

GOOSE CREEK CISD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

STUDENTS'
Choice

A W A R D S B A N Q U E T

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
IMPACT Early College High School

Thank You

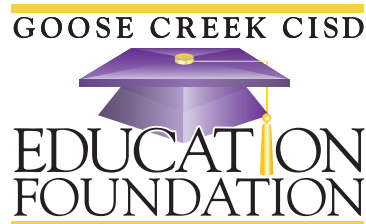
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FLORAL DESIGNS BY

Stuart's Blooming Florists of Stuart Career Tech High School.
Thank you for designing and assembling the floral centerpieces.

the PROGRAM

STUDENTS' CHOICE

ENTERTAINMENT

*Ross S. Sterling High School Reverb Show Choir
under direction of Dylan Fornshell*

Introduction

Dr. Anna Espinoza

Welcome

Adelina Gomez-Abshire

Pledge

Ashley Shibley

Invocation

Jim Wadzinski

DINNER

Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Randal O'Brien

Student and Teacher Video

Community Engagement Team

Recognition of Students and Teachers

Natalia Matusz

Adelina Gomez-Abshire

Dr. Anna Espinoza

Dr. Randal O'Brien

Education Foundation Board

Closing

Dr. Anna Espinoza

1



OVER
\$2,199,765
MILLION
AWARDED
IN INNOVATIVE TEACHING
GRANTS AND
DESIGNATED DONATIONS
FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

\$187,930
AWARDED FOR
INNOVATIVE
TEACHING
GRANTS IN 2024



2

GRANT SURPRISE
PATROL
AWARDED
55 GRANTS
TO
97 TEACHERS
AT 26 CAMPUSES

3



\$766,340
IN-KIND
DONATIONS
FROM 2010-2024



4



\$136,574
RAISED FROM
GET ON THE BUS
CAMPAIGN
IN 2024

1,551
GET ON
THE BUS
PARTICIPANTS
FOR THE 2023-2024
SCHOOL YEAR

6



5



8

225
TEACHERS
RECOGNIZED
AT THE STUDENTS
CHOICE AWARDS
BANQUET
FROM 2010-2024

GOOSE CREEK CISD



EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

7



GOOSE CREEK CISD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Connie Tilton

Richard Clem

Mike Magouirk

Jim Wadzinski

Meryl Edmeade

Tina Martinez

Mike Wilson

Jo Ann Fenley

Susan Moore-Fontenot

Beth Woods

MORE THAN \$1.9 MILLION

BENEFITING GOOSE CREEK CISD

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is proud to honor our 16th Annual Students Choice Awards winners.

We are once again showcasing 15 Goose Creek CISD teachers who have made a difference in the lives of students during their school careers.

Seniors from each Goose Creek CISD high school were asked to write a letter nominating one teacher who has impacted their school experience in a positive way.

After more than 490 entries were carefully reviewed, 15 students from across the District were chosen for the 2025 Students Choice Awards.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the Goose Creek school system.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is a charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service section 501(c)(3) and contributions to the organization are tax deductible.

Since its inception, the Education Foundation has awarded more than \$1,977,490 for innovative teaching grants to more than 1,300 teachers across the district to enrich the curriculum for their students. Along with designated funds for additional projects, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation has donated more than \$1.9 million to the benefit of Goose Creek CISD over the past 16 years.



If you would like to be a part of the Foundation, contact Dr. Anna Espinoza, Goose Creek CISD Foundation Director, at P.O. Box 8081, Baytown, Texas, 77522; by phone at 281-707-3610; or check out its website at <http://www.linktr.ee/gccisdfo> or by scanning the QR code on the left.

MISSION

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will partner with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and provide opportunities for excellence in education for all students in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

PURPOSE

Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will support educational excellence to enhance student achievement, to recognize exemplary staff involvement, and to foster community support.

