

As schools head to the spring semester, we tip our hats to scholastic achievements done and to come



Pantego Christian Academy is a private, Christian school for 18 months to 12th grade students. We provide a dynamic experience that will immerse your child in a sound Biblical foundation. This, in addition to our rigorous and impressive curriculum, has propelled Pantego Christian Academy to new heights!

Our 2019 graduating class of 42 earned a staggering \$3.9 million in merit-based scholarships. Pantego Christian Academy's students ACT average is 29.3, while the state average is 20.3. Students are not only excelling in the classroom and college admissions, they are becoming leaders in the community and around the world.

Each grade level of our high school goes on an annual mission trip. Our elementary and middle school students are also participating in mission driven projects to benefit our local community and organizations worldwide.

We are proud of several exciting accomplishments over the Fall semester –

- Our PCA Football Team earned the title of 2019 District Champions.
- PCA's Fine Arts department placed first in district for One Act Play and 3rd in the State competition.
- Our current senior class has already earned \$1.9 million in merit-based scholarships, and the number is rising daily.
- Our elementary students are learning about healthy eating and analytical skills while working in our state-of-the-art on campus gardens.
- Our Early Childhood Education program is teaching and challenging our young scholars in new and unique ways as they discover God's world.



The University of Texas at Arlington conferred degrees to more than 5,200 graduation candidates in commencement ceremonies last month at College Park Center.

The newest graduates join about 240,000 UTA alumni, who earn the highest first-year median wage of graduates from any UT System academic institution, according to the 2019 UT Smartbook.

UTA has made employment readiness an explicit part of its mission, providing students with both a broad education and employable skills that empower graduates not only to be learned citizens but also be assured of gainful employment in a constantly changing world.

State Sen. Beverly Powell, a member of the state Senate Higher Education Committee, says UTA makes the promise of higher education accessible to thousands of North Texas students while helping meet the workforce needs across Texas and beyond.

"Through its remarkable growth and evolution, UTA is enhancing the North Texas region by educating its citizens and preparing them for high-paying jobs in industries that are crucial to our economy," Powell says. "In addition, the university is addressing a substantial need for research demands that only a major, top-flight research academic institution can meet."



Arlington Classics Academy's Middle School was awarded the Texas Cup by the Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League for the 2018/19 school year.

This state-wide award recognizes the top Middle School (sixth through eighth grade) campus from more than 300 TCSAAL member schools based on their overall team achievement in a variety of academic, athletic and art contests.

Standings for the Texas Cup are compiled through a year-long accumulation of points based on team success at the divisional, regional and state championships in TCSAAL Premier and Varsity contest groupings.

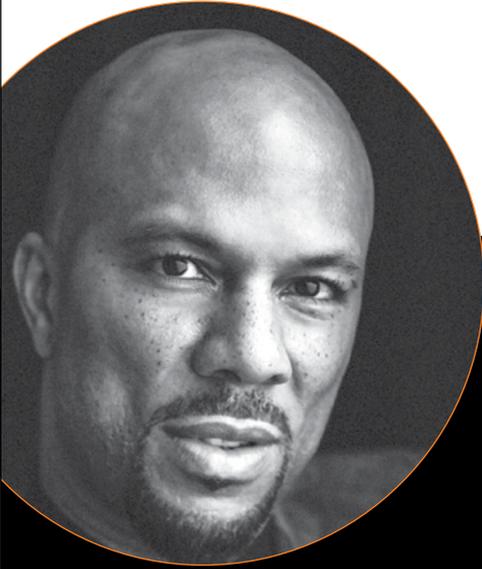
In addition to that notable achievement, Arlington Classics Academy received an overall "A" rating from the Texas Education Agency.

The 85th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 22, establishing three domains for measuring the academic performance of districts and campuses: Student Achievement, School Progress, and Closing the Gaps. ACA has received the highest rating available from the Texas Education Agency through three major accountability system changes since 2007.



