



McKinney ISD Distinguished Student Awards Dinner
McKinney ISD Community Event Center
May 4, 2023 · 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Distinguished

dis·tin·guished | \ di-stīŋ-(g)wīšt \ adjective

1 :marked by eminence, distinction or excellence

2 :befitting an eminent person

Distinguished Student Awards Dinner

Tonight's Distinguished Student Awards presentation is a celebration of everything that McKinney ISD represents. We are here tonight to honor McKinney ISD seniors who have earned the highest level of recognition at the end of their elementary and secondary school years. We would like to thank the parents, teachers, and administrators that have helped influence these students along the way.

In addition to these exceptional students, we will be honoring some of McKinney ISD's finest teachers. Each student was asked to select the teacher who made the most significant impact on his/her life. These dedicated teachers will be honored this evening with the McKinney ISD Inspirational Teacher Award.

The Distinguished Student Award

The Distinguished Student Award is the highest honor a student can receive from McKinney ISD. Only 15 seniors from each high school are presented with the award each year. In addition to academics, recipients are selected based upon their overall commitment and dedication to one of the following areas: English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, Career & Technology, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Athletics, another specific field of study (At-Large), and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each high school.

Congratulations to the 45 McKinney ISD 2023 Distinguished Students and their Inspirational Teachers.

English Honors



Sydney Tucker · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

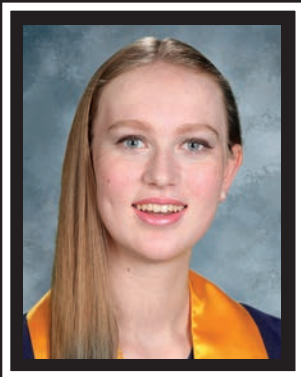
Captain–Cross Country/Track, Collin County Animal Shelter Volunteer, World Scholar's Cup Debate Team (Finalist), Trinity College London Piano Certifications, Vice President–National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Distinction, Bilingual and Biliterate in Spanish, Outstanding Leadership Award (Junior)

College Plans

Trinity University–Neuroscience

Inspirational Teacher: Keith Pierce–Human Geography, Cross Country/Track

As my cross country and track coach, Coach Pierce has helped me develop as an athlete, a student, and a leader of character on a daily basis. His work ethic and discipline have inspired me to adapt many of his habits and follow his example, both in running and in everyday life. After I was hit by a car my junior year during morning cross country practice, Coach Pierce was instrumental in my physical and emotional recovery. He helped me heal and move forward in an impactful way, giving me support in serving my teammates and protecting the community.



Jenna Henry · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

National Honor Society, Project Linus, Orchestra, Celtic Violin, Irish Dance, Engineering Club, UIL Ready Writing

College Plans

Texas A&M University–Vertebrate Zoology

Inspirational Teacher: Carol Winters—English

Mrs. Winters has always been there to support me. She helped me adjust to high school and provided a comforting constant for all three years I was able to learn from her. She always encouraged my imagination and developed my writing ability. Mrs. Winters is the reason I joined UIL Ready Writing, an activity I've greatly enjoyed. Since it's her final year here at McKinney High, I believe she deserves to be recognized for the impact she has had on me and countless other students.



Rachel Kenealey · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

Top 5% of Class, Secretary–Orchestra Council, Terry Scholarship Finalist, Presidential Scholarship at UTA, 4.88 GPA, National Merit Commended Scholar

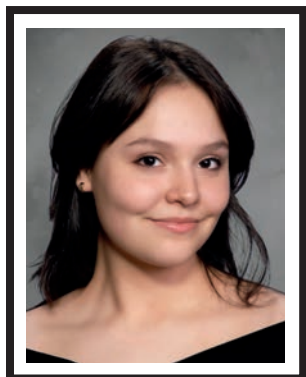
College Plans

University of Texas at Arlington–English

Inspirational Teacher: Scott Henry–AP English Language and Composition

Mr. Henry was my junior year English teacher. When he found out I wanted to pursue English in college, he encouraged me in every way. He let me borrow textbooks on literature, went out of his way to provide extra feedback and advice on my work, and showed me extra examples of writing he thought would interest or benefit me. His faith in my abilities and enthusiasm for the subject I loved were inspiring.

Science Honors



Fernanda Kilian · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

Top 10% of Class, National Hispanic Recognition Award

College Plans

Kansas State University–Biological Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Stefanie Jones–Biology

Many teachers are successful in instilling the curriculum into their students, but only a few teachers are successful in showing the world beyond their standardized lessons. It was in Mrs. Jones' AP Biology class that I felt as though the window to how science applied to the world truly opened. Her passion in teaching gave me the desire to learn more about the foundations of all living creatures. In her class, I constantly raised my hand, and after getting questions wrong, her determination for me to find the answer showed me how to accept failure, learn from it, and move forward. While it may seem as though she only taught us of life in increasingly smaller sizes, to the point where even the naked eye cannot see it, I felt as though the world around me, and my desire to learn, grew without bounds.



