



PROUDLY HIGHLIGHTING LA JOYA ISD'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1983!

LA JOYA PALMVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR **XAVIER PINA**



La Joya ISD is proud to announce that Palmview High School Senior Xavier Piña has been accepted to over 17 universities across the nation, including to several notable lvy League institutions.

Xavier's college acceptances include Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, The California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern University, Princeton University, Rice University, The University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt University, and Yale University.

Submitting college applications and waiting to hear back can be a strenuous process for many students as they anxiously wait for weeks or months to be notified if they have been accepted or not.

"You know like you can't like to apply to these schools and expect to get in with acceptance rates at 3%, 4%, 5%," Xavier said. I think for my round in Harvard it was close to 2%, so you can't apply to these schools and expect to get in, so knowing that you're most likely going to get rejected it's very discouraging," he said.

Xavier did not let these rates stop him however, and he went on to submit applications to all the universities he was interested in. He added, "but at the same time, you have nothing to lose. I feel like once I realized that it really just pushed me and told me like just submit your

applications."

Xavier received his first college acceptance letter in December from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and several months later, acceptances from all his other applications, including to Ivy Leagues schools, began arriving.

"It was my very first one and I just opened it, I was very, very nervous. I opened it; I just yelled because I couldn't believe that had been accepted," Xavier Pina said.

Now, Xavier finds himself faced with yet another difficult decision - which university to choose. While he knows he is headed somewhere north, he has narrowed his choice down to two choices. "I am definitely planning to live in Cambridge, so either Harvard or MIT," he said.

Now, as he goes on to achieve his college dreams, Xavier wants other kids in the Rio Grande Valley to know that they too can achieve their dreams. "Put in all your effort, and like you're bound to do something great, as long as you're fully invested. And don't let your fears hold you back," he added.

La Joya ISD is extremely proud of Xavier and all his accomplishments. A dedicated student, he has been actively involved with Mariachi Los Lobos at Palmview High School, he has participated in UIL Academics, and he continues to be an outstanding scholar. We wish you the best of luck Xavier and know that you are on to the next chapter of accomplishing even bigger dreams for yourself. Always continue to Shine Bright!

SUPERINTENDENT



Dear La Joya ISD Family,

Over the last few weeks, we have witnessed our students accomplish great milestones in the classroom while earning state recognition in their extracurricular activities. We are so proud of all our students for their dedication to academic excellence and for their determination to represent La Joya ISD among the best and most talented students from throughout our state. Our students Shine Bright!

At La Joya ISD, we believe that students further their skills, abilities, and hone their talents through practice and real-world application. Through activities such as UIL, athletics, band, choir, theater, and others, our students can implement what they learn in the classroom to help them reach their goals. These activities also build social skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and motor skills that enhance every student's capabilities.

We are so proud of all our students for their hard work and accomplishments! These achievements are also a reflection of the outstanding staff, coaches, teachers, and mentors who dedicate their time and afterschool hours to help each student succeed in their extracurricular activities. Thank you to each of you for making such a positive impact on our students!

As we enter the final weeks of the semester, we are especially proud of all our La Joya ISD families who support our students, teachers, and staff as we continue to work through the pandemic, together! Our staff is doing an amazing job at continuing to engage our students and families, especially by continuing to host safe, drive-thru celebrations and events. These events surely make our students light up and provide a sense of community and accomplishments for all involved.

We still have many more celebrations to look forward to in these final weeks as we anticipate our upcoming student graduations and end-of-year events. Continue to stay safe and Shine Bright!

With great pride,

Dr. Gisela Saewy LA JOYA ISD SUPERINTENDENT

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DISTRICT NEWS

Message

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear La Joya ISD families:

On behalf of the La Joya ISD School Board, I am proud to share with you the many accomplishments, accolades, and successes of our students throughout the district.

Our students have worked diligently to succeed in the classroom and have also dedicated their time to excel in their extracurricular

activities and sports. Recently, many of our students and teams throughout the district have earned recognitions and accolades for their outstanding performances. Our students have earned multiple state, area, and regional awards for their participation in UIL, athletics, band, choir, and other activities. Our students Shine Bright and we are proud of their hard work!