In addition, this Foundation is organized independently and exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to benefit the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

To this end, the Foundation shall at all times be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

GOALS

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following initial goals:

- Involve the community in assuring a quality education for the leaders and workers of tomorrow
- Support staff for innovative efforts
- Recognize staff for exemplary teaching
- Encourage all students to work at their highest potential

GOOSE CREEK CISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
2024-2025 STUDENTS CHOICE

AWARD WINNERS

TEACHER-STUDENT

Lori Alexander – Silvia Torres
Ross S. Sterling HS Ross S. Sterling HS

J. Marie Brookreson – Kenia Pena
Robert E. Lee HS Robert E. Lee HS

Ernest Bryson – Rudy Patterson
Stuart Career Tech HS Stuart Career Tech HS

Anitria Collette – Xavier Goodley
Crockett Elementary Ross S. Sterling HS

Steven Denton – Ashlee Acker
Ross S. Sterling HS Ross S. Sterling HS

Randi Dodson – Katherine Barrientes
Ross S. Sterling HS Ross S. Sterling HS

Ashley Finnerty – Jessica Pantoja
Ross S. Sterling HS Ross S. Sterling HS

Rex Miller – Alison Hernandez
Stuart Career Tech HS Stuart Career Tech HS

Kelly Mills – Gracie Gaskey
Stuart Career Tech HS Stuart Career Tech HS

Stacey Mullins – Keylin Arroyo
Cedar Bayou JS Ross S. Sterling HS

Melanie Nichols – Cheyanne Barber
Ross S. Sterling HS Ross S. Sterling HS

Drake Pryor Newman – Kevin Puente
Horace Mann JS IMPACT Early College HS

Robert Richard – Raye Lovell
Highlands JS Robert E. Lee HS

Adrienne Schoppe – Lawreenbelle Yuipco
IMPACT Early College HS IMPACT Early College HS

Jessica Sosa – Alyssa Rostron
Alamo Elementary Ross S. Sterling HS



**LORI
ALEXANDER**
Ross S. Sterling HS



**SILVIA
TORRES**
Ross S. Sterling HS

Ms. Alexander has helped me through very hard times in my life even outside of school and practice times, and she is very genuine.

Ms. A was the first ever person to introduce me to dance, and she taught me so much in that one year of dance class. In February 2022, when I later made JV Sapphires, my dad passed away and my life was turned upside down. However, my directors asked if they could attend my father's funeral. My directors showed up to my father's visitation, shared their condolences, and comforted me. Seeing how much Ms. A cared about me, even outside of dance, meant the world to me. Once I made Stars and became a Social Officer, my mom began to struggle to be involved or show up to all of my school events and performances, but Ms. A is always there. She makes sure I never feel sad for not having both of my parents with me for every event. Ms. A goes past her job title, helping students and treating them with love like we're her own kids.

She saw potential in me when I first had her in eighth grade dance class at Gentry, no matter how quiet and shy I was. Additionally, Ms. A treats me and my teammates with respect and maturity. She is one of my only teachers who treats us students like the young adults we are and actually prepares us for the real world. Without the structure of my dance team and officer life, I would lack very useful time management and responsibility skills.



**J. MARIE
BROOKRESON**
Robert E. Lee HS



**KENIA
PENA**
Robert E. Lee HS

Mrs. Brookreson's influence extended well beyond teaching a curriculum; she cultivated a love for language, learning, and self-discovery in me. She embodies the essence of a true educator who not only imparts knowledge but also inspires her students to find their own voices and think critically about the world around them.

She often began our mornings with current news segments from reputable sources like CBS Mornings, sparking thoughtful discussion on significant events worldwide. This daily routine made me feel connected to the world and instilled in me a habit of staying informed—something I still carry with me. In her classroom, I felt safe forming and expressing my own opinions.

