Alvin High School
the Clarion
November 2026 Edition1
802 S. Johnson Alvin, TX 77511

YELLOWJACKET FALL Collection

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Perspectives

New Faces, New Energy

Micah Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Annie Olvera
Assistant Editor

Entering high school is a new and frightening experience for many freshmen, as it is a major transition from junior high school. New students face pressure to balance good grades, manage extracurriculars, navigate a large campus and deal with the social strain that comes with being in a new environment, but school also brings new opportunities, new friendships and long-lasting memories. This year, the class of 2030 entered Alvin High School.

"I was very, I guess you could say, nervous and anxious at first," freshman Valerie Mireles said.

Preparing for a new start can be hard and cause a bunch of built up nerves.

"Once it was the first day, my nerves went away." freshman Caleb Aranza said. "The school work is a lot more, but still doable as long as you stay on it and you don't get lazy."

One significant change with high school is meeting new teachers. The class of 2030 is especially fond of their extracurricular teachers, such as directors, coaches, and club sponsors.

"My favorite teacher is probably Mr. Garza. He taught me from seventh grade; he's really cool, and he taught me everything I know," freshman Padme Park said.

"My favorite part of high school right now is cheerleading because I get to hang out with all my friends after school." freshman Sofia Hinojosa said.

Despite freshmen stepping into a new environment, they still sustain expectations for themselves. Staying out of trouble and maintaining high grades are common goals. To achieve this, some have gotten advice from upperclassmen who have been through the same experiences as themselves. Having older siblings and friends has better prepared some freshmen for high school. As students progress through high school, they develop learning and studying techniques that push them to succeed in school. Upperclassmen lead by example and give great advice to manage through the school year.

"Upperclassmen have helped me through this year by helping me with my work whenever I need it in my more difficult classes," Aranza said. "They've been guiding me through the school on the first days when I didn't know where any of the buildings were. They've just set a good overall example for what I need to do in my classes,"

Entering a new social environment is a huge change for most. Students starting at an unfamiliar school have a grand opportunity to accustom themselves to their surroundings, improve on old habits and develop new connections with people.

"The difference from junior high is there's more opportunity; it's a new environment, and you grow a lot as a person with a fresh area with new people to learn from," freshman Osiris Loy said.

Participating in extracurriculars is a great way to work with new people sharing like-minded views. Clubs such as band, choir or sports teach students disciplinary skills, time-management and prepare them for the real world. Communities in these programs create a sense of belonging and personal growth.

"I've adapted by joining clubs that made me feel like a better person, and where I would have responsibilities while having fun," Loy said. "When you do something you like in that club, it gives a feeling of achievement, and that's something I like to feel."

Since the start of the school year, students have made countless memories they can look back on as something they can cherish. Bonding with friends or succeeding in an activity has been some of their favorite parts about school.

"My favorite memory is the homecoming game and halftime," Loy said. "I enjoyed being with my friends, making music, and trying hard to make a good performance we are all happy with, and it was also my personal best performance."

Class of '27 Looks Ahead To End Of High School

Elsa Texido
Photograpy Editor

With graduation getting closer, members of the Class of 27 are beginning their final year of high school. Seniors Julian Hernandez, Carson Hamilton, Ashley Boos-Spaulding and Annie Olvera shared their thoughts on how senior year is going, what they are looking forward to and the memories they will take with them after graduation.

For Julian Hernandez, senior year has already been making him think about graduation and what comes next.

"I want it to be over," Hernandez said.

He is looking forward to participating in senior activities including kid day, senior skip day and senior trip.

Some of Hernandez's most enjoyed moments come from being involved in JROTC and meeting others there.

"My favorite memory is goofing off with my friends in JROTC," Hernandez said. "I especially remember hanging out with my friends at competition."

Even though Hernandez is ready to graduate, he said he will miss his friends. If he could relive one memory from high school, he would choose some of the dances he attended with his girlfriend.

For Carson Hamilton, senior year has been slightly reminicant.

"It's been pretty mid," said Hamilton. "It's been pretty easy."