In this issue we are proud to share with you, our families and communities, the projects that our students are working on in their classes, the many extracurricular accolades our students have achieved, and the virtual learning educational models our teachers have implemented.

Every day we are fortunate to expand educational opportunities for our students through new programs, extracurricular activities, experiences, and educational lessons that influence and impact your child's education.

Congratulations to all our outstanding students and staff on these achievements! Thank you for always representing La Joya ISD with great pride.

Oscar "Coach" Salinas,

School Board President



En nombre de la Junta Escolar de La Joya ISD, me enorgullece compartir con ustedes los muchos logros, reconocimientos y éxitos de nuestros estudiantes en todo el distrito

Nuestros estudiantes han trabajado diligentemente para tener éxito en el salón de clases y también han dedicado su tiempo para sobresalir en sus actividades extracurriculares y deportes. Recientemente,

muchos de nuestros estudiantes y equipos en todo el distrito han ganado reconocimientos y premios por sus excelentes desempeños. Nuestros estudiantes han ganado varios premios estatales, de área y regionales por su participación en UIL, deportes, banda, coro y otras actividades. Nuestros estudiantes brillan y estamos orgullosos de su trabajo.

En esta edición estamos orgullosos de compartir con ustedes, nuestras familias y comunidades, los proyectos en los que nuestros estudiantes están trabajando en sus clases, los muchos reconocimientos extracurriculares que nuestros estudiantes han logrado, y los modelos educativos de aprendizaje virtual que nuestros maestros han implementado.

Cada día tenemos la suerte de ampliar las oportunidades educativas para nuestros estudiantes a través de nuevos programas, actividades extracurriculares, experiencias y lecciones educativas que influyen e impactan en la educación de su hijo.

¡Felicitaciones a todos nuestros estudiantes y personal por estos logros! Gracias por representar siempre a La Joya ISD con gran orgullo.

Oscar "Coach" Salinas,

Presidente de la Junta Escolar

CALCULATOR CHAMPIONS



Dr. Palmira Mendiola Elementary students and staff are extremely proud of the entire UIL Calculator Team and their coach, Mrs. Alicia Gutierrez, the school principal. Their long hours of practice and dedication paid off when all 3rd and 4th grade students in the team placed in the top ten. That is right, all 3rd and 4th grade! Even better, the team took the 1st Place District Champions title all thanks to Ariana Ochoa, Crystal Rodriguez, and Enrique Hernandez. A huge shout out goes to Enrique Hernandez for being the district calculator champion for three consecutive years! The Calculator Team is eager to compete again next year and surpass their own expectations.

DISTRICT VISION: Educational Excellence: The Right of Every Student

DISTRICT MISSION:

La Joya Independent School District is committed to providing Educational Excellence through rigor, relevance, relationships and personal responsibility. We are the integral part of learning where students become successful and productive contributors to our global society. We embrace, with passion, the commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration and accountability that will allow our students to imprint the world.

DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY:

La Joya Independent School District is dedicated to the belief that in order for all students to attain mastery of the instructional goals, there must be a district-wide commitment to constant renewal according to the most effective practices and procedures in the most current research findings. In order to operationalize this philosophy in the most comprehensive and organized manner, the district has adopted The Quality District Model. The district's Mission Statement, Foundation Beliefs and Desired Exit Behaviors: Student Learner Outcomes, exemplify this philosophy.

SCHOOL BOARD

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Alejandro "Alex" Cantu, Member
Mary T. Hernandez, Member
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Ricardo Villarreal, Asst. Supt. for Operations & Student Services

Martin Muñoz, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction



La Joya Independent School District

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DTMS UIL SCIENCE TEAM HEADED TO TIMES TO THE TOP TO THE



Mr. Rodriguez has been the UIL Science coach at DTMS for the last 8 years. The UIL Program has grown to be Domingo Trevino's outstanding program in the division of 6A. They have won three back-to-back regional titles from 2019-2021. In 2019 they placed #17 in the state competition at TMSCA held in San Antonio and that was the highest performing rank from a Valley school in the 6A division.