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ARLINGTON CAMPUS

JANUARY 30, 2020, 6:30PM

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18 MONTHS TO 12TH GRADE
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE
COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM





Ten seniors at Nolan Catholic High School have been recognized as Commended students based on their exceptional academic promise as depicted by their scores on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

These students, according to the National Merit Committee, “represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

The students who were recognized as Commended scholars for the 2019 school year were Andrew Benkowski, Lucine Devejian, Drew Emrich, Annie Emrich, Ryan Gale, Jacob Marquardt, Connor May, Angel Nguyen, Thien Ly Nguyen and Drake Varga.

“Their academic success does credit not only to them, but to their parents, teachers, friends and our whole school community,” says Nolan Principal William Perales. “We thank all of those people who have supported them in their journeys to academic achievement. And thank you, commended scholars, for your hard work and effort. We know this accomplishment is only one step along your academic journey, and we’re so excited to see where that journey takes you.”



Three Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School Robotic Club teams participated in the first Lego League season that concluded in the fall. One of those teams, SMG Skittle Bots, won the FIRST Lego League Core Values Award.

This award recognizes a team that excels across the Inspiration, Teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism® categories. This team displays extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit, knows they can accomplish more together than they could as individuals, and shows each other and other teams respect at all times.

Each of the Saint Maria Goretti School teams (SMG Builder Boiz, SMG Skylab and SMG Skittle Bots) earned the same number of points at the Robot games. Thirty-four teams participated at the qualifier and four teams advanced to the Regional Championship, which will take place in Dallas on Feb. 8.

A mass was held at St. Andrew’s Catholic Church in Fort Worth to celebrate all the Catholic teams in the Metroplex. A small reception followed, which was organized by the RoboVikes Robotics Team from Nolan Catholic High School.

The SMG teams were led by mentors Claudia Morales, Gilbert Morales, Tom Payne and Hector Lara. They met weekly after hours with SMG students to guide and prepare them for the robotics competition.



Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams recently paid a visit to St. Joseph Catholic School to personally thank the school’s first and fourth graders for the role they played in helping bring the National Medal of Honor Museum to Arlington.

In the fall, fourth graders wrote letters and first graders drew pictures to ask site selection committee members to choose North Texas as the museum’s future home.

On Nov. 7, Joe Daniels, the CEO and president of the National Medal of Honor Museum, and Marc Wolf, the museum’s vice president of development, visited St. Joseph to thank the students for their contribution to the bid.

“Your letters had a direct impact on why we chose Arlington for this museum,” Daniels told the school’s fourth-graders.

In his talk with first-graders, Daniels said the museum would honor young men and women who helped others “under extremely difficult circumstances.”

He urged students to make difficult choices when necessary and do small acts of kindness.

“When you’re faced with hard choices or you see someone who needs a helping hand, make a good choice to give a helping hand or give a kind word,” he said.

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PK-8 GRADE OPEN HOUSE:
Sun., Jan. 26, 2020
10am-3pm

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St. Maria Goretti Catholic School
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Have you ever considered a Catholic Education for your child?

