

San Benito Consolidated Independent School District EDUCATION Connection

Making and reinforcing strong connections!



Our Mission
The mission of the San Benito CISD is to provide a premier education for all students, through a positive and safe learning environment, so that its graduates are college, career, and workforce ready.

Our Vision
The vision of San Benito CISD is to be the gold standard in all areas of public education.

SAN BENITO CISD EDUCATION CONNECTION
"Education Connection" is a news-centered publication produced by the SB-CISD Communications Department for both district personnel and the general community. It highlights district students, staff, schools, departments, and programs. It also serves to disseminate general education news.

THE CONNECTION TEAM
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SHARE YOUR NEWS
News items for this publication should be submitted to the Communications Department via electronic mail to the following: clongoria@sbcsid.net or igonzalez@sbcsid.net.

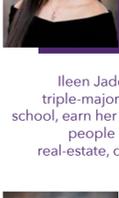


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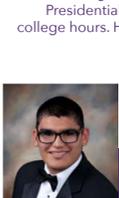
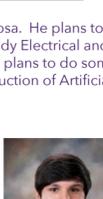
Congratulations, Top 10 Honor Graduates!



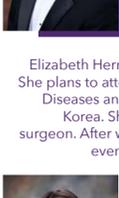
Larisa Marie Garcia • Valedictorian
Larisa Marie Garcia is the daughter of Lisa and Lee Garcia. She plans on completing her basics at the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. She then plans on transferring to the University of Houston where she will continue her post-secondary education and obtain her Doctorate of Optometry degree to become an optometrist.



Ileen Jade Montemayor • Salutatorian
Ileen Jade Montemayor is the daughter of Carlos and Maria Montemayor. She plans to triple-major in Politics and Law, Political Science, and Business. Her goal is to attend a law school, earn her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree (J.D.), and open up her own law firm to help people in the Rio Grande Valley. She plans to specialize in areas such as immigration, real-estate, defense, tax, and family law. She is also a Superintendent's Hi-Five honoree for having remained in the top 5 percent of her class since her freshman year.



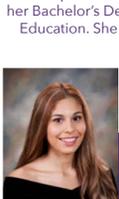
Juan Carlos Sosa Hernandez • Third Ranking Student
Juan Carlos Sosa Hernandez is the son of Carlos Rene Sosa and Rosa Icela Sosa. He plans to attend Stanford University in California on a near full-ride scholarship and study Electrical and Computer Sciences in order to later obtain a doctorate degree. After that, he plans to do some research with Robotics and eventually continue working with the actual production of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.).



Christopher Eli Guerrero • Fourth Ranking Student
Christopher Eli Guerrero is the son of Araceli Guerrero and Sarita Villarreal. He plans on attending the University of Texas at Austin to major in Engineering major. He received the Presidential Scholars Award worth \$20,000 and will be graduating with approximately 38 college hours. He is also a Superintendent's Hi-Five honoree for having remained in the top 5 percent of his class since his freshman year.



Jose Luis Rivera, Jr. • Fifth Ranking Student
Jose Luis Rivera, Jr. is the son of Jose Luis Rivera and Herminia Rivera. He has enlisted in the United States Navy with a contract guaranteeing admission into its nuclear program with a \$12,000 enlistment bonus. He has amassed over 54 college hours throughout high school. He plans on finishing in the top 10 percent of Nuclear Power School ("nuke school") and hopeful chosen to serve aboard a United States Navy nuclear submarine.



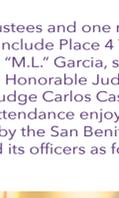
Elizabeth Hernandez-Medina • Sixth Ranking Student
Elizabeth Hernandez-Medina is the daughter of Tereso Hernandez and Maria H. Hernandez. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and minor in Korean. While in college, she plans to study abroad in Seoul, South Korea. She also plans to enter medical school to study and become a pediatric cardiac surgeon. After working for a few years in the field, she plans to open up her own practice and eventually become a part of the non-profit organization, Doctors Without Borders.



Daniela Isabel Lopez • Seventh Ranking Student
Daniela Isabel Lopez is the granddaughter of Ella Cano. She will be graduating from high school with 70 college credit hours. She was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from The University of Texas at Austin, was accepted into the Freshman Initiative Research Program, and plans on pursuing a major in Biology and minor in French. She would like to become an anesthesiologist and work with Doctors Without Borders. She is also a Superintendent's Hi-Five honoree for having remained in the top 5 percent of her class since her freshman year.



Angela Rose Nuñez • Eighth Ranking Student
Angela Rose Nuñez is the daughter of Sergio and Yvonne Q. Nuñez. She will be graduating from high school with approximately 40 college credit hours. She was awarded the \$500 TMF Enterprise Scholarship. She plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and pursue a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She wants to become an elementary teacher, and after a few years of experience, wants to become a school administrator.