As someone who loves reading, I had always enjoyed books, but Mrs. Brookreson changed how I approached them. She taught me rhetorical analysis techniques that reshaped my understanding of text; suddenly, the words on the page became an invitation to dive deeper into meaning and intention. She opened my eyes to the layers of complexity within language, encouraging me to analyze and interpret what authors were conveying. Reading became more than just a pastime—a journey of discovery. Writing, too, became an act of purpose and persuasion. With each essay, Mrs. Brookreson held high expectations for me and my peers' writing, yet her feedback was always constructive and inspiring, pushing us to do better. I knew that she saw potential in each of her students, and that belief made all the difference.

I can say, without a doubt, that her influence will remain with me for the rest of my academic career and beyond. In every way, Mrs. Brookreson embodies what an outstanding educator should be. She nurtures curiosity, fosters critical thinking, and encourages her students to engage with the world thoughtfully. Thank you for considering her for this honor.



**ERNEST
BRYSON**
Stuart Career Tech HS



**RUDY
PATTERSON**
Stuart Career Tech HS

The moment I first met Mr. Bryson replays in my head quite often. I think this is because I was wildly wrong about his personality at first. I was fifteen years old and a sophomore in high school. I walked into his classroom on the second day of sophomore year and the first thing I saw was a grumpy bald man with thick lenses on his face and history posters around the room. I sort of dismissed him and kept to myself, not really paying attention. However, once we started talking about history, it was almost as if a different person was in front of that board talking to us. His face lit up with passion that I had never seen before. No teacher before had ever kept me (and a good amount of my peers) intrigued in history like this, for this long. Along with history, he was equally as passionate about art and literature. Later in my sophomore year, Mr. Bryson and another student started the Titan's Artist's Guild.

This was a group for writers of any kind to come and express themselves in front of their peers, with no judgment. Mr. Bryson's, kind of passion went on for the entire two years I had him as a teacher. However, one day in my second year of learning from him, he stopped me on the way out of class, asked me if I was okay, and told me that he was there for me if I ever needed anything. I told him thank you and walked out, but I did need something. I needed someone to talk to who I felt truly would never judge me.

Mr. Bryson is more than a history teacher. He's a friend, a sign in the morning to have a good day, a really hard laugh when all you want to do is cry. As a person, I would not be myself today, if it were not for Mr. Bryson.



**ANITRIA
COLLETTE**
Crockett Elementary



**XAVIER
GOODLEY**
Ross S. Sterling HS

To the teacher that made me fall in love with math, Mrs. Anitria Collette, who was my fourth-grade math teacher at David Crockett Elementary School. Up until this point, I didn't really like math or school until I got her as my teacher.

One of my fondest memories in her class was an introduction to prodigy games, and man, let me tell you that changed the landscape of fourth grade math forever! I'm not gonna lie, this was probably the only reason why people did their work so early and on time because we wanted to get on Prodigy so badly. If I'm being honest right now, I still log in and play it now just for fun. And those problems that you must solve in that game are way easier now.

To me one thing that made her stand out compared to any other teacher was her persistence to make me a better math student and a better learner. I also appreciate her kindness and sense of humor with the class, and how she always said, "Ima go momma mode on y'all if y'all don't act right!" Sometimes it made the class scared, but sometimes it didn't because we knew she was just joking with us.

Also, her patience with me was great, because most of the time I never understood what we were doing. But she always made sure I knew what was going on. There were some days when I would ask too many questions in class and the entire class would get mad at me, but Mrs. Collette wasn't going to stop explaining the assignment until I understood it. And for that, I thank her tremendously.

If there's one thing I could take away from Ms. Collette's class, I learned to not give up so easily on yourself and take your time with anything you do in life.



**STEVEN
DENTON**
Ross S. Sterling HS



**ASHLEE
ACKER**
Ross S. Sterling HS

My name is Ashlee Acker, and I am currently a senior at Ross S. Sterling High School. As I reflect on my time in school, I can easily say that the teacher who most influenced me was Steven Denton, who taught me through my junior and senior year. He didn't just excel at being a teacher in the classroom, but he was also a mentor, a guide, and a confidante, someone I knew I could trust with anything and everything.