Hamilton is involved in marching band and is looking forward to not having to do it again after graduation. Before he graduates, he wants to make his band teacher Mr. Watson happy and hopes the band will continue to succeed.

One of Hamilton's favorite memories was advancing to the finals in a marching band competition. Even though he said he will miss marching band it's only as much as he hated it.

If Hamilton could relive one year of high school, he wouldn't choose last year because it didn't go too well and would have liked the chance to change some things.

For Ashley Boos-Spaulding, senior year has already caused some anxiety.

"I'm stressing out," Boos-Spaulding said. "I hope to pass all of my classes and graduate so I do not have to worry about them anymore." Boos-Spaulding is looking forward to senior activities and spending time with her friends. She especially wants to have a day where she can hang out with her friends, including some who have already graduated.

Boos-Spaulding has many favorite memories from high school that include joking around with friends and being with those around school.

"There are many-things about school that I'm going to miss including the teachers, staff, police officers, books, taking photos, food, music and the librarians." Boos- Spaulding said.

If Boos-Spaulding could relive a school year, she would choose parts of her sophomore and junior years.

"I would like to experience some of those memories again, while freshman year is a time I would not want to relive," Boos-Spaulding said.

For Annie Olvera, senior year has already become one of her favorite years.

"Honestly, I feel like I still have another year because I've already made so many memories in this first month," Olvera said. "I think this is the best year I've had so far."

Olvera said she is ready for school to end academically, but she is not ready to leave her friends.

"Maybe school-wise I am, but friend-wise I'm not," Olvera said.

Olvera is especially excited about senior events, including Kid Day. She wants to participate in different activities and make fun memories during her final year.

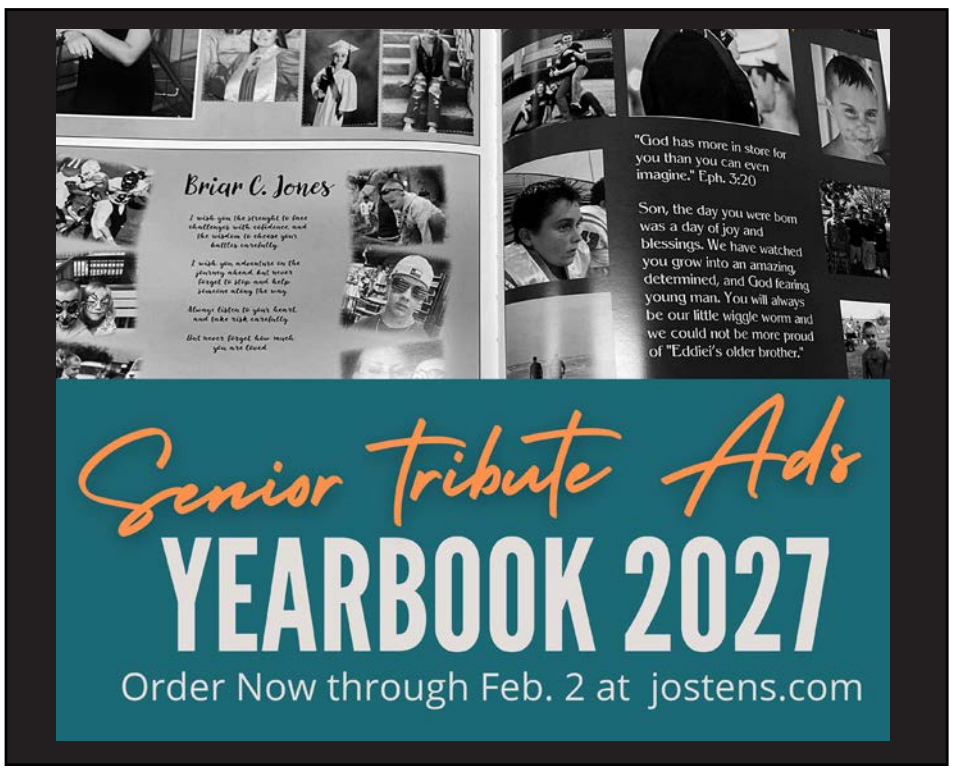
Before graduation, Olvera hopes to improve her class rank to have achieved the most from high school. Her favorite memory so far has been the first week of senior year, when she spent time with her friends before schoolwork and other responsibilities became stressful.