Anahi Anaya • Ninth Ranking Student
Anahi Anaya is the daughter of Yesenia Gonzalez. She will be graduating from high school with over 30 college hours and plans to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. She has been awarded a \$65,000 Presidential Scholarship from Abilene Christian University and a \$20,000 UTRGV Scholars Scholarship. She plans on becoming a Labor and Delivery Nurse and continue her studies toward a Master's in Nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner and offer her services to the people of the Rio Grande Valley.



McKayla Ryan Guerra • Tenth Ranking Student
McKayla Ryan Guerra is the daughter of Rolando and Inez Guerra. She will be attending the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley and plans to major in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She plans on pursuing a Master's Degree to be able to teach speech-impaired children. She plans to travel around the globe after earning her degree.



*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!
Live the life you've imagined."*
Henry David Thoreau

Congratulations, Trustees!

Oath of Office administered to four Trustees

Three newly-elected trustees and one re-elected Trustee, joined by family, friends and well wishers, were administered the Oath of Office. They include Place 4 Trustee Orlando "Papas" López, sworn in by Honorable Judge David Gonzales III; Place 5 Trustee Mary Lou "M.L." Garcia, sworn in by Honorable Judge Jesus Garcia, Jr.; Place 6 Trustee Victor Rosas, sworn in by Chief Justice Honorable Judge Roy Valdez; and Trustee Angel Mendez, who was re-elected to Place 7, was sworn in by Honorable Judge Carlos Cascos.

Trustees and those in attendance enjoyed a reception held in their honor, complete with sweet refreshments, and lively entertainment provided by the San Benito High School's Mariachi Del Sol. The Board re-organized its officers as follows: Michael A. Vargas, President; Angel Mendez, Vice-President; and M.L. Garcia, Secretary.



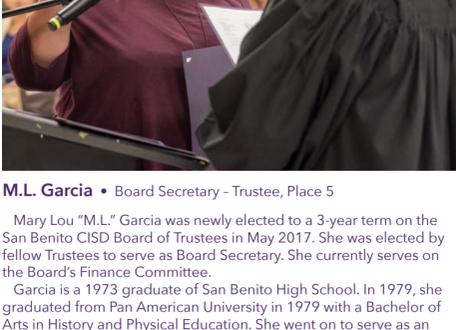
Orlando López • Board Member, Place 4

Orlando "Papas" Lopez was newly elected to a 3-year term on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees in May 2017. He currently serves on the Board's Finance Committee.

Lopez is a 1993 graduate of San Benito High School. In 1998, he graduated from the University of Texas at Brownsville having earned an Associates Degree of Applied Science and a Bachelors Degree in Applied Technology.

Lopez is currently employed with Knapp Medical Center, where he serves as the Imaging Services Manager. Lopez has garnered 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, serving for 13 years in management.

Lopez is married to Claudia C. Lopez, and they are proud parents of a son, Diego Orlando. Lopez is also a member (Place 3) of the San Benito Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board.



M.L. Garcia • Board Secretary - Trustee, Place 5

Mary Lou "M.L." Garcia was newly elected to a 3-year term on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees in May 2017. He was elected by fellow Trustees to serve as Board Secretary. She currently serves on the Board's Finance Committee.

Garcia is a 1973 graduate of San Benito High School. In 1979, she graduated from Pan American University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Physical Education. She went on to serve as an educator for San Benito CISD for 36 years.

Garcia is currently enjoying retirement. She retired after nearly four decades of dedicated service and commitment to the students of San Benito.



Victor Eloy Rosas • Board Member, Place 6

Victor Eloy Rosas was newly elected to a 3-year term on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees in May 2017. He currently serves on the Board's Building Committee.

Rosas is a 1978 graduate of Harlingen High School. He later earned an Associates Degree of Applied Science in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology from Texas State Technical College.

Rosas is currently enjoying retirement. He retired as a Lieutenant from the City of Harlingen Fire Department after dedicating 30 years of service to the community of Harlingen.

Lopez is married to Cindy Tagle Rosas, and they are proud parents of a daughter, Ryan Lynn.



Angel Mendez • Board Vice-President - Trustee, Place 7

Angel Mendez was originally elected to the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees in May 2014. He was re-elected to a second 3-year term in May 2017 and was elected by fellow Trustees to serve as Board Vice-President. He currently serves on the Board's Curriculum Committee.

Mendez, currently a PhD (Leadership) student at Our Lady of the Lake University, earned his Masters of Education Degree with a major in Education Administration from The University of Texas at Brownsville in May 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Kinesiology and a minor in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Brownsville in August 1997.

Mendez is currently employed as the Rio Grande Valley liaison with Texas A&M University - Kingsville. He previously worked at the University of Texas and Texas Southmost College as the Director for Dual Enrollment; at Texas State Technical College in Harlingen as the Curriculum Coordinator and Director of Collaborative Projects; and at the University of Texas at Brownsville as the Coordinator of High School Equivalency Program and as an adjunct professor. Earlier in his career, he worked with San Benito CISD as a General Equivalency Degree instructor, a teacher, a teacher assistant, and a library assistant.

Mendez, the son of Maria de Jesus and Carlos Mendez, is married to Belinda A. Mendez. They have five children: Cameron, Portia, Kirsten, Arlene, and Brian.