Ethan Ostertag · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Varsity Orchestra (Viola), Secretary–National Honor Society, Logistics Manager–Orchestra, Participated in UIL Science, Admissions Club, Top 8% of Class

College Plans

Oklahoma State University–Chemistry / Freshman Research Scholars Program

Inspirational Teacher: Rhea Nordberg–AP Biology

Mrs. Nordberg, my AP Biology teacher, has left an indelible mark on my life through her compassionate nature and personal guidance. Her interactive teaching style, always receptive to student feedback, has created a dynamic and engaging learning experience. Mrs. Nordberg's genuine warmth and empathy have fostered a supportive classroom environment, where I have flourished academically and personally. Her unwavering belief in her students' abilities inspires us to embrace challenges and to reach our full potential.



Madison Lester · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

All-Star Competitive Cheerleader (13 Years), Student Council, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Distinction, 15 AP Courses

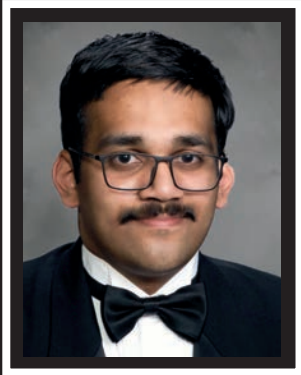
College Plans

Biology and Pre-Med with minor in Neuroscience

Inspirational Teacher: Shruti Mehrotra–AP Biology and AP Environmental Science

Mrs. Mehrotra is one of the reasons why I've decided to go into biology in college. She is an outstanding teacher, as well as an exceptional person. She has truly made my senior year special. It takes a good teacher to make a student enjoy a class, but it takes a great one to make a student love a class. Mrs. Mehrotra is most definitely one of the best.

Social Studies Honors



Dan Varughese · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

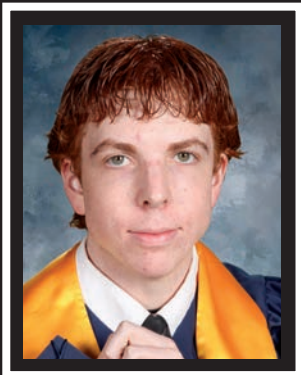
Top 10% of Class, AP Scholar with Honor, National Honor Society, MBHS Academic Excellence Award, BNN Technical Director, Member of the MISD Dream Team (Stadium Crew), MBHS Academic Excellence Award

College Plans

University of Texas at Dallas–Computer Science

Inspirational Teacher: Tamara Robinson–Audio/Video Productions

As my Audio-Video Productions teacher, Mrs. Robinson has inspired me in many ways. When I first came to McKinney, she was more like a friend to me than a teacher. She helped me adjust to the new surroundings and get familiar with the systems of McKinney ISD. I am forever grateful to her for seeing my potential and making me the technical director of the BNN show. It has helped me develop my skills and has provided me with an opportunity to do something that I love. Thank You, Mrs. Robinson, for everything that you did for me.



Noah Watson · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Geography Club, Basketball Player and Manager, Chemistry Club, National Honor Society, All Around Student, Community Garden Club, Home Depot Sales Associate, Muslim Youth Association

College Plans

University of Texas–Chemical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Mark Bayer–AP Human Geography/AP Art History/Assistant Coach

Upon entering my freshman year, Mr. Bayer set the stage for my future. As both my AP Human Geography and AP Art History teacher, he inspired me to be a student of knowledge, constantly seeking to learn new ideas and concepts, especially in the realm of social studies. The influence he has had on me is immeasurable. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to be one of his students.



Claire Lamothe · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

President–Key Club, Guard Dawg, PALS, National Honor Society, Cross Country/Track (9th-11th), Captain–Cross Country, Co-Captain–Track, AP Scholar with Distinction, Youth Group–First United Methodist Church of McKinney, Summited 3 14'ers (Mt. Elbert, Quandary Peak, and Uncompahgre Peak)

College Plans

University of Mississippi–Business Management and Psychology on Pre-Law Track

Inspirational Teacher: Jessica Richards–Cross Country, Track, and PALS

Throughout high school, Coach Richards has acted as my most trusted confidant, biggest cheerleader, most genuine critic, and constant inspiration. She has truly taken the extra step and has always pushed me to improve, not only as an athlete, but as a student and a human. She is a force to be reckoned with who taught me that determination and the integrity of staying true to yourself are the best traits one can possess.

Mathematics Honors



Will Manicom · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

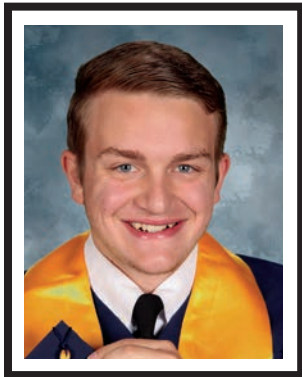
Top 10 in Class, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Volunteering

College Plans

Computer Science

Inspirational Teacher: Joshua Volenik–Spanish

Señor Volenik is a great teacher not only because of his extensive knowledge of Spanish, but also because of the way he connects with students. He is very personable and easy to talk to, and always ensures that we understand the concept. His ways of teaching are fun and engaging, which makes learning a new language something to look forward to.



