The Academic Awards Ceremony specifically honors the top ranked students of each grade, the academically outstanding students who have demonstrated mastery of specific skills, and the UIL * winners of the following areas of competition:

Academic, Literary, Speech & Debate, Journalism, Robotics and Theatre.

The Academic Awards Ceremony, a project of the FHS Parent-Teacher Organization, is made possible by the contributions of parents and business establishments.

*University Interscholastic League, the largest inter-school organization of its kind in the world, oversees the extracurricular, athletic, and music contests between schools.

"We are deeply appreciative of the financial support of our sponsors. These community leaders have each expressed their belief in the importance of academic excellence. Their experiences in the business world have clearly shown them that education is an important instrument in attaining meaningful goals. It is the desire of these sponsors that this recognition stimulates and inspires each student to high educational effort and achievement."

1983 Academic Banquet Program
Courtesy of the FISD Archives

*

The 2021 Academic Ceremony Committee would also like to thank our

in kind community partners.

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PROGRAM

Pledge of Allegiance	Luke Lipetska FHS Class of '21
Texas Pledge	Luke Lipetska FHS Class of '21
Special Remarks	Meghan Flanagan FHS Class of '21
Welcome	.Mark Griffon FHS Principal
Presentation of Certificates	Thad Roher FISD Superintendent & Lauren Ambeau Assistant Superintendent & Kim Cole Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning
Presentation of theValedictorian & Salutatorian Plaques from the City of Friendswood	Tony Hopkins FISD Board President
Presentation of PTO Scholarship Awards	Elizabeth Fischer FHS PTO President
Closing Remarks	Mark Griffon FHS Principal & Tam Tran Academic Ceremony Chairperson

NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM SCHOLARS

Elizabeth Ayala

Austin Saenz

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN RECOGNITION PROGRAM SCHOLAR

Gerald Musyimi

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Isabelle Bartlett Dean Galloway

Jillian Hermes Skyler McKee

Evan Oakley Kai Todd

FAMILY, CAREER & COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Caroline Jensen ** Tayler Wiederhold **

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR OF HOUSTON STATE MEET QUALIFIERS

Maegha Tipirneni *

Ganesh Venu *



*International Qualifier

2

**National Qualifier

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Mary Wise FHS Art Department

MUSIC PROVIDED BY

FHS Jazz Ensemble
Under the direction of Mr. Julio Sanchez
FHS Assistant Band Director

LIVESTREAM PROVIDED BY

Lindy Grubbs, FHS Student
Toby Wise
Audio & Visual Production Department

The Academic Awards Banquet Committee greatly appreciate the assistance of

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Stephanie McFadden Melissa Victorick
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Susan Ballard with the City of Friendswood Mayor's Office
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PTO Chairperson Tam Tran **PTO President** Elizabeth Fischer

Sponsor & PTO Liaison Shawna Lewis

Additional Committee Members

Libby Sims Karen Littleton Sandra Gonzalez **Amber Pugsley**

If we inadvertently missed a name, please know your help was greatly appreciated.

In addition to endless hours spent planning and fundraising for the Academic Ceremony each year, the PTO also provides scholarships for the Valedictorian and the Salutatorian.

> SALLY HARRIS BRANSON Financial Advisor HARRIS B. HANSON, CFP, AAMS Financial Advisor

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VISUAL ARTS SCHOLASTIC EVENT STATE QUALIFIER

Autumn Potter

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE QUALIFIERS

Shriya Alli Haley Romine

DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION CLUB OF AMERICA

Gerald Musyimi Evan Lorenz **Hunter Scheidt**

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Liliana Molis Christine Chacko

Meghan Flanagan **Kostas North**

Arnay Goel **Marshall Prince**

Emma Heintz **Austin Tran**

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE **NATIONAL MEET QUALIFIERS**

Marshall Prince

SKILLS USA APPLIED ENGINEERING TEAM

Vicente Castillo **Kurt Saunders**

Robert Chapman Eli St. John

SKILLS USA EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Emma Heintz

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE DISTRICT 24AAAAA CHAMPIONS