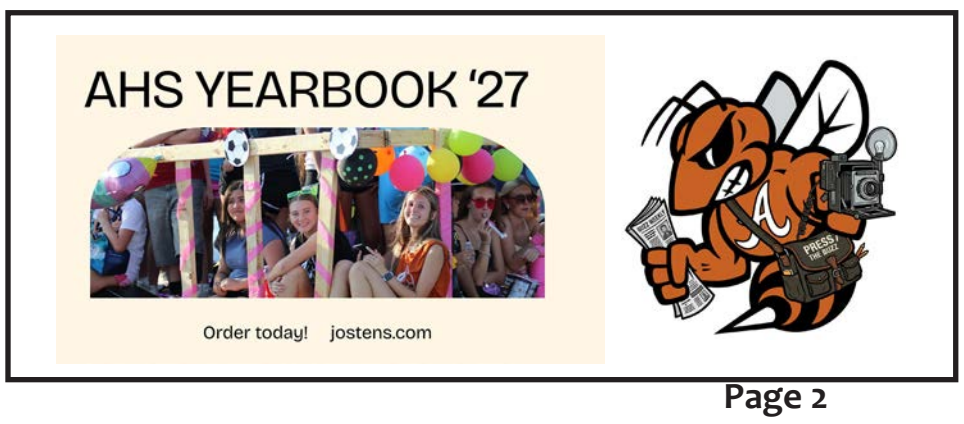
"I went out to eat with all my friends every single day the first week of school," Olvera said. " I will miss my underclassmen friends the most after I graduate."

If she could relive one memory, she would choose her band trip to Tennessee.

"The trip helped me become closer with many of my friends, especially while visiting Dollywood and spending time together at the hotel," Olvera said. "I think that was where I got close with most of my friends."

As the Class of 2027 continues through its final year Hernandez, Hamilton, Boos-Spaulding and Olvera each have different goals and memories. From band competitions and senior activities to friendships and trips, the memories they make during senior year will stay with them after graduation.





VOICES

Bringing the Hype: AHS Sparks a Spirit Revival

Gabby Rodriguez
Editor In Chief

When students walk the hallways this fall, they definitely can't miss what's in the air. Students dressed to homecoming themes, the CM building hallways decorated- it's all of that Jacket Pride. So far, students have dressed to the nines in red white and blue, 90s attire, western wear, 70s apparel, and that familiar rustic orange. And we can't forget the dress up days to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

"I love dressing up for different homecoming themes because it gives everyone a chance to show their personality and get involved," Student Council member Maddox Hernandez said. "That's honestly part of the reason why I joined StuCo, because I want to show people the type of person I am and participate in things happening at school."

It may be difficult at times for students to stay in the loop of things and to know when and where things are happening. By following Alvin StuCo on Instagram, students will be able to get all the latest updates on opportunities to show off all Jacket Pride. There are efforts being done to increase school spirit being posted there. One of those things is yell practice. Yell practice is used to come up with and memorize chants for games to support our Jackets. Students can also attend things like the the HOCO parade, club day, and prep rallies to show their support and school spirit

"At the homecoming game when we tied and we needed a touch down, everybody was standing and screaming," cheerleader Abigail Khalifeh said. "Adults, kids, students, like everybody was hype."

The teachers have also been showcasing all of their Jacket Pride, as well. Walking through the halls, students are likely to see teachers dressed up to the hoco or game day theme of the day. Walking into class and seeing your teacher dressed as George Washington or maybe even a cowboy is sure to shock you, but wearing the same outfit or costume as them is sure to cause some laughs.

"Seeing teachers dressed up for HOCO week does catch me off guard, but it's also pretty funny because you're used to seeing them dressed totally normal." Hernandez said. "I also think it makes the week of HOCO pretty enjoyable because it shows teachers are just as involved in school spirit as the students."