Kyle Johnson · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

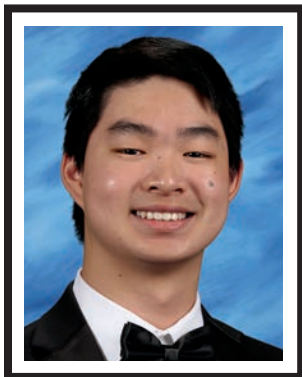
Perfect Score–AP Computer Science A Exam, Scholar Artist of the Week, 2-Time Outstanding Soloist–MISD Solo Contest, AP Scholar with Distinction, Outstanding Ensemble–MISD Ensemble Contest, Competitions Officer–MHS Computer Science Club, Outstanding Achievement in Robotics, Principal Tuba player and Section Leader –Royal Pride Marching Band, Mane Attraction Jazz, MHS Full Orchestra and MHS 2023 Musical, "The Music Man"

College Plans

Texas Tech University–Computer Science (Honors College)

Inspirational Teacher: Brandon Fisher–Band and Jazz Band

As my Band and Jazz Band director for the past 3 years, Mr. Fisher has taught me many things, both in leadership and musicianship. He has challenged me to become a better musician, teaching me how to develop my skills and to improve my performance ability, while still encouraging me to work hard academically. As a leader himself, Mr. Fisher has shown by example how to effectively work to lead others in any situation.



Nathan Liow · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

President–Science Club, Vice President–Engineering Club, 5s on all 10 AP Exams Taken, National Merit Commended Scholar, Physics Olympics Champions, Research/Building Computer from Scratch, Tutoring Kids in Math/Science, Academic Excellence (9th–11th)

College Plans

University of Texas–Computer Science

Inspirational Teacher: Deanne Pratt–AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC

Ms. Pratt has always made Calculus a fun subject to learn. Her genuine passion and understanding of the material were evident in every lesson she taught. She inspires me to continuously reach my academic limits and to find the joy in learning. My time in her class gave me a strong foundation in math that I'll heavily use in college and will always give me good memories to look back on.

Career & Technology Honors



Caroline Jones · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

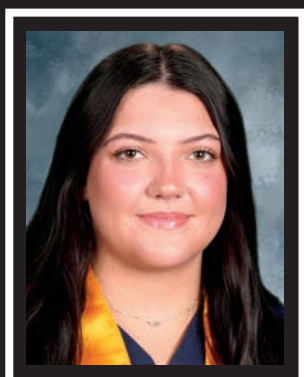
Varsity Theatre (4 Years); ITS Board Event Planner; International Honor Thespian; Outstanding Student in Theatre (2022); Student Director; NHS Member; Kendra Scott Retail Stylist; Ready, Set, Teach (2 Years); 2-Time TAFE State Qualifier

College Plans

University of Oklahoma—Elementary Education

Inspirational Teacher: Chancy Smith—AP Language and Composition

Ms. Smith's unique teaching and writing style has confirmed my conviction to become a teacher. AP Language has been the most rewarding course I have taken in my high school career. The content Ms. Smith taught me in her class changed the way I view the English language and inspired me to hopefully one day help my students explore the world right in front of them, just as Ms. Smith has done for me.



Hailey Spencer · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

FFA Lonestar Degree, President—MHS FFA, Breed Champion at the North Texas Showdown, CNA Certification, State Qualifier for Livestock Judging, Welding Certification, Collin College Dual Credit Health Science Scholarship, Accepted to Tarleton and SFA

College Plans

Tarleton State University—Nursing

Inspirational Teacher: Jake Parr—Welding

As my welding teacher, agriculture teacher, and livestock judging coach, Mr. Parr has taught me many valuable lessons for life and for school. He has taught me how to be organized, prepared, and diligent in my work. His determination and selflessness have inspired me beyond measure. I wouldn't be who or where I am today without the guidance and support of Mr. Parr.



Tara Tisserand · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

McKinney Youth Servant of the Year Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Advocate Speaker, Vice President—Student Council, Academic Excellence Award (4 Years), Academic All-District (4 Years), Area Champions—MNHS Soccer, PALS

College Plans

Texas A&M University—Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Doug Woodall—Engineering

Mr. Woodall has been my teacher for the past 4 years and has always been there to encourage me, teach me, and help me become a better person. He constantly puts a smile on my face and is an extremely caring teacher. Without Mr. Woodall, my passion for engineering would not be as strong. He has been a great inspiration in my life.