Brooke Adams Accounting

Accounting Team

Connor Adams One Act Play

Lisa Adolf Spelling and Vocabulary Team

Shirya Alli Spelling and Vocabulary Team

Thomas Basciano Cross Examination Debate Team

Grace Bilnoski Lincoln Douglas Debate

Speech Team

Chloe Bischoff Theatrical Design*

One Act Play

Carson Bonner Copy Editing

Journalism Team

Ashley Campbell One Act Play

Christine Chacko Informative Speaking

Speech Team

Vijay Chaudhari Lincoln Douglas Debate

Speech Team

Nicholas Cipolla Science Team

Computer Applications*

Colby Clayton One Act Play

Ben Cruse Computer Science Team

Rylee Dever One Act Play

Chase Donovan One Act Play

Paige Encarnacion Current Issues

Current Issues Team

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Renae Simons Elizabeth Woodley Adam Brown Ray Monahan

ACADEMIC OCTATHLON COACHES

Katie Ellis Adam Brown

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Mandy Harris Mary Wise

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA SPONSORS

Carla Burris Heather Martin Bridget Ruth

TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION & NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE COACH

Joshua Rabalais Jennifer McNew

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE COACHES

Accounting Jane Pearce

Calculator Applications Mary Gillespie

Computer Applications Kristen Balch

Computer Science Annette Walter

Current Issues and Events Katie Ellis

Debate Joshua Rabalais & Jennifer McNew

Film Animation Toby Wise

Informative Speaking Joshua Rabalais

Journalism Jenna Crosson

Literary Criticism Susanne Stafford

Mathematics Mary Gillespie

Number Sense Mary Gillespie

One Act Play Katherine Powdrell

Persuasive Speaking Joshua Rabalais

Poetry Interpretation Katherine Powdrell

Prose Reading Kevin Reed

Ready Writing Kevin Reed

Robotics Derek Carter & Nishi St. John

Science Megan Marshall

Social Studies Jennifer Sicuro

Spelling & Vocabulary Jennifer McNew

Student Congress Joshua Rabalais

Theatrical Design Amy Thornton

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE DISTRICT 24AAAAA CHAMPIONS

Jason Enochs One Act Play

Maryam Faisal Spelling and Vocabulary*

Spelling and Vocabulary Team

Meghan Flanagan Journalism Team

Current Issues

Current Issues Team Persuasive Speaking

Speech Team

Ryan Flick Mathematics

Science

Science Team

Kennedy Freyer One Act Play

Poetry Interpretation*

Dean Galloway One Act Play

Connor Gibson Science

Science Team

Julian Gonzalez Cross Examination Debate Team

Science Team
Student Congress

Neelesh Gupta Computer Applications*

Mariafernanda Gutierrez One Act Play

Jake Halaska Computer Science*

Computer Science Team

Sophia Hammerle Copy Editing*

Editorial Writing
Headline Writing
Journalism Team
News Writing
Ready Writing*

Nicole Hansen Literary Criticism

Literary Criticism Team

*State Qualifier

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE DISTRICT 24AAAAA CHAMPIONS

Emma Heintz Informative Speaking

Speech Team

Jaden Howard Computer Science

Computer Science Team

Hadyn Hobbs One Act Play

Luke Johnstone One Act Play

Balint Kidd One Act Play

Nathalie Larson Spelling and Vocabulary Team

Morgan Maris One Act Play

Abigail McDonald Science

Science Team

Gabriella McGregor One Act Play

Skyler McKee Accounting

Accounting Team

Liliana Molis Literary Criticism Team

Student Congress

James Nelson One Act Play

Theatrical Design*

Kostas North Persuasive Speaking

Speech Team

Evan Oakley Accounting*

Accounting Team

Ronan O'Donnell Computer Science Team

Zach Otto One Act Play

Jaiden Patel Science Team

Justin Paulder One Act Play

*State Qualifier

FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

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Nancy Lockhart Associate Principal

Ashley Birmingham Assistant Principal

Chad Jones Assistant Principal

Delaney Lyon Assistant Principal

Glen Newsom Assistant Principal

Paul Tucker Assistant Principal

Robert Koopmann Athletic Director

Susan Kirkpatrick Executive Director of Career

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Kelly Cawthorn

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Abygail Kinard

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UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE DISTRICT 24AAAAA CHAMPIONS