On April 24th they will compete once again at TMSCA State Competition as they are looking to capture top 5 placing. No Valley Science UIL team has ever reached top 10 placing in 6A. Mr., Rodriguez's team is hoping to make a historical accomplishment with his 6 qualifiers.

The program teaches students to be competitive while maintaining a sense of fun and acquiring the knowledge needed to perform at exemplary levels. The program helps motivate students to find a passion in the field of T-STEM and medical careers. Participating students also realize their potential to obtain scholarship monies from UIL and TMSCA foundations by participating in UIL throughout high school.

Students in the UIL Science Program are: Kendra Chavez, Christian Santos, Jalynn Guajardo, Delani Guajardo, Jared Lopez, Jahaziel Maldonado, Guadalope Gomez, Aylin Garcia, and Mia Hernandez.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF HIDALGO COUNTY AT

DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

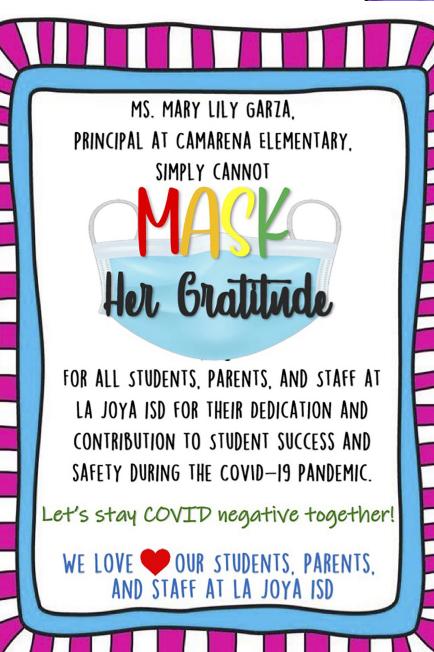
During the month of March, Communities in Schools of Hidalgo County (CIS) participated in the Dr. Javier Saenz Middle School College Bound Curbside Recognition Event. During this event, students were recognized for their participation in CIS, perfect attendance, A&B Honor Roll, and top readers, among other things. CIS donated 30 uniform shirts and 200 goodie bags to the students who attended this event to distinguish the hard work the students have put forward during this school year.

The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS Site Managers work closely with students to identify individual needs and prevent dropouts. Some of the services that Site Managers provide to students include academic readiness, social and communication skills, career exploration, and coping skills.

Site Managers build relationships with students, staff, and parents in order to provide the best services. CIS believes that no matter the background, every student has the potential to excel in anything they set themselves to do.









AT LA JOYA ISD!



We have never depended on technology this much in our jobs and education more than today. We understand that educational technology is here to stay and that our students need to be competent in it in order to succeed in any type of chosen career. STEAM activities for our students are so critical to their empowerment that we have found a way to continue to implement these through virtual learning. The 3rd grad team at Garza Elementary have found countless resources online that involve coding, research, and videos that show students hands on activities that students can do using everyday materials that we keep in our homes. Taking advantage of technology and implementing some of the ideas shared at the LJISD Educational Technology Institute during the past summer, we created a Google Slide that contained numerous URL's that they could choose from to complete online STEAM activities. These virtual STEAM labs provide an opportunity for our students at Garza Elementary to continue to use engage in curated STEAM activities remotely. We love to see our students eager and motivated to use these resources as soon as they are done with an assignment or as part of our planned STEAM days. Educators are growing with the times much like the students, and technology in education is here to stay.

FIGHTING COVID TOGETHER



At Camarena Elementary administration and staff have been working hard to maintain a safe environment for all its stakeholders. Teachers and parents are working together to teach the new life skill of mask-wearing to all learners as they prepare for in-person instruction. They are doing so by using a positive and supportive approach to mask-wearing. By making mask-wearing and good hygiene habits a priority we are ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all. Let's stay COVID Negative together!

TEXAS YOUTH CREATOR AWARDS

Every year Dr. Saenz Middle School students take part in the Texas Youth Creator Awards. Our goal is to give students the opportunity to tap into their talents and have a creative outlet. This year we are proud to announce we have two students who placed. We have Mauricio Martinez, a 7th grader who won 1st place for a coding game he created. Carter Ponce, a 6th-grade student won 2nd place for his coding game. We are proud of our students and are excited to know they are creating their very own coding games. We are a STEM campus so we are glad we are building a foundation or pathway for our students towards a stem career.