Foreign Language Honors



Jaden Abraham · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

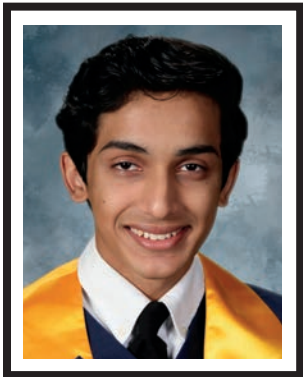
AP Scholar with Distinction, Outstanding Soloist, Fastest Kroger Cashier, PASCH German Scholarship Recipient

College Plans

University of Texas—Aerospace Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Christopher Kohler—German

Mr. Kohler, better known as Herr Kohler, or HK to some, is the German teacher of McKinney Boyd High School. Herr Kohler has greatly influenced me for the past 4 years, exhibiting his own love and passion for German language and culture, inciting that same passion in all of his students, an ability unmatched by any other teacher. Furthermore, Herr Kohler has given me the unique ability to broaden my life through more worldly interaction.



Alexander Mathai · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

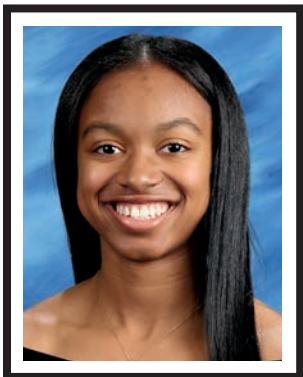
President—HOSA MISD Exec. Board, President—Spanish Club, Certified Nursing Assistant, Student Patient Care Technician, ISM (Interventional Cardiology), Volunteer at Downtown McKinney Farmer's Market, Church Youth Group

College Plans

Major in Chemistry and attend Medical School

Inspirational Teacher: Kelly Daescu—AP Chemistry

Mrs. Daescu's passion for what she teaches is overwhelmingly evident. She sets the bar high and encourages her students to reach their full potential, shaping the minds of the future. Not only did she help me realize my passion for chemistry, but she encouraged me to be a better person. Whether it was showing up to a showcase or patiently answering my questions, Mrs. Daescu never failed to show her support for my future.



Alyssia Simmons · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

College Board African American Recognition, AP Scholar with Distinction, 3-Time Honor Chord Recipient, Academic All State, Scholar Artist of the Week (Double Bass), Scholar Athlete of the Week (Basketball), 2-Time All-Region Bassist, Basketball District 13-5A Honorable Mention

College Plans

Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, Abilene Christian University, or Collin College

Inspirational Teacher: Scott Henry—AP English Language and Composition

As my AP English teacher, Mr. Henry inspires me to excel inside and outside of the classroom. Academically, his class taught me to see beyond the words on the page and write with purpose. He showed me the importance of holding myself accountable with respect to my education. Mr. Henry embodies what it means to be a Bulldog, and I am thankful for everything he has taught me as a student at McKinney North High School.

Fine Arts Honors



Annika Dundon · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

President–National Art Honor Society Club, VASE State Medal, Congressional Art Competition Medalist

College Plans

Montana State University–Fine Arts

Inspirational Teacher: Samuel Thomas–AP 2D Drawing

My art teacher, Mr. Thomas always motivates me to be a better person and artist. He has constantly guided me through not just my academics, but through life, always giving me the best advice when I need it most. He is a rare gem of a teacher who helps students bring out the best in themselves. He supports every student and will do anything to help them achieve their goals. Mr. Thomas always encourages his students to be kind to others even when they may not deserve it. He is the definition of a good human being and has impacted my life for the better. Mr. Thomas truly loves his job and wants students to be authentic, creative, and enjoy art.



Caitlin Hammack · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Captain–Varsity Marquettes, 3-Time Senior Solo Winner, Rotary Club Student of the Month, 3-Time Academic Cord Recipient, Scholar Athlete of the Week

College Plans

Texas A&M University–Neuroscience

Inspirational Teacher: Amy Neely–Varsity Drill Team and Dance

Mrs. Neely has inspired me in countless ways, not just through dance but through her authentic self. When I became a rookie on the Marquettes, she immediately took me in and became the greatest mentor I have ever had. She has taught me how to be strong and purely selfless. She inspired me to be a leader for her team because she is the best leader to me. She has truly changed my life.



Haley Bruns · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

AP Scholar with Distinction, 3rd Place–North American Irish Dancing National Championships, Three Academic Excellence Cords, 37th Place–Irish Dancing World Championships, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, 4-Time Outstanding Soloist Award, National Honor Society

College Plans

Music Education

Inspirational Teacher: Michael Reed—Band/Percussion

Mr. Reed has been my percussion instructor and a major role model in my life for the past 7 years. Throughout our time together, he has taught me countless life lessons along with helping me discover my passion for music. Most importantly, Mr. Reed has taught me perseverance, discipline, and confidence, shaping me to be the person I am today. I am forever grateful to have such an outstanding mentor and friend.