With HOCO season coming to an end, prom season approaching, and lots of time for memory making in between, Jacket Pride is at an all time high. Be sure to participate in all the fun stuff possible, because time is limited. High school passes by in a flash.

Before you know it, you'll be wishing you did more. Wishing you wore that one outfit for that one theme day. Wishing you went to that one game. Wishing you were more involved.

"Every high school has cliques and friend groups and what not but when we all have a common goal it's like everybody is friends," Khalifeh said.





Tiny Transformation

FRESHMAN REBUILDS MATCHBOX CARS INTO ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS

Micah Rodriguez
Staff Writer

When we were kids, we all played with Hotwheels on our carpet, pretending to drive them through neighborhoods. We rolled them down those orange tracks to see how far they could fly into the air, creating massive ramps taller than our heads. We raced them against siblings to see who could become the best racer alive. They're one of the most iconic toys of all time, and a defining part of our childhood. They created an interest in cars for many people, anywhere from driving them to watching them to repairing them.

One of those people is freshman Giovanni Ibarra. He builds matchbox cars, toy cars the size of a matchbox, out of old toy cars and turns them into his own creation. Ibarra discovered this hobby during the summer while messing with old Hotwheels in his garage. After taking a few of them apart, Ibarra discovered that was able to put them back together to make new builds and designs.

"I just decided to take that old car part and clean it up," Ibarra said. "I put it together to see what I could do with it." Ibarra makes his matchbox cars by combining the separated parts of old matchbox cars," he said.

Matchbox cars include the body, baseplate, axles, wheels, and windows. These can be rearranged to create new color schemes, repair old parts, or put 12 wheels onto a single car. The baseplate and body are connected with a drill, and smaller pieces are hot glued after, requiring precision and focus from Ibarra in order for the car to come out exactly as intended.

"I take apart the car and see what parts fit onto the car," Ibarra said. "Once I got the right parts that could fit onto it, I use those parts and just put it back together."

Ibarra also works on bikes and very small boats. For bikes, Ibarra focuses more on customizing rather than breaking down and rebuilding. With both bikes and the matchbox cars, Ibarra cares a lot about how his creation will look when finished. Similarly, both his bikes and matchbox cars require lots of focus and precision. When Ibarra graduates, he plans to open his own bike business. For boats, Ibarra has no base model and doesn't use a drill, but still finds ways to create something new.

"With the boats I make them out of cardboard," Ibarra said. "If they are small enough I put them in a sink of water and watch them float."

Ibarra does all these things during his free time as a hobby. He finds enjoyment in replicating what he sees, as well as making his own designs. Being creative is fun, and having something fun to do is important during high school, especially during the first year. Luckily for Ibarra, he's found something very unique to create.

"Seeing something cool helps me get through the day," Ibarra said. "I can remember it and turn it into a smaller version."







Photos by Micah Rodriguez
Just Built Different
Freshman Giovanni Ibarra has a fascination with creating and reimagining Hot Wheels toy cars. Ibarra began this as a hobby a while ago and found he enjoys seeing how creative and inventive he can be with his new designs.

ENTERTAINMENT

Whats your ultimate fuel choice to get through back-to-back classes?

Alexis Smith
Staff Writer



"I would probably pick Goldfish or something," sophomore Olivia Guzman said.



"The snack of my choice would be Goldfish," sophomore Hunter Jenkins said.



"I like to eat Goldfish to get through the day," sophomore MaryJane Haynes said.



"My ultimate fuel choice would probably be chips," sophomore Jayden Pallardy said.



"Probably, like, crackers or cookies or chips, like, Goldfish, maybe," freshmen Khloe Thomas said.



"I think I would pick Nutella cookies," sophomore Nathaly Abundiz said.

SHOW & TELL
HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

Amayah Gutierrez
Staff Writer

Bella Woods
The object Bella brought to the table was her grandfathers mirror. "Everytime i need to look at myself. i think of my grandpa."



Molly Escagne
Molly's protein bar gets her through everyday of school. "When im hungry i eat my protein bar, it gets me through the day."