He made me feel like whatever I was going through was taken precisely into account. Whether it be school, work, life issues, or drama with my friends, he always listened, hearing it all and providing his thoughtful advice. It felt as if he just had an answer for everything, but rather than to judge, helped me see things from a better perspective.

He knows so much drama; he could probably pass as a high school girl at this point. Whether it was friendships or finding the right path for the future, the kind of advice Steven Denton gave somehow just made sense and seemed to stick with you long after the conversation ended.

It was not only about the class with him; he wanted us to do well in life, and his advice always showed that. I feel as though I will always carry the wisdom that he passed on to me. His influence shaped not only how I approached schoolwork, but also how I navigate the ups and downs of life. I am incredibly grateful to have had someone like Steven Denton as a teacher during such an important time in my life.



**RANDI
DODSON**
Ross S. Sterling HS



**KATHERINE
BARRIENTES**
Ross S. Sterling HS

My name is Katherine, I'm a senior at Sterling High School, and I'm nominating a teacher who majorly impacted my life. Her name is Randi Dodson, and she was my English 1 teacher during my freshman year. Ms. Dodson assigned us to write about what we did over our break. Unfortunately over the break my best friend took her own life.

I wrote about my family and I spending some of the week in Wimberley, Texas, but towards the end of my writing I brought up my friend passing away and how it was probably the hardest thing I will ever go through. After I turned in my assignment and Ms. Dodson read it, she brought me outside of the classroom to talk to me alone. I told her about everything that happened and how I felt about the situation. She comforted me and told me that whenever I needed to talk to someone about it, I could always go to her.

She has an exciting and contagious personality. She made a class that I thought was going to be hard and dreadful, super exciting and fun. I never once thought, "Ugh! I have to go to English today!" Thanks to the Education Foundation for letting me recognize her.



**ASHLEY
FINNERTY**
Ross S. Sterling HS



**JESSICA
PANTOJA**
Ross S. Sterling HS

Hi my name is Jessica Pantoja. Mrs. Finnerty is above the top tier, giving 110%. When I was a freshman, she taught me World Geography, and when I was a junior, she taught me U.S. History. Mrs. Finnerty helped me through two major stages of my life, and I couldn't have done it without her. When I needed help, she was there for me no matter what it was: History, boys, and friend trouble. She supported me through it all and gave me amazing advice. I wasn't always the best student. I am tough to get through and connect to but that didn't stop Mrs. Finnerty from cracking a joke everyday to see me smile daily. I looked forward to history class which has never happened before.

Mrs. Finnerty will always be more than a teacher to me. She cared for each one of her students individually, always noticing when they weren't doing okay personally and letting them know that she was always there for them. I made the highest grade on my STAAR test because of her and I couldn't have done it without her teaching. That's not all, I understood what I was learning and fourth period history didn't feel like a history class. Her daily challenges and entrance tickets kept everyone sharp throughout the year.

A teacher is someone who is patient, dedicated, and passionate, she was more than all of those. I have never met a teacher who truly cared about their craft as much as Mrs. Finnerty. Her passion for teaching history made it enjoyable to learn. I want to thank her for never giving up on any student regardless of how they acted. I wish every teacher could be as great as her. She does not get enough credit for all she does and all the kids she has helped over the years. I want to thank Mrs. Finnerty on behalf of every student that got lucky enough to have her as a teacher.



**REX
MILLER**
Stuart Career Tech HS



**ALISON
HERNANDEZ**
Stuart Career Tech HS

Going into freshman year at Stuart, I believed that making new friends and getting along with teachers was out of the question, but Mr. Miller changed that for me. Walking into his class for the first time I was greeted with a teacher that was kind and welcoming. One of the first few things he said when introducing himself was “I’ve been to prison.” This comment had all of us in shock.