Fine Arts Honors



Alejandro Maestas · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

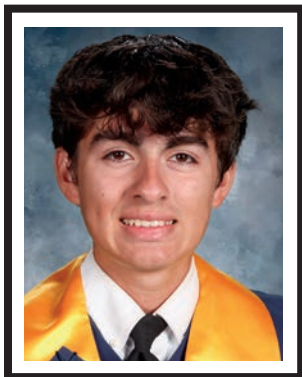
PASIC Award & Scholarship Winner, Orchestral All-State Band Member, National Hispanic Scholar, Outstanding Career & Technology, AP Scholar with Distinction, 1st Place Percussion at PDLC, Outstanding Percussionist, All-State Marching Band

College Plans

Texas A&M University—Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Scott Gustafson—Percussion Director

Throughout my four years at McKinney Boyd High School, Mr. Gustafson has helped me to become not only a better percussionist, but also a better person. From those scorching summer band practices to our winning submission in the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, he has taught me what it means to work hard and remain accountable for myself and my section. Mr. Gustafson has made my time at Boyd something truly special and unforgettable.



Dante Gonzalez-Garcia · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Finalist—Modern Snare Drum Contest, 2nd Place at Lone Star Classic (Snare Drum), Finalist—MISD Concerto Contest, 3-Time Area Qualifier, 6-Time All-Region, Invited to Audition at the Manhattan School of Music, Selected for the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, Drum Captain/Student Leadership Team

College Plans

Major in Music Performance and Minor in Business

Inspirational Teacher: Tyler Nechamkin—Percussion

Mr. Nechamkin has been my percussion director the past four years. He has impacted my life in more ways than one, but the most prominent way is by setting me up for success. For every contest, audition, or recital, Mr. Nechamkin has taken extensive measures to ensure everything is perfect when it comes to my performance.



Amaya Dixon · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

Top 10% of Class, Classically Trained Pianist of 10 years, Singer-Songwriter, Freelance Artist, AP Scholar with Distinction

College Plans

Web Developer

Inspirational Teacher: Lauren Clemon—AP Art

Ms. Clemon, from the moment I set foot in your classroom, your enthusiasm and warmth have created a safe space to let my imagination run wild. You have not only pushed me to improve my artwork but helped open up opportunities I never thought possible. Even though we only spent one short year together, I hope you continue to touch other students' hearts and minds the way that you have touched mine.

Fine Arts Honors



Collin McClellan · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

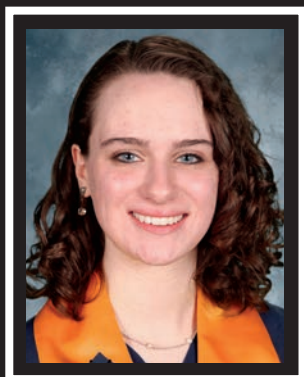
Ran Marathon (April 1, 2023); Fusion Member (2 Years); President–MBHS Choir; “Servant’s Towel” Will Recipient; 3-Time LOTE Male Student of The Year; Founder of “8th Period” Tutoring; Alliance of Elite Youth Leadership; Ran Half Marathon (April 30, 2022)

College Plans

Double Major in Spanish and Medical Humanities

Inspirational Teacher: Joseph Tomkins–Choir and Fusion

As my choral director for the last four years, Mr. Tomkins has inspired and challenged me academically, musically, and personally. Mr. Tomkins has given me a home at Boyd and made every moment I spend in his choir room special. He has been an incredibly positive influence in my life, always leading by example with his contagious positivity, showing me exactly who I want to be when I grow up.



Emily Stringfellow · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

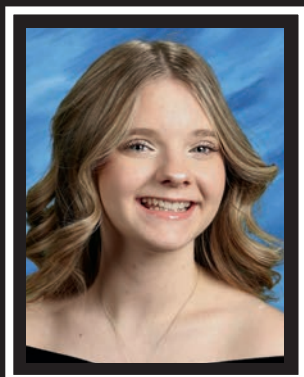
Perfect 6 on AP Art Portfolio, Art in College Board’s 2022 AP Art and Design Exhibit, 4-Time State Vase Qualifier/Medalists, 7-Time Regional Vase Medalist, 3-Time Outstanding Achievement in Art, Silver Key Scholastic Award, Dennis Baker State Farm Scholar of the Week, Cover Art for the Award-Winning Literary Magazine “The Lost Art” 2021

College Plans

Southern Methodist University–Business and Art / Collin College–Mechanic

Inspirational Teacher: Amanda Hughes–Art

I first met Mrs. Hughes as a freshman and was concerned about how our relationship would develop. Little did I know she would leave the strongest impression on me. Never did she let me get too comfortable or complacent. She challenged, encouraged, and pushed me to my artistic limits. She trusted me regardless of how ridiculous my ideas were. I will miss her unique sense of humor and seemingly endless constructive criticism.



Emma Pippin · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

President–ITS, Theatre Officer Board (2 Years), AP Scholar Award, Received an Outstanding Rank from BSHSMTA for Role of Audrey in “Little Shop of Horrors”

College Plans

Fashion Marketing

Inspirational Teacher: Keegan Arnold–Theatre

As my theatre director for 4 years, Mr. Arnold has taught me important life lessons and skills as well as helping me grow not only as an actor but as a person. He teaches his students the importance of perseverance and hard work, and he never fails to put a smile on their faces. He leaves an impact beyond the classroom and is someone his students take with them forever.