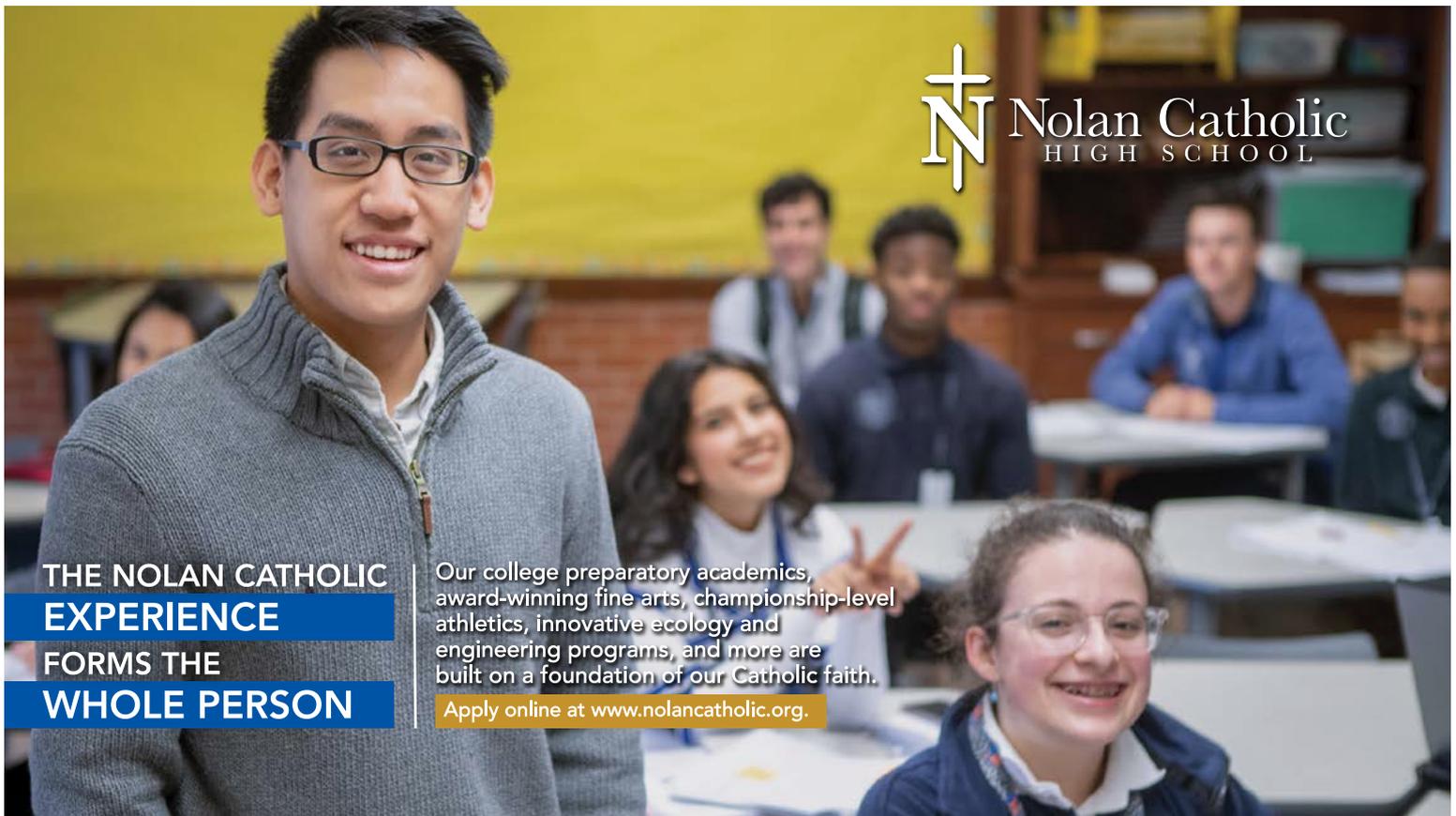
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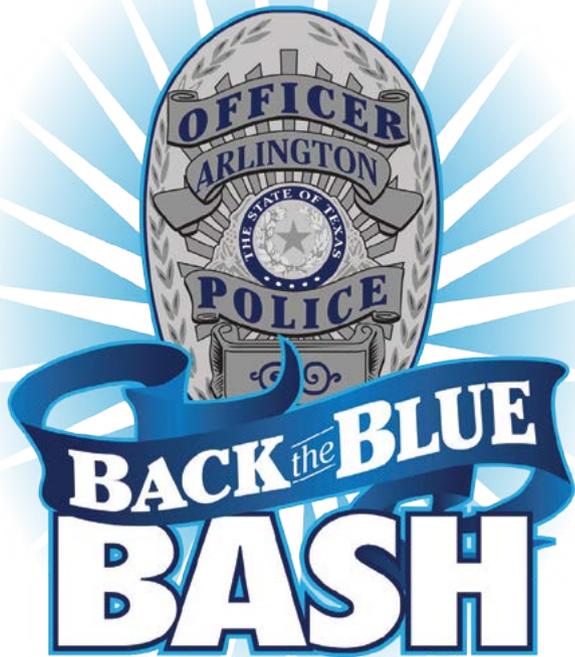
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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Last November, Sam Houston High School students honored the legacy of John F. Kennedy and commemorated the 56th anniversary of his assassination. The nine students, all part of a percussion ensemble, performed live during the world premiere of a new documentary, "Three Hours in Dallas," at the Sixth Floor Museum.



"I really consider this my crowning achievement to this point," said Xavier B., one of the musicians in the ensemble.