Every year students from across the state of Texas enter projects that they create under different categories. We are extremely proud to announce that Dr. Palmira Mendiola had the most students that placed in the district and La Joya ISD had the most winners in the state of Texas. 1st place winners include: Phoenix Peralez in Coding, Perla Garza in Web Design, Symone Tristan in Book Trailer, Enrique Hernandez in Digital Music and Multimedia. 2nd place winners include: Darytza Hernandez in Black and White Photography, Ariday Gomez & Alejandro Guerra in Graphic Design, Kimberly Moreno, Naileah Ibarra, Marlene Villegas, Dasha Ramos, Nicole Hernandez, Dahiana Pecina in Video Recording, Enrique Hernandez in Video Recording. 3rd Place winners include: Ashley Belland in Animation, Symone Tristan in Video Recording. Honorable Mention: Enrique Hernandez in Animation, Roel Arellano, Gale Alonso, Kimbily Hernandez, Norma Perales in Graphic Design. Only a few of the students that placed this 2020-2021 school year at the Texas Youth Creators Award were photographed due to the current health crisis; nonetheless, Mendiola Elementary students and staff are extremely proud and congratulate all students that placed. Moreover, Dr. Palmira Mendiola Elementary is a Media Arts and Communication campus and would like to invite all students that would like to learn more about media arts and communication to enroll at Dr. Palmira Mendiola Elementary School.

MIMINA PIZZA READING



Students Deborah Jasso, Gael Fernandez, Axel Lozano, Jaylah Lara, Fabian Carrillo, Mateo Mata, Daniel Montalvo.

Students here at Chapa Elementary from Mrs. Esquivel's class have enjoyed reading with an extra flavor of pizza! Pizza has not only been a motivator but has been a well-deserved treat for students. Every week, students who meet their weekly goal for Accelerated Reading have an opportunity to get their names on that famous wheel to raffle pizza to enjoy with their family every Friday. We even raffle another order of pizza for those students who maintain a 90% weekly average. Students not only look forward to this raffle, but also have enjoyed reading along the way. It is great to know that these students do not get bored of pizza nor the love for reading.

ACADEMICS

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE











La Joya ISD Head Start Program is proud to collaborate with United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) to enhance student learning. At UMOS-Palmview Migrant Seasonal Head Start, our Pre-K students are learning all about the Buildings Study from the Creative Curriculum. They have

been learning about the variety of community buildings, how buildings are made, and what careers and jobs are involved in construction and in the community. Our students have become architects, construction workers, contractors, etc. They love using their imagination and creating amazing towers, castles, skyscrapers,

and the like. Some of the activities done in the classroom are great STEM activities that allow for the students to get creative and use their problem-solving skills to create their buildings. "It's my favorite study!," they say.

Exposur<mark>e to d</mark>ifferent st<mark>udies</mark>, or

themes, has helped foster their oral language development, vocabulary, as well as those important social skills used for communicating, playing, and learning while in the Interest Areas, or learning centers. Students at UMOS-Palmview MSHS, are eager to further develop their learning about the Buildings study in the next few weeks.

DIAZ-VILLARREAL RECRUITING YOUNG MINDS

The Diaz-Villarreal Administration team attended the La Joya ISD Educational Opportunities EXPO 2021 along with all other campuses in the Huskies Cluster. It was a successful event in which families from our communities as well as surrounding districts attended. The curbside event lasted about two hours and parents drove by to receive goodies as well as information about each campus. Diaz-Villarreal is now a Technology Designated campus and therefore, has a lot to offer its student body in terms of technology. One hundred percent of our teachers are Apple Certified Educators and have attended the LJTECHi3 Academy offered by Technology Director, Mrs. Clem Garza. All our classrooms are equipped with big screen smart TVs and Apple TVs and our teachers excel in the use of: Seesaw, Flipgrid, Jamboard, Padlet, Peardeck, Green Screen, Google Suite and various other applications. We are extremely proud of all the work our staff has done both before and after pandemic in order to prepare our students for the future. Technology moves at the speed of light and so do our teachers!