Athletics Honors



Lauren Omholt · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

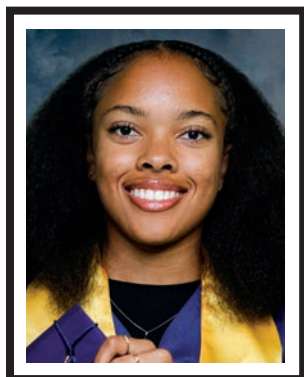
Currently ranked 8th in Class, 8 AP Classes, AP Scholar with Distinction Award, Varsity Soccer (4 Years), 6A All-State, Numerous District Awards, Officer–Student Council, PALS, National Honor Society, Officer–National Charity League, Played for Mexican Women’s National Soccer Team in the U17 FIFA World Cup in India (Fall 2022)

College Plans

Purdue University–Speech Pathology and D1 Soccer

Inspirational Teacher: Elias Ramos–Head Girls Soccer Coach

Coach Ramos has been my soccer coach at McKinney Boyd for the past 4 years. He has always encouraged me to prioritize relationships, set high goals, and work hard to achieve them. Coach Ramos has always supported my academic goals and helped me to balance my role as a student athlete. He has helped me become a better leader and better teammate and has created special memories for me and for our program which I will carry with me for years to come.



Ivana Odonkor · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

All-American, Continuous Personal Records in 400, Qualifying for Important Meets, Being on the New York Billboard

College Plans

Education and Track

Inspirational Teacher: Lakeidra Stewart–Track and Field Coach

As head coach of McKinney High School Track & Field, Coach Stewart has inspired me tremendously. On the field, she pushes me because she knows my potential. She has continued to teach me to work hard for everything, and that things will not be handed to me (which is a great life lesson to know as I head off into the real world soon). Off the field she is a second mom, always taking care of her “kids.”



Alexandra Harber · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

2021 5A State Champion–Pole Vault; 2022 5A State Champion–Pole Vault; 2022 3rd Place Medalist–100m Hurdles; MNHS Record Holder–Pole Vault, 100m hurdles and 300m hurdles; Top 10% of Class

College Plans

University of Texas–Track and Field

Inspirational Teacher: Jessica Richards–Head Girls Track and Field Coach

Throughout my track and high school career no one has been as much of an inspiration to me as Coach Richards. Over the past four years, she has helped me grow not only athletically and academically but also as an individual. She encouraged me to be confident in myself, taught me the importance of prioritization and integrity as a student-athlete and has always been there to support me throughout this physically and mentally demanding sport.

Athletics Honors



Andrew Dawson · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

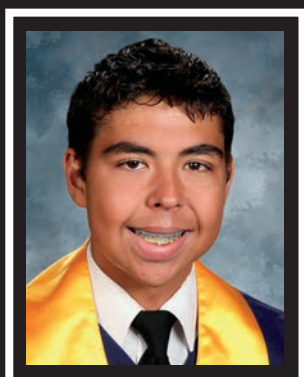
1st Team All-District ILB, 2nd Team All-District OLB, Leadership Award, Captain—Football, Academic All-State, 3-Time Academic All-District, Rotary Club Student of the Month, Dennis Baker State Farm Scholar Athlete of the Week, Academic King for Homecoming

College Plans

Texas A&M University—Business

Inspirational Teacher: Chancy Smith—AP Language and Composition

Mrs. Smith has inspired me and impacted my life tremendously. She is hands down the best teacher I've ever had. I feel that we need more teachers like Mrs. Smith who are more blunt and honest with students. If your paper was terrible, she will tell you, but she tells you why, and that is massive in a student's understanding. Mrs. Smith is the reason my writing has come so far, and I will always be confident in my abilities to dissect a piece of literature. In my opinion, being able to understand literature and entertainment is critical, and because of Mrs. Smith I have those skills.



Adam Tanah · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

School Record Holder for 2 Mile Cross Country, Captain—Cross Country/Track, Academic Excellence, National Honor Society, Regional Swim Qualifier, Coach of Elementary School Run Club, Junior Elite Triathlete, Academic All-District

College Plans

University of Arkansas—Health

Inspirational Teacher: Katie Watson—Forensics and Cross Country/Track

Coach Coach Watson has been coaching me for the past 3 years in Cross Country/Track and Swimming. Her contagious spirit and the kindness that she shows is something I will carry with me as I move forward and strive to emulate in all that I do. Coach Watson, I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done to help me become who I am today. I am very grateful to have had you as my coach.



Diego White · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

Defensive Lineman MVP, Captain—Varsity Football, Top 10—Regional Powerlifting, College Board National African American Recognition Program, AP Scholar

College Plans

Louisiana State University—Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: CaTina Bucierka—AVID

Ms. Bucierka is easily one of the most impactful teachers at McKinney North. Her ability to relate to students is second to none, and she is constantly giving out sound advice. She helps with college work, including scholarships and admissions.