Chris Overton
Kris brings his mini guitar everyday to annoy his favorute teacher Mr.Reynolds. "Its now an everyday thing for me to play this for Mr.Reynolds."



Monaco Chhoeun
Monaco is on the basketball team, and his jersey in his backpack everyday reminds him of what he's shooting for. "My jersey motivates me to work harder and work to where I'm headed."



Jeremy Geiling
Since there was a phone ban Jermy brings his D.S to school everyday so he doesnt get bored. "I need my D.S to get through the day since we have no phones."



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Park & Art: Seniors Claim Their Space

Creed Derbonne
Staff Writer

Rhys Rodriguez
Co- Editor-In-Chief

From gray pavement to a block of color- seniors grabbed their paintbrushes and brought the parking lot to life.

Seniors painted their senior parking spots September 25th and 26th. Senior parking spots are a fun tradition where seniors can personalize their space to reflect their individual personalities, interests and joys. Participating seniors take this opportunity to be as creative and eye-catching as possible, and many spend hours in the hot sun with friends and family to complete the task.

"My parking spot design is a Texas flag with a bible verse," senior John Brabec said. "I chose this because I am a Christian and I love Texas."

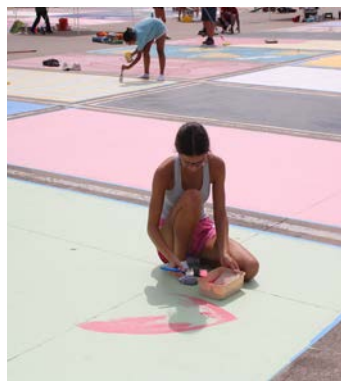
Many students channel their inner child as they decide on what to paint. The senior parking spots are a scattering of childhood memories and lore.

"My parking spot is Iron Man," senior Alex Hernandez said. "I chose this because Iron Man has always been my favorite ever since I was little."











More Than Just A Meal

Honoring Lunch Time Legends

Gabby Rodriguez
Editor-In-Chief

Lunch rolls around. You walk into the line, grab a slice of pizza, punch in your ID number, and head out. Simple enough, right?

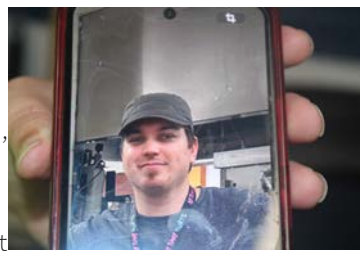
But there is so much more that goes into the lunch line every day. Unexpected yet undeniable bonds, shared jokes, and genuine friendships form across the counter—turning a routine meal into a highlight of the school day. This past summer, Alvin High School lost a beloved member of that cafeteria team, Chris Kocurek.

Though he has passed, his impact on our campus and his legacy among students and staff remain everlasting.

In fact, connecting with students was one of Kocurek's specialties. What helped him bond with everyone wasn't just the fact that he helped fill thousands of trays every week, but his goodwill and natural friendliness. He went out of his way every day to make sure lunch was perfect for students—making sure every ranch bottle was filled, the Rice Krispie Treats were stocked, and every student's needs were met with care and precision.

Beyond his attention to detail, Kocurek left many with good laughs and memories. He possessed a witty sense of humor that brightened plenty of people's days when all they came through the line to do was grab a slice of pizza.

"He was just always very kind, you know?" junior Makayla Rodriguez said. "He would say, 'Have a good weekend' or 'Stay safe' every day. He was just really cool and nice."



AHS students and staff reflect on the memory of former cafe worker Chris Kocurek and the impact all cafeteria staff have on students.

His presence was felt just as deeply among his coworkers behind the counter.

"We love Chris, and we miss him terribly," AHS Child Nutrition Kitchen Manager Kim Fields said. "Chris's life spoke for itself. If you needed help, he was there to help."

Kocurek's legacy shines a bright light on the entire cafeteria crew, who work like a well-oiled machine. Each team member has a specific role—such as Katherine, a first-year worker who cuts and preps fresh fruit every morning. But our workers go out of their way to make a positive impact, even though connecting with students isn't written in their official job description. For example, Fields, who lovingly sings to the students every Friday.