He cleared the air by saying he was the prison guard. This joke, although small, made me feel like I could open up to him and feel safe around him. Further into the year I came to trust Mr. Miller even more. He encouraged me to make new friends and join FFA to make new memories. Taking his advice and joining FFA was one of the best decisions he helped me make.

Going into my Junior year he encouraged me to show a project for the Baytown Youth Fair because of the intro to welding class I was taking. Due to this I was able to put my all and win 2nd place (Reserved Grand Champion) in my category. I am thankful for this extra push, because if it never happened I would’ve never realized my true passion for welding. To this day I would never change him for any other teacher or change all the wisdom he has shared along these past 4 years of knowing him as my teacher.



**KELLY
MILLS**
Stuart Career Tech HS



**GRACIE
GASKEY**
Stuart Career Tech HS

I never imagined having a teacher who could inspire me the way Mrs. Mills has. From the first day I met her, she completely transformed my outlook on learning and my sense of potential. From the moment Mrs. Mills joined the Vet Tech Academy, things started to change for the better.

Unlike any other teacher I've had, Mrs. Mills sees potential in every one of her students and makes sure each of us feels truly seen. She takes time to understand our unique goals, skills, and struggles. Even when our class was chaotic, she made it clear that she believed in our ability to succeed. When she talks to us, you can tell that she genuinely wants to see us thrive and find success. Her support means so much, and she's taught us not just to work hard but to have faith in our abilities.

She is one of the most dedicated and hardworking people I've ever met, and despite any stress she might be under, she never fails to put her students first. She's built a sense of community and support in our classroom that makes learning exciting.

Her support has made a huge difference, and I can't express how much it means to have someone believe in my dreams and work so hard to help me achieve them. She has inspired me to be my best, and her investment in our futures is something I will always be grateful for. Mrs. Mills has genuinely changed my life, and I am forever thankful for the encouragement and guidance she has given me.



**STACEY
MULLINS**
Cedar Bayou JS



**KEYLIN
ARROYO**
Ross S. Sterling HS

I'm Keylin Arroyo who was an 8th grader while covid hit and had to experience virtual learning for a whole school year, knowing it wasn't going to be the same as in person learning. It was difficult and stressful for students and teachers.

I have always been shy and scared to speak up for myself, which would lead me to not ask questions when I needed help for the fear of being judged or looking clueless. Ms. Mullins still found a way to work around that. She would notice that I would be stuck on a question for a while and direct it to me in a private manner. She showed me that she did care that I understood how to do it by even explaining it again but not just directed towards me to put me on the spotlight. She did this to every student in her class, making them grow out of their bubble and feel more comfortable with asking questions knowing that she would always be patient and understanding with everyone.

She knew how to divide time during class for each student in person and online. She understood that it would be hard to feel motivated to do work even in a far distance and with a completely different setting from school, but she was still there by our side. I like to say "by our side" even though she wasn't physically there because it felt like she was there walking us through it.

I am truly thankful to have had a great math teacher in 8th grade who knew how to teach even with distance being a problem.



**MELANIE
NICHOLS**
Ross S. Sterling HS



**CHEYANNE
BARBER**
Ross S. Sterling HS

My name is Cheyanne Barber and the teacher most important to me is Ms. Nichols. She has influenced me in a way no other teacher has.

We met sophomore year; she was the inclusion teacher for my class. At that time, she didn't know it, but I was struggling that year with mental health because my sister has cancer and it was only getting worse and I was helping taking care of her and recently reconnected with my birth mom after not seeing her since age 8. That year I was having breakdowns and wasn't doing well. After I returned to school after taking a mental health break, she said the most impactful words to me. She doesn't know it but she gave me hope and made me who I am today. Even 2 years later I still remember what she told me. She said "Cheyanne I want you to know your life has value whether you see it or not you have so much potential" to this day those words stick to me like glue.

I felt so relieved to know she cares about my mental health and would always help me when my other teachers or even the APs wouldn't. The school says that take bullying seriously, but I never believed it until she helped me to report them. She impacted my life. Before I met her, I had no goals in life. I didn't see my worth and I was having a hard time but meeting with her, and having her guide me through the years, I have so many goals, I want to go to college and see a future for myself, because she made me believe it was possible.