At-Large Honors



Madilyn Eckenrode · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

President–Senior Class, Captain–Varsity Cheer, PALS, National Merit Commended Scholar, FCA Leader, Top 10% of Class, National Honor Society, 3-Time Green Cord Recipient

College Plans

Baylor University–Pre-Med

Inspirational Teacher: Jeremy Tillett–7th Grade Science (Dowell)

Mr. Tillett is an inspiration as a teacher but even more so as a person. He was my 7th grade science teacher and FCA sponsor at Dowell. He pushed me outside my comfort zone to pursue my faith in ways I couldn't have imagined. Last year I was given the opportunity, through unfortunate events, to be his daughter, Lexi's PAL. She is just as much an inspiration to me and a reflection of her parents and their compassion for others.



Raegan Short · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Senior Class President, Broadcast/Journalism Producer and Anchor, Varsity Theatre, "Golden" MHS Student Ambassador, 250+ Volunteer Hours (Green Cord x2), Student Council Advocacy Committee Head, Vice President's Academic Scholar Award, UIL One-Act Play Honorable Mention All Star Cast

College Plans

University of Texas

Inspirational Teacher: Cindy Erhart—Student Council and AP Literature

As my Student Council sponsor and AP Literature teacher, Mrs. Erhart has made the biggest impact on my school and personal life. I have the privilege to see her twice a day, and she always leads with the utmost kindness. Mrs. Erhart is the sole reason for my creative academic achievement in AP literature, inspiring me to dig deeper into the text more than I have ever done before. She has also been my main motivation for my student council success, teaching me how to lead and be a role model, just like her.



Schrish Azeem · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

AP Scholar with Honor, Academic Excellence Award (3 Years), National Honor Society (2 Years), AVID (7 Years), Student Council (2 Years), 250+ Community Service Hours, Time Management Between School, Work, and Community Service

College Plans

Actuarial Science

Inspirational Teacher: CaTina Bucierka—AVID

Ms. Bucierka has been extremely helpful in providing me with the resources I need to succeed over the two years I have known her. She ensures that my decisions were well thought out by asking questions that I have overlooked. She distinguishes herself by being welcoming and supportive in and out of the classroom. She genuinely cares about all of her students. I am grateful to have known her during my time at MNHS.

At-Large Honors



Caleb Sempebwa · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

Captain–Varsity Soccer, TCU Committed, Cello–Orchestra, Varsity Football, Collin County Youth leadership Council, 5-Star Kicker

College Plans

Texas Christian University–Law and Football

Inspirational Teacher: Colby Peek–Head Soccer Coach

Coach Peek has been a huge mentor for my personal development as an athlete, but more importantly, as a man. Every time I've ever needed guidance, he has been there for me and has given me direction at every turn. In the most critical moments, he has been a strong advocate when I succeed, and there to hug my neck when I come up short. Coach Peek is truly a person I try to model myself after.



Chloe Tyson · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

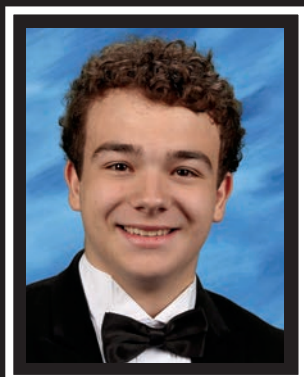
Audio/Video Production, Student Council, National Honor Society, Green Cord

College Plans

University of Arkansas–International Business

Inspirational Teacher: Curtis Christian–Audio/Video Production

As my Audio/Video Production teacher of 3 years, Mr. Christian has inspired me both in broadcasting and in leadership. In broadcasting, he has helped me strengthen my skills in editing and videography. In the area of leadership, he has helped me learn more about managing a class (as a student leader) and what it takes to be a good leader. Because of his instruction, I feel strong enough in my leadership skills to go to college, majoring in business with a focus on management.



Mitchell McCollom · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

2023 TMEA All-State Jazz Member, Drum Major, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Jazz, National Honor Society, Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Academic Excellence (4 Years)

College Plans

University of North Texas–Jazz Studies

Inspirational Teacher: Gary Williams–Band Director

I have known Mr. Williams since sixth grade. Entering middle school was a new and challenging time, but I always found fun, discipline, and overall life skills through his band programs. Not only has Mr. Williams helped me discover the career I want to pursue, but he has also helped me grow into the person I am today. Mr. Williams is the most outstanding mentor and friend I could ever ask for.