Autumn Potter Young Filmmakers Contest **

Marshall Prince Informative Speaking

Journalism Team
Speech Team

Sia Ramchandran Literary Criticism

Literary Criticism Team

Austin Saenz Current Issues*

Current Issues Team

Jon Sims One Act Play

Dechlan Stopher Poetry Interpretation

One Act Play

Nelson Thornton One Act Play

Rebecca Throop Journalism Team

Kai Todd Accounting

Accounting Team

Austin Tran Lincoln Douglas Debate*

Speech Team

Nathan Turnbaugh One Act Play

Kyle Van Slooten Current Issues Team

Audrey Weakley Literary Criticism

Literary Criticism Team

Seth Webb One Act Play

Coy White One Act Play

Ashton Whittington One Act Play

*State Qualifier

**State WINNER



"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better."
-Pat Riley

By Jenny Chen Class of 2024

Whether it be an academic or artistic achievement, extracurricular activities, sports, or anything else along the spectrum, we've all wanted to improve, but how do we accomplish that? Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts to achieving excellence- no step-by-step guides to follow, no clear -cut paths laid out for us to take. Excellence is nonlinear and fully dependent on our own decisions and motivations to do better.

Excellence is not a tangible object that can be held, bought, or found. The amount of drive we can muster up after being berated and beaten down again and again is equivalent to how much excellence we will achieve. Our drive is what pushes us to sprint at the end of a marathon, it is what keeps us going through times that seem fruitless or desperate. With this drive, we will pull ourselves through the rut, and excellence will shine through.

Excellence is not something that can be achieved in a day, it is based on the building up of good habits and regular routines. As students, we have been advised countless times not to cram the day before an exam and expect to do well. Similarly, we shouldn't expect to play like an NBA player after a singular hour of practice. In order to achieve, we must work hard and strive; we must maintain a consistent schedule. Excellence is something that is accumulated over a long period of time.

We can't cut corners when it comes to achieving greatness; it takes our drive, our persistence and time, to reach excellence. Our journey to competency will never be finished, and we will always be taking steps to improve. Throughout the past year, every day seemed like a struggle, swarmed with the same questions of, "When will it be over?" But taking a step back and looking at how far we've come this past year, every single person has accomplished some sort of excellence; we have grown and learned by striving for self-betterment one day at a time.

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Anisha Abbaraju Pumarie Madden

Adam Boehnke Caitllyn Moore

Kacie Bridwell Megna Panchbhavi

Nicholas Cipolla Gabriel Perry

Michael Diamond Quinn Radtke

Troy Dutton Connor Thurman

Mitchell Litvinov Kenneth Webb

Mara White

NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Sophia Anne Hammerle

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Gerald Musyimi

Justin Ouyang

SALUTATORIAN

Justin Ouyang

VALEDICTORIAN

Kacie Bridwell

ACADEMIC OCTATHLON TEAM

Kyle Clauson Sebastian Leiman

Joaquin Krancher Pari McNatt

Christopher Lancaster Jude Peters

Alexander Slack

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Adam Boehnke Brodie Lynch

Banks Brashier Gerald Musyimi*

Emily Chapman Megna Panchbhavi

Daniel Chen Jude Peters*

Morgan Creel Joel Sanchez*

Jude Kehres Noelani Tanita

Luke Lipetska* Emily Thomas*

*Alternate



FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2020-2021 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

TOP 5% OF THE FRESHMAN CLASS

Hayley Banwell Joaquin Krancher

Simon Bartlett Caroline Krebs

Jenny Chen Alyssa Langer

Erin Cumming Sebastian Leiman

Riley Dietrich Jaeyoung Moon

Audrey Enochs Amelia Morgan

Edward Fudge Aldrich Nguyen

Claire Gibson Kaitlyn Nguyen

Graham Gides Adair Schultz

Arnav Goel Audrey Tang

Diego Henriquez Vivian Tang

Lilly Jamail Hugh Tian

Hazel Woodruff



"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters."
-Colin Powell

By Ganesh Venu Class of 2023

The great American politician and four-star general Colin Powell once said, "If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters." This quote resonated with me, because I believe success in any field is driven by your diligence and perseverance. Little matters, such as always wanting to learn new things, creates a foundation for your success in your future career.