To sum up everything I have shared, I truly feel like she deserves to be nominated because she has helped so many people including me and she deserves every single bit of appreciation I can give her. She saved my life and made me realize that life is full of beautiful things and people. She truly has no idea how much she has impacted my life, but I will forever be grateful for her.



**DRAKE
PRYOR NEWMAN**
Horace Mann JS



**KEVIN
PUENTE**
IMPACT Early College HS

From the minute I walked into your class, I knew that you loved to teach, even better, I could tell you were the teacher who never gave up on a student. Although not so evident with me, Mrs. Newman, your class was more than teaching a fourteen-year-old boy equations and formulas, it was a gateway into my passion for mathematics and its endless capabilities for problem solving.

Your notable enthusiasm for teaching, and it's evident success in my passion, has been one that continues to narrate my academic career. There were times where I struggled, but my struggle was not challenging to you, it was an adventure, a way for you to ignite your critical thinking skills and embrace the narrative that confusion was something to be explored rather than feared. Your continued encouragement, especially at times where I confidently doubted my own abilities, encouraged me to find joy in problem solving, to see the world of mathematics through your own eyes. Mrs. Newman, as I ravaged through the countless mathematics classes I have taken since, I realize my moments of struggle and perseverance in that class weren't just moments, but rather pivotal landmarks that marked my eagerness for the world of mathematics—especially as I am choosing to pursue a degree in engineering.

Today, I'm proud to say that my success in every math class since yours has been due to the foundation of mathematics you helped establish, the problem-solving mindset you instilled in me has continuously proven itself a huge feat. I owe my narratives of success and curiosity to the inspiration and confidence you gave me. Mrs. Newman, thank you for being more than just a teacher, thank you for being a mentor, a motivator, and someone who saw my capability of success so quickly. I hope you know your success has extended beyond the walls of that eight-grade hallway; it has followed every student who has set foot in your class.

P.S: We never finished our rounds of UNO!



**ROBERT
RICHARD**
Highlands JS



**RAYE
LOVELL**
Robert E. Lee HS

The most influential teacher I've ever had was my middle school theater teacher, Mr. Richard. He was the most influential person in my life at the time and I still think about him today. I wonder to myself often, how's his kid? How is he doing today? I wonder if I'll ever meet him again throughout life.

Everyday I woke up and didn't want to go to school because I would have to go to math class because I would feel stupid (I would cry for most of it too) I would go because I got to see him and he wouldn't make me feel that way. The way I was feeling at home and at school was like I was a complete and utter failure because I wasn't good at academic things. As soon as it was time for theater class or after school practice it would all disappear, I could be whoever I wanted to be, I could be my very best and it would be enough. I was on varsity in middle school and one day I asked Mr. Richard, "why am I in varsity?" And he had said "because I believe in you." That was one of the few times, if not the only time those words have been said to me and they meant so much to me. Mr. Richard was like a dad to me.

Mr. Richard took me to UIL for improv and I've won medals for it, he's taught me more than he'll ever know. He's taught me what I know about theater as a whole, a family, a safe place, a place where you can be yourself and forget where you come from because that doesn't matter on the stage. He's taught me things I would need for the job I want, theater engineer, things I thought I would never need. That's why Mr. Richard was the most influential teacher I've had here at GCCISD and as he usually said at the end of practice, one stage... one family.



**ADRIENNE
SCHOPPE**
IMPACT Early College HS



**LAWREENBELLE
YUI PCO**
IMPACT Early College HS

Teachers possess various attributes that make them one of the most influential figures in this world. Although there are certain educators that deserve greater recognition. Ms. Schoppe was my AVID I teacher in my freshmen year and currently my AVID 4 teacher as a senior. I have an abundant amount of reasons why I am writing this letter for her, but my primary reason is because of her compassion. She has never failed to show how much she cares for and considers her students.