Pictured L to R: Veronica Gonzalez (Counselor), Adriana Sifuentes (Asst. Principal), Yolanda Salazar-Meave (Principal), and Maggie Gonzalez (Librarian).

IN PERSON & REMOTE LEARNING TEAM EFFORT

Students and teachers sure have had adventurous journey this school year. Students at Mrs. Sobrevilla's class started their science countdown review with a good old Stinky Feet game to review light energy. This game was sure a class favorite and it still is via online. Students worked in groups to

analyze the stimulus, looked for distractors and justify their answer. Jamboard made it possible for students learning at home collaborate with students at school. Students were actively engaged and hooked on learning all while sharpening their science skills.

5th grade students at Elodia R. Chapa started their science review by playing collaboratively.



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GARZA ELEMENTARY HOSTS A MAGNIFICAMP

WRITING DAY

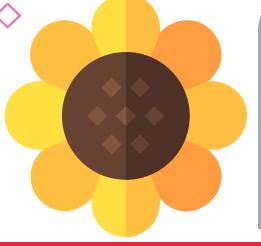
Fourth grade students at Evangelina Garza Elementary polished their learned writing skills with extraordinary writing camp activities. Students expanded their knowledge through a variety of activities such as Jeopardy, Quizizz, Kahoot and Google Slides where teachers rotated to innovate and ensure the implementation of all learned skills that will lead to success of the STAAR writing test. It was evident that students were actively engaged throughout the learning process and enjoyed participating in these activities.

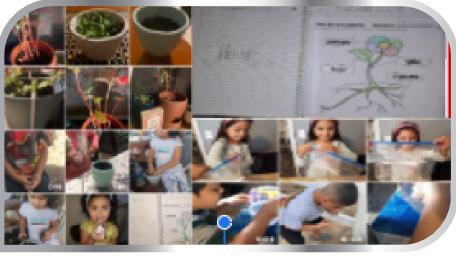
HOW TO MAKE A ower

At Elodia R. Chapa Elementary School, students learned how to do a procedural writing paper. The teacher modeled how to do a flower with tissue paper. Students began by listing all the material that they needed to create the flower. At home, students were allowed time to gathered all their materials and then they created their flower and listed the steps. Students then wrote their procedural writing paper on how to do the flower. Nicole modeled her flower and decided to wear it as a hairpiece. Joselin and Karime from Mrs. Sandoval's class were excited as they displayed their flower and ready to surprise their mom with their flowers.



Above: Nicole Hernandez, Joselin and Karime De La Cruz





INTRAMURAL/SOCCER LEAGUES

GIRLS' TEAMS AND BOYS' TEAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE! 956.323.2031



PARTES DE

La clase de Pre-K de Ms. Sandra Garza se divirtió mucho aprendiendo sobre las partes de una planta. Pudieron cultivar su propio frijol y observaron cómo crecía día a día en casa y en el aula. Los estudiantes aprendieron que, así como necesitamos agua, comida y sol, también lo necesitan las plantas. Estaban muy emocionados y también plantaron sus propias flores. Luego llegaron a etiquetar las partes de la planta comparándolas con las suyas. Les encanto ser agricultores.

Below: Josue Acosta, Debanni Salas, Nailea Resendiz, Angel Gomez, and Miguel Aguirre

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

KIKA'S STUDENTS "GOT GAME"

This year has been like no other! So many changes in such a short time have opened a new world of possibilities. All educators have had to change their way of teaching and students are loving it! Along with learning and developing Google Classroom, students at Kika de la Garza are embarking on a new adventure that opens doors to the future! Gaming may have seemed like a waste of time to parents and teachers wanting their students' noses to book, however, this is a new age.

Kika students with a passion for gaming are now able to show off their polished skills with the new E-Sports Club. The Kika E-Sports Club offers games like Chess, Mario Kart, Fort Nite, Minecraft and Smash Brothers. Students are able to challenge themselves as well as strike up some friendly competition with other elementary campuses. One shining star in our club is Fernando Mata.