Cafe workers are very appreciated by students, as they work hard every day to make the lives of learners just a little easier at meal time.

For some students, one of the only times they get smiled at during a hard day is by a lunch worker. A single smile or a small joke can lift someone's spirits entirely.

"Ms. Sylvia would always put a plastic roach there in the lunch line," Rodriguez shared with a laugh. "I would always forget, jump, and almost drop my lunch tray, and she would just be cracking up laughing."

While most people look forward to lunch solely for the food, the entertaining conversations and lighthearted pranks make the cafeteria a welcoming space. As the school year continues, Kocurek's memory remains alive in those very moments—in the laughter, the filled trays, and the everyday kindness shared across the counter.



MAKING THE GRADE: *Scott Sets the Student Athlete Standard*

Mia Kroll
Staff Writer

High academic rigor, varsity football, and a local TV feature—all in a day's work for Brooks Scott.

Brooks Scott, 6.87 GPA, multi-sport student here at AHS, was featured on Fox News's, Making The Grade segment on August 3. Fox News honored Scott or his high academic achievements as well as his athletic abilities, as he is currently a varsity football player. In addition, some staff, other extracurricular activities, and his family were also featured.

"Brooks is a great, all around kiddo. He exhibits exactly what we want here at Alvin High School and the true meaning of an Alvin Yellow Jacket, and it really is the true definition of being a student-athlete," Prinicpal Robert Ford said. "Couldn't be more proud to have him here and watch him grow the past few years, so proud of him."

"It was for sure a once in a lifetime experience," Scott said. "I really appreciated being recognized for what I've done in my academic and athletic careers. I am so thankful to my parents for raising me to prioritize school, and they helped shape me into the person I am today. I am especially thankful to God because he has been with me through every step of my life, and I know that through him I will be able to accomplish great things."

But people may wonder, how is it that a student athlete can balance these two things? How can a student balance high academic rigor and also the busy schedules of athletes?

"It has for sure been a challenge to balance the two, but football has taught me discipline, so I learned how to manage my time to be able to stay on top of school and ensure I do it to the best of my ability," Scott said.

To have such a high GPA while also being an amazing athlete is an accomplishment that deserves to be recognized. Head football coach Matthew Bass said he is extremely proud of Scott.

"I love having a kid that works his butt off, never makes excuses, and is a great example both on the field and in the schoolhouse," Bass said. "It isn't anything we taught him, that comes from his parents. His ability to impact others around him has helped us replicate that type of work ethic for other student athletes on campus."

Fox News emphasized things we already know- there are many talented, smart and motivated students at AHS. Having a student-athlete accomplish so much over the course of his time here is amazing and shows what AHS is about.

Courtesy Photo



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Gabrielle Rodriguez and Alexis Smith
Editor in Chief and Staff Writer

FCCLA is a club sponsored by teachers Eva Cantu, Nani Allen, and Andrea Santana. The Family Career and Community Leaders of America are active at AHS.

The members meet on every other Tuesday, officers meet two Tuesdays out of the month to organize plans for the rest of the members. At meetings, they discuss plans and upcoming community events.

"Our club is different from most clubs because we focus on the family," said Cantu.

Focusing on the family means focusing on doing what is right to help those who need it. FCCLA is centered around giving back to and helping the community and being upstanding students.

FCCLA does a number of events in the fall and spring season. Events this year have been the Adopt a Beach campaigntaking place in September. During this campaign FCCLA chooses a beach in Texas to clean up together.

They also volunteer at the Houston Autism Walk where they help with the event as volunteers instead of simply walking for it. During December they host Christmas in the cottage for teachers and staff for the school.

During the spring term they are busy with competitions for the club members. These events are all significant to the club because they help with the community and provide students opportunities to be active in their society. Overall, a student should join FCCLA because they focus on family and community, offering many opportunities for students to get connected and help out.



Courtesy Photo
Art students and National Art Honor Society members completed a vibrant new mural at Pearson Park for the Alvin Girls Softball Association. Stop by the park and check out their work.