Salutatorian Honors



Ashley Xue · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

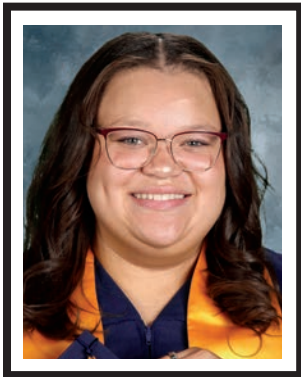
Yearbook Photo Editor, President of Photography Club, State VASE Gold Seal, President of McKinney Dear Asian Youth, Starbucks Barista, Dallas Morning News Intern, Small Business Journalism Project, Secretary–National Honor Society

College Plans

Northwestern, Rice, or University of Texas–Economics and Journalism

Inspirational Teacher: Scott Martin–AP World History and AP European History

Prior to taking AP World and AP Euro during sophomore year, I would never have thought I'd enjoy a history class, but Mr. Martin's passion for teaching truly made me fall in love with the subject. He always encouraged me to go above and beyond and saw in me what I didn't even see in myself. Beyond academic success, he also dedicates himself to get to know every student and motivates me to become a better student and person.



Rachel Wilson · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

Questbridge Match Scholar, UIL Current Events, UIL Social Studies, Junior Olympian in Shot Put & Discus, President–College Admissions Club, Vice President–French Club, National Honor Society

College Plans

Brown University–Political Science and Statistics

Inspirational Teacher: Richard McGowan–AP World History & AP European History

I've had the pleasure of being a student of Mr. McGowan all 3 years I've attended MHS. He teaches with a passion and conviction that can't help but inspire me to want to learn. In addition, he has become someone I can always turn to for sage counsel. From his classes to the clubs he's sponsored, I can confidently say that no other teacher has invested as much in my education as he has.



Jason Zapanta · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

National Merit Finalist, Treasurer–Engineering Club, Science Club, 2nd Place–UIL Science (District, 2023), 3rd Place–UIL Math (District, 2022), Volunteer at North Texas Food Bank, AP Scholar with Distinction, National Honor Society

College Plans

Texas A&M University–Electrical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Faisal Khan—Physics

As my AP Physics teacher, Mr. Khan has impacted my life tremendously. His fun, charming personality captured my attention from my very first lecture with him, and despite the struggles I experienced thereafter, I always managed to get by thanks to the guidance of Mr. Khan. Taking his class has made me more confident about my college endeavors, but most importantly, he has encouraged me to challenge myself and to reach outside my comfort zone.

Valedictorian Honors



Gaia Tural · McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements

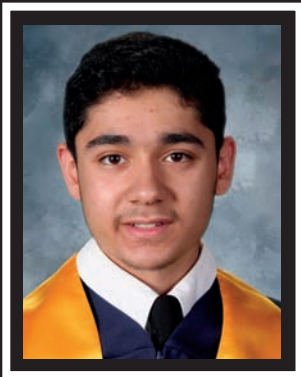
President and Section Leader—Band, Friends of Israel Scouts, Full Orchestra, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar With Distinction, President's Award for Volunteering—Bronze, Tutoring, 2-Time All-area Band

College Plans

University of Texas—Chemical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Dr. Robert Peterson—Physics

Dr. Peterson, my physics teacher, has helped me develop my work ethic and problem solving skills. In his class, he has always encouraged me to find creative solutions and learn about the world through hands-on experiences. He has taught me to work hard and keep a positive mindset through the challenging material. I appreciate how he always incorporates humor and fun into his lessons, and his class has helped develop my love for science.



Sammy Elhindi · McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements

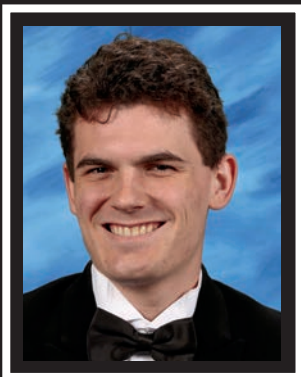
Top Achiever of Excellence in Debate, 3rd Place—UIL District Debate for LD, Achiever of Excellence in Mathematics, 1st Place Team—UIL Literary Criticism (District), 3rd Place Team—UIL Literary Criticism (Regionals), 1st Place—Technology Student Association Regional and State Competitions for Debating Technological Issues, Competed in Nationals

College Plans

University of Texas at Dallas—Electrical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Anna Feng—AP Physics 1, AP Physics C

Mrs. Feng inspires me through her character and instruction. She possesses a soft and caring heart and treats everyone with respect and kindness. She listens attentively, openly, and sincerely. She is humble, motivated, diligent, and dedicated. Her lectures are some of the most interesting, detailed, and fascinating I've ever had the pleasure of attending. She grades generously and has inspired me to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.



Bennett Powell · McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements

Founder of the Engineering Club; Artwork: The 46th Parallel—A Graphite Landscape, Cameo Bridge—A Graphite Landscape, My Secret Place—A Graphite Landscape; State Finalist—Engineering Design at Technology Student Association; Artwork selected for Youth Art Month, Displayed at the Bullock Museum; Member of MNHS Soccer Team

College Plans

Texas A&M University—Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Doug Woodall—Robotics and Engineering

My older brothers always told me funny stories about Mr. Woodall and his class. And, just as promised, I had a great time. Mr. Woodall always has something witty to say and loves to joke with students, and everyone leaves with a smile. He created a family-like environment I had longed for since my band years. He is an incredible mentor and friend, and it is sad our time together is ending. Thanks for everything.

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