She is the kind of person you can go to when everything feels a little blurry and you are unsure of how to go about things. Some people will listen to you, but not really listen when you are speaking. She is one of the best listeners and knows exactly what to say when giving advice. She is extremely attentive and will give her utmost attention to anything you speak to her about. This is a very rare trait that is special to encounter when you see it in an individual. I can say that I have never felt more heard than when I have a simple conversation with Ms. Schoppe.

I once had an assignment for my EDUC class where I needed to interview an individual in the career field (architecture) that I wanted to go into. She contacted an individual that knew someone who was an architect and helped me get my interview. There are more instances where she has been of great help, especially now as a senior, where she has assisted me in my college applications.

In summary, Ms. Schoppe has been the most influential teacher I have had during my time at GCCISD. She has a beautiful way of showing her compassion for her students and makes them feel beyond heard.



**JESSICA
SOSA**
Alamo Elementary



**ALYSSA
ROSTRON**
Ross S. Sterling HS

I met Ms. Sosa in my senior year of high school, which is interesting considering she teaches first grade. Yes, it's true; I had met her through a school program where juniors and seniors went to elementary schools to go and student teach. I was still scared, however. My two experiences off-campus were going to Cedar Bayou Junior with eighth graders only three years my junior and kindergartners at James Bowie Elementary.

This is my first-ever class at Alamo Elementary. My first experience was walking into her classroom, knowing I would spend the next two hours and the whole semester every Monday/Tuesday in her classroom. I was excited but scared. I had been assigned to a bilingual classroom. Her classroom consisted of ESL (English as a Second Language) speakers. This worried me as a monolingual American who took French during their first and second years. Quickly, this worry dissipated as she told me not to fret and introduced me to English and Spanish. Over time, I learned I could communicate with children in ways other than verbal communication.

When she could not get through with a particular child, I stepped in like a tag team, explaining the steps in the simplest way possible. Later, the child gushes to Ms. Sosa about how he finally understands. I think that is the biggest reward a teacher can give their student, is the opportunity to help other kids that were like me.



SILVIA
TORRES
Ross S. Sterling HS

LORI
ALEXANDER
Ross S. Sterling HS



J. MARIE
BROOKRESON
Robert E. Lee HS

KENIA
PEÑA
Robert E. Lee HS



RUDY
PATTERSON
Stuart Career Tech HS

ERNEST
BRYSON
Stuart Career Tech HS



ANITRIA
COLLETTE
Crockett Elementary

XAVIER
GOODLEY
Ross S. Sterling HS



ASHLEE
ACKER
Ross S. Sterling HS

STEVEN
DENTON
Ross S. Sterling HS



KATHERINE
BARRIENTES
Ross S. Sterling HS

RANDI
DODSON
Ross S. Sterling HS



ASHLEY
FINNERTY
Ross S. Sterling HS

JESSICA
PANTOJA
Ross S. Sterling HS



ALISON
HERNANDEZ
Stuart Career Tech HS

REX
MILLER
Stuart Career Tech HS



GRACIE
GASKEY
Stuart Career Tech HS

KELLY
MILLS
Stuart Career Tech HS



STACEY
MULLINS
Cedar Bayou JS

KEYLIN
ARROYO
Ross S. Sterling HS



MELANIE
NICHOLS
Ross S. Sterling HS

CHEYANNE
BARBER
Ross S. Sterling HS



KEVIN
PUENTE
IMPACT Early College HS

DRAKE
PRYOR NEWMAN
Horace Mann JS



ROBERT
RICHARD
Highlands JS

RAYE
LOVELL
Robert E. Lee HS



ADRIENNE
SCHOPPE
IMPACT Early College HS

LAWREENBELLE
YUI PCO
IMPACT Early College HS



ALYSSA
ROSTRON
Ross S. Sterling HS

JESSICA
SOSA
Alamo Elementary