Tech-Minded:
TSA Takes the Lead

Annie Olvera
Staff Writer

When joining high school, students are faced with limitless possibilities by joining various different clubs and classes that Alvin has to offer. Students interested in the arts join Graphic Design, band, or photography. Students who want to excel further in academics join debate or Academic Decathlon. But for students who want to feel prepared in the real world, especially when it comes to a STEM career or program, TSA is the perfect club to learn and hone these skills.

Run by Chris McGilvray, TSA is working hard to prepare students for the future and hopefully make state this school year.

"TSA is the Technology Student Association. And what it's about is that it is a career readiness club," McGilvray said.

The Technology Student Association was founded in 1978 to help refine students in the arts and transition them into the sciences. It is a non-profit organization made for middle and high school students.

"I would categorize them as all having some component of technology or career readiness." McGilvray said. "When I say technology, I mean anything from robotics to drone racing, to anything with audio-video, music production, video game design. And we also have things in the scope of engineering, construction, manufacturing, and then career readiness, so things like graphic design, fashion design, leadership, and problem solving, but all of them in some capacity involve technology."

TSA offers over 70 STEM-based competitive events; high school has a total of 40 events to choose from. Each student in TSA is allowed to pick whichever category fits them best and display those skills at competitions against others for a chance to advance.

"My goal for this year is to take my students to state," McGilvray said.

During the competitions, students get to build projects, take tests, and even get to present in front of judges. This allows students to use critical thinking skills, organization skills, as well as presentation skills.

"You get the opportunity to compete at a state or National level; you have the opportunity to earn scholarships and win awards," McGilvray said. "The thing my students are most excited for is that you get the opportunity to travel with us to wherever state competition is."

The students in the TSA program are excited to see where this season takes them. One member is Burkley Scott, a second year member of TSA, who joined her junior year and is continuing her senior year. She is competing in photography, capturing pictures of specifically children, culture, and floral.

"Before I take photos to submit to TSA, I like to take a few days to find inspiration and create a vision in my head, in order to bring that vision to life behind the

NEWS

A New Act Begins

Abigail Sampson
Copy Editor

When one show ends, another begins. This is the case for new theater teachers Mr. Cervantes and Mrs. Fondren joining AHS from Iowa Colony Junior High and Manvel Junior High respectively. However, theater was not always either of their original callings.

"I wanted to be a doctor," Javier Cervantes-Tinajero said, "I thought that was what I was meant to do. I went to nursing school. I got a degree in public health. But then I got this job in Fort Bend ISD to be an AVID teacher and I was absolutely blown away by the positive impact that it had on people."

This is what led Cervantes to go more into teaching as this ability to shape young minds and help get first-generation students to go to college was worthwhile. Being able to have meaningful conversations with troublemakers and help them to change to go further in life is very rewarding. Going into theatre was inspired by AHS former theater teacher Ms. Kiekel.

"I've been in theater my whole life," Cervantes said, "So Ms. Kiekel was like, 'Hey, do you want to help me with notes?' And I was like, 'sure.' So then I never left. And I just love the process. I love that I get to create things with others."

This is going on his eleventh year in the classroom and sixth as a teacher. Making the change from junior high up can be daunting but Cervantes is excited to take over a successful program with such talented students.

"I want the students to walk away knowing that they did a good job and gave it their all," Cervantes said, "My goal is always, when we're done with the production, are you going to have the memory of that being an amazing show? And if you do, then I did my job."

Fondren also had a similar calling and worked for 18 years in dentistry before AHS former head theater teacher Mr. Grimmett inspired her to pursue her hobby of theater as a career. She formerly worked at Manvel Junior High and Clear Lake Intermediate before coming here.

" I loved Manvel Junior High," Christina Fondren said, "It was a unique situation there where some of the students I had there even came over to here. So I still have some former students."

Being an alumni and having children coming through the school is also an advantage, she said. But being able to work towards this spring's UIL One Act Play is what she is most excited about.