The ensemble's director, composer and Sam Houston teacher Jesus

Martinez, composed the original soundtrack for the 16-minute film that chronicles the three hours JFK spent in Dallas on that fateful day in 1963. The film itself is mostly silent, except for a few highlights of speeches given by JFK and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Martinez, who has scored a number of other films as well, chose the percussion ensemble "in order to create natural effects throughout the film."

The score syncs perfectly with the footage in the film, bringing the scenes to life and evoking emotion from the audience.

"We get to project the emotion that was felt back then," said Maria B., another member of the ensemble.

"We wanted to keep it as a totally immersive soundscape between the kids and the video," Martinez said in an interview with Amy Bishop on WRR 101.1 FM.

"I like how every note is one small portion of the film," said Bryan C., a senior in the ensemble.

In addition to playing the piece live with the film, Sam Houston's ensemble also premiered two other pieces written by local composers.

The performance that became part of the film was the culmination of months of hard work.

"My students have really loved the idea of film music," Martinez said. "When I introduced this idea to them, they were more than willing to do it. Marching season just ended last week for us, so they've been doing double duty until 6, 7, 8 at night sometimes ... It's incredible, and they're willing to do it."

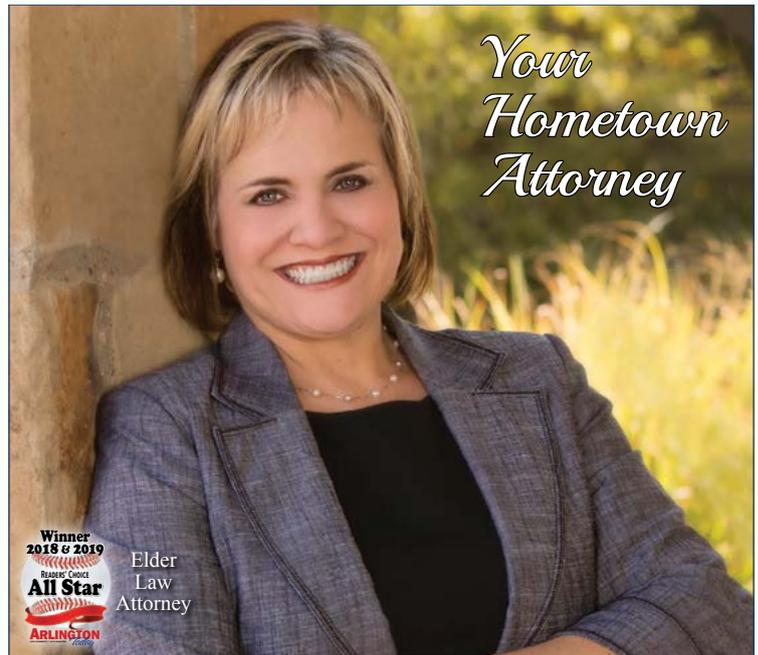
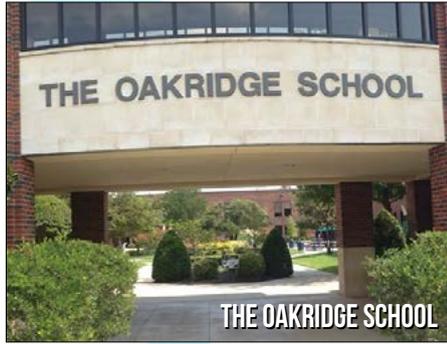
A special program, "How Opportunity Creates Excellence," will be presented at 6 p.m. on Jan. 15 at The Oakridge School (5900 W. Pioneer Parkway).

Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Scott Murray will lead a panel discussion with former Dallas Cowboy Dexter Coakley, Dallas Sidekick Arthur Ivo, Montreal Expo coach Kerri Kajihiro, Lithuanian Basketball Assistant Athletic Director Reda Petraitis and former Oakland Raider Carlos Francis. The panelists will share their thoughts on how athletics build grit and character.

In addition to the discussion, a pasta dinner is part of the purchase price. Seats are limited, so event organizers are urging those who want to attend to visit the website at the end of this story to make reservations.

The Oakridge School is a college preparatory school serving students age 3 through 12th grade.

To reserve a ticket or to find out more information about The Oakridge School, visit theoakridgeschool.org/community.



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