2017 SUMMER HOURS
San Benito CISD is currently observing a summer schedule through Friday, August 4, 2017.
District offices are OPEN Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, and CLOSED each Friday.

Rendon named Acting Superintendent of Schools
Hilda G. Rendon was unanimously appointed by the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees to serve as the district's Acting Superintendent effective Friday, June 9. Trustees appointed Rendon to serve in that capacity during a Special Board Meeting held on the evening of Wednesday, June 24. "I am very humbled and honored to have been selected as the Acting Superintendent," she said. "It's exciting to have been given this great opportunity. Being able to return to where I started my career is extra special!"

Rendon is not new to San Benito CISD being that she is a 1982 San Benito High School graduate and that her career in education first began with San Benito CISD, where she worked as a para-professional.

She has experience working for several school districts, and in 2016, the district hired Rendon to serve as the district's Chief Financial Officer. With the approval of new organizational chart presented and approved by Trustees earlier this school year, her title changed to Executive Director of Finance and Operations.

She has 27 years of experience in school finance and was previously employed as the Chief Financial Officer with the Santa Rosa Independent School District since 2009.

Prior to accepting the position in Santa Rosa, she had previously worked with the Rio Hondo Independent School District as an accountant from 1989 until 2009.

"I have a passion for schools and for children," she said. "I am grateful for that the Board of Trustees placed confidence in me and my abilities to lead the district while the search for a permanent leader continues." Rendon explained that she is committed to working with trustees and colleagues to make the district a stronger and more financially stable district.

"We have great employees and great colleagues, and we are thankful for the foundation set forth by our recent superintendent, Dr. Adrian Vega," she said. "I am also thankful for both our former and current board members that assisted with the process of providing pay raises for staff. We will continue making progress in all areas of public education."

Rendon earned an Associates of Applied Sciences in Accounting from Southmost College in Brownsville in 1989. In 2006, she earned an Associates of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Texas at Brownsville and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Management.

In 2010, she earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from University of Texas at Brownsville. She is also received her certification as a Registered Texas School Business Administrator via the Texas Association of School Business Officials. She hopes to continue her studies and eventually earn her Ph.D. in Organizational Management.

Rendon is married to Arturo Rendon, and they have two daughters, Samantha and Alyssa.



Hilda G. Rendon
Acting Superintendent
& Executive Director
of Finance and Operations

RE-IMAGINE 2021 San Benito Schools



KSBG TV co-op students gain valuable skills for the future

Two San Benito High School students gained valuable skills while employed with KSBG TV through the district's Career Technical Education Co-op Program, a program that allows students an opportunity to obtain hands-on skills that prove beneficial for gainful employment and the industry.

The students, instructed by longtime Audio/Video (A/V) Production instructor Joel Rodriguez, applied what they learned in the classroom to real-world work experiences, learning videography and editing, photography, graphics and design and public relations/communication skills from the district's award-winning Communications Department staff.

Randy Merida, a San Benito High School Class of 2017 graduate and son of Rigoberto Merida and Maria Merida, completed a successful school year as a co-op student, working closely with the district's staff learning and acquiring the skills he needs for his future career working with Disney Pixar or CNN.

His hobbies include drawing, reading and photography, all of which allow him to explore his craft and serve as outlets for his creativity. His favorite subjects in high school were English/Writing and Government/Economics. Merida plans on attending the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia, or the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

, the daughter of Connie and Marcial Baltazar, is grateful to have spent the 2016-2017 school year learning valuable skills. Her favorite subjects are History and English.

Upon graduation, she plans to take her basics at Texas State Technical College in Harlingen and then transfer to the University of Texas at Brownsville. Baltazar's future career goals are to either work as a teacher or work in the film industry.

Both Merida and Baltazar were taking courses in the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication Career Pathway. Occupations involved in this pathway consist of those that design, produce, exhibit, perform, write, and publish multimedia content - including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.

These occupations may include video graphics, special effects, and animation, film and video editors; audio systems technician; audio/visual technicians; reporters; radio and television announcers; photographers; interior designers; and telecommunication equipment and repair.



Randy Merida



Melony Baltazar

Thank you!



During a festive Mardi Gras themed Employee Awards Ceremony, San Benito CISD Trustees and Administration honored this year's retirees and service award recipients for their dedicated service - ranging from 5 to 45 years - to the school district. The employee gathering also afforded everyone the opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of a successful academic year.

San Benito CISD San Benito Consolidated Independent School District
Home Departments Schools SBISD/IPP's E-Mail Tech Support
For Staff For Students For Parents Board Links Forms Sports Strategic Plan Search

TxEIS Employee Access Login Eduphoria! Login to Eduphoria! Naviance Login School Family Connection Re-Imagine 2021 Strategic Plan Details and Updates View KSBG Live Streaming on YouTube and Livestream.

The San Benito Consolidated Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its employment practices in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. • Es norma del Distrito Escolar de San Benito no discriminar por motivos de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.