fire. Not what you would expect from something that looks so harmless.

Like me, you look at me and expect me to be normal, but I’m just a girl with balls of gas and fire lighting up her brain, making it impossible to think clearly, to think through the anxiousness. But at night when I look at the stars, my constant, never ending cycle of thinking isn’t so loud, it quiets down as if my thoughts themselves really are the stars, they stop because they have a new job, painting the night sky.

### *Anger*

by Paola Renteria

I believe in anger.  
I believe in the impulsiveness and adrenaline that comes with it.  
That uncontrollable inner voice that just bursts out without my permission, without my control.



Peaceful Sky  
Photo By: Jessica Tompkins

Alvin High School

the Clarion

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Editor Staff

Editor in Chief:

Stephanie Garcia

Assistant editor: Alexandra Najacht

Advisor: Jessica Tompkins

Principal: Karen Taylor

ALVIN HIGH SCHOOL 802 S. JOHNSON ST ALVIN, TX

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