With the increased automation and globalization of the world, people are living a life that devalues innocent curiosity. For example, reading for pleasure is becoming almost unheard of by the general public, though it is considered one of the best ways to improve your imagination and critical thinking. However, if we analyze the daily routine of some of the wealthiest and most successful people in the world, we see a different trend. Warren Buffet, considered as the most successful investor of the century, claims to read 5-6 hours a day to stay ahead of his competitors! Bill Gates claims that reading transformed his career path and contributed most to his success in managing his company. Elon Musk has stated repeatedly in his interviews that his unparalleled knowledge of physics and engineering came from either reading books or interviewing his employees. It is very clear that their passion for learning and reading books led to better decision making in investments and created paths towards a highly successful career.

Reading books has become part of the daily routine for the most successful people as it stimulates the mind to search for new possibilities. Their passion for learning may seem trivial at first glance when compared to their overall success. However, it is this passion that created such a successful career.

FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2020-2021 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS TOP 10% OF THE SENIOR CLASS

Anisha Abbaraju Mitchell Litvinov

Avery Antill Pumarie Madden

Mackenzie Becker Kate Meador

Adam Boehnke Caitlyn Moore

Kacie Bridwell Micaela Nelson

Jake Burke Jeremy Ninan

Vi Cao Kostas North

Christine Chacko Justin Ouyang

Yujiang Chen Megna Panchbhavi

Nicholas Cipolla Avani Patel

Michael Diamond Gabriel Perry

Vincent Duong Nicholas Posluszny

Troy Dutton Quinn Radtke

Neelesh Gupta Sia Ramchandran

Tanvi Gupta Sydney Reese

Sophia Hammerle Isabell Revere

Jordynne Harris Payton Rue

Emma Heintz Jacquelyn Santo

Rebekah Heintz Sydney Skinner

Mitchell Hermes Mary Velek

Sofia Hernandez Kenneth Webb

Cameron Kettler Graisa White

Natalie King Mara White

Eric Li Matthew Wilson

Luke Lipetska Paul Yi

Peter Yi



"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

—Author Unknown

By Kacie Bridwell Class of 2021

Some have an aptitude for athleticism. Some for music. Some for speaking. Some for writing. Some for mathematics. Some for leading. Some for communicating. Although these gifts vary widely, each has excellent value to both that person and those around them. Once a person recognizes their given contribution, he or she can then appreciate its value and share it with the world.

An athlete finds joy on the field, using his or her strength to make the goal, score the point, or prevent their opponent from doing so, but that athlete is not the only one who is thriving off the game's adrenaline. The fans in the audience are just as involved in the match, rejoicing with every point scored. Similarly, a skilled orator puts his or her heart and soul into his or her speeches, perfectly illustrating the feelings of the most joyous or poignant occasions. When an orator shares this gift, his or her audience is left with immense gratification from hearing such moving words. Despite the significant differences between these two gifts, they both evoke delight from those with whom they share their aptitudes.

I have found this to be true in my life with singing and performing. Whether I am humming around my house or performing on the TMEA All-State stage, I sing constantly. Before I began performing, this gift was a valuable outlet and a simple enjoyment for me, but my true purpose was revealed when I began sharing my gift. The decision to share my passion proved something unexpected: both the listeners and I were given some joy. Sharing my gift has opened my eyes to my talent as well as other peoples' in that I appreciate every person's unique capabilities.

No matter how big or small, every person is endowed with a talent. While that talent can fulfill them personally, sharing one's gift can amplify this fulfillment. Individuals must use their various facilities to enrich their own lives and the lives of others. Therefore you all must find and harness your gifts: whether it is academic or athletic, conveyed through music or words, they must be shared.

FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2020-2021 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

TOP 6% OF THE SOPHOMORE CLASS

Aidan Armand Gabriella McGregor

Nandini Bhojani Ava Michael

Brynli Campbell Mohamad Moussaoui

Daniel Chen Mackenzie Moyer

Cameron Culling Jessica Nguyen

Matthew Dupuis Aden Pugsley

Maryam Faisal Govind Rangappa

Michael Ghebranious Anisha Sakhare

Emma Hoang Asiya Siddiqi

Megan