Fernando has advocated for this club by explaining to club members how these skills help them become better students. He states that by learning gaming students are also learning to apply strategies, problem solving, pre-planning, hand eye coordination and patience. He also

has learned real life skills by applying some knowledge about farming, which he picked up by playing a farming game. But best of all Fernando says gaming de-stresses him after a long school day. And, Fernando is in it for the long haul hoping to get a scholarship when he graduates.

Gaming is not just for fun anymore. It is now something competitive in high school that can award students with college scholarships. As students look into the possibilities for their future, gaming is something they can pursue as future gaming programmers. So, if you think gaming is a waste of time think again because it is here to stay.

IT IS ALL IN THE "GAME"!

Do you have issues getting your students engaged? Try Blooket or Bamboozle, they are online assessment tools used by 4th grade teachers in Elodia R. Chapa Elementary. Teachers have found success in engaging students during online lessons. No more silent responders when it comes to these games. The excitement fills the air when Blooket or Bamboozle are mentioned. These interactive games assist in monitoring or assessing student learning. All students are engaged and are left wanting more every time.

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HATS OFF FOR DR. SEUSS'

WEEK



Students Arianna Rodriguez, Jaden Veliz, Elijah Gutierrez, and Fernando Cuellar show their Cat in the Hat crafts.

The students in Ms. Ocanas' class worked on Cat in the Hat crafts for Dr. Seuss week. They enjoyed using their fine motor skills to color, cut, and glue their Cat in the Hat headbands. They showed off their spirit by wearing their gear throughout the day. They sure had a Seusstastic week!

citical GOOD LIFE CELEBRATION

Sam Fordyce Elementary held its 4th Six Weeks Good Life Celebration on Friday, March 5, 2021 with a special visit by Magician Oscar Muñoz. As a way to promote good behavior, hard work, and attendance, Sam Fordyce Elementary students get to attend the Good Life Celebration held every six weeks. This last celebration, students got to enjoy 30 minutes of a virtual magic show where Mr. Muñoz entertained them with his magnificent talent as an illusionist and magician. Students were in awe of his magic tricks and laughing at his jokes. Students look forward to these celebrations!





THE REGION AND STATE

IN COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!





COLLEGE, CAREER, AND MILITARY GRADUATES

STATE • 72.9%

REGION • 83.4%

LA JOYA ISD • 84.0%



ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

STATE • 1.9%

REGION • 5.0%

LA JOYA ISD • 10.1%



APPROVED INDUSTRY **BASED CERTIFICATIONS**

STATE • 10.7%

REGION • 26.4%

LA JOYA ISD • 54.7%

²2018-2019 Results of TEA Academic Performance Report; College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)



DUAL COURSE CREDITS

STATE • 23.1%

REGION • 31.6%

LA JOYA ISD • 35.8%



CAREER/MILITARY **READ GRADUATES**

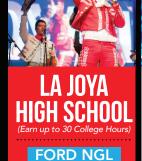
STATE • 40.4%

REGION • 58.9%

LA JOYA ISD • 72.3%

OUR HIGH-PERFORMING

ACADEMIES ENSURE EVERY STUDENT IS ON A BRIGHT CAREER PATH!



- **ACADEMIES**
- Academy of Arts & Humanities **Academy Business &**
- Engineering
- Academy of Public Service T-STEM ACADEMY

JUAREZ-LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL (Earn up to 30 College Hours)

FORD NGL

- **ACADEMIES** • Academy of Public Service
- Academy of Business & Industry
- T-STEM ACADEMY
- Engineering Computer Science



PALMVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

FORD NGL **ACADEMIES**

- Academy of Public Service Academy of Business & Industry
- T-STEM ACADEMY



OF HEALTH **SCIENCE PROFESSIONS**

- Careers in Healthcare Professions

(Earn up to 30 College Hours) STEM

(Earn up to 60 College Hours or an Associate Degree)



LA JOYA ECHS

HUMANITIES

Interdisciplinary Studies



956.323.2295

 Computer Science Interdisciplinary

Engineering

Mathematics

Studies - Science

Biology



THELMA R. **SALINAS**

STEM ECHS Earn up to 60 College Hours

or an Associate Degree)

- STEM-Related Fields of Study
 - STEM
- **SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

JIMMY

CARTER

ECHS

or an Associate Degree)

- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Interdisciplinary