"Mr. Cervantes and I are very serious about pushing UIL One Act Play, our competition in the spring, and we will be pushing that all the way to state," Fondren said, "Yeah, I mean, why start with a small step when you can just go for the gold?"

As well as UIL OAP, she is thinking about going back and doing some more nostalgic shows from her own high school years. They're both very excited to be here and are preparing for the upcoming fall show The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

"We have a lot of moving parts in the show so just bringing, you know, new stories to the stage and comedy," Fondren said, "I'm excited to bring comedy to the kids."



Alvin High School
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The Clarion is a publication of Alvin High School. It is created by the student newspaper staff for student information. Opinions expressed are purely opinions of the staff, not the school.

Behind the Byline:

Students Telling the Campus Story

Micah Rodriguez
Staff Writer

There are always stories to tell. From exciting news and student achievements to unforgettable moments captured in print, the campus newspaper and yearbook preserve the experiences that bring the school community together. AHS's publications department comprises of students in Adviser Jessica Tompkins's yearbook and newspaper classes who write editions for the Clarion Newspaper and construct hundreds of pages for the Yellowjacket yearbook. "We write stories, we interview people, and we have fun," Clarion News Editor Gabby Rodriguez said. "We update on things going around at school."

Students on the yearbook staff have a wide range of duties, including showing up to events for every sport, club, organization, and extracurricular connected to the high school, getting interviews for a majority of pages in the yearbook, and taking hundreds of pictures of their campus and peers. Yearbook staff has to cover every aspect of the school, requiring the full year in order to capture every detail of AHS.

"Most people think we take pictures one day, one class, and pull random quotes," Yearbook staffer Leslie Sanchez said. "For one finished page, there might be seven pictures in it. But when we take pictures for that page, we take at least 80." Students on the Clarion staff have similar duties to yearbook staff, including going to school events, interviewing students and teachers, and taking hundreds of pictures. Every nine weeks, an edition of the Clarion is released, containing between 10 to 15 stories per edition. These stories range from covering students to highlighting teachers to celebrating accomplishments by clubs.

"I liked writing the valedictorian and salutatorian stories last year because I got to talk to Jadyn Gomez," Clarion News editor Rhys Rodriguez said. "It was really interesting because she talked a lot about her mom, and it was just really fun to write."

Creating pages for the entire school to read is a very daunting duty. As a writer, being able to fully cover a club or student is a challenging task, often requiring multiple interviews over weeks and sometimes a full month. As a photographer, finding the perfect picture requires visiting every game of a sport, taking 30 pictures of the same scene, and sorting through hundreds of photos to find the one. Especially for yearbook staff, contributing to someone's senior yearbook is an important job and leaves an impact that may last decades later.

"A very important factor students don't know about creating the book is how much work goes on behind the scenes. Most see the final product but they don't see the editing, deadlines, teamwork that goes into each page. I think it is so much more than just taking pictures behind a camera, and you are responsible for capturing memories that people will look back on years and years from now," yearbook editor Bisleydi Aleman said.

Despite this pressure, being a part of the publications staff is very fun. While writing stories, students can meet interesting people all across campus, listening to fellow students talk about their unique experiences or former teachers recount tales of their high school, or in the case of last year's first edition, interviewing the principal Robert Ford. Attending school events to take pictures introduces students to a variety of school activities, opening doors that weren't originally visible. Newspaper and yearbook classes themselves are a fun environment, full of writers and photographers who love what they do.

"I like getting to bond with people and actually collaborate on ideas," Clarion Editor Annie Olvera said. "And we have a tradition of an end-of-the-year tea party, and it is super fun."

The yearbook and newspaper classes are open to any new members.

"Any student who loves photography, learning about people, or writing should join us next year," Tompkins said. "We would love to have you. You will learn many skills that translate into many different future careers and you will have fun while learning."







Sophomore news staffers Creed Derbonne and Diana Nolan race to be the first at their interview for the newspaper. Right- Yearbook editors meet during summer to make plans for the 2027 yearbook. Bottom right- Junior Elsa Texido takes photos at varsity footvball game.

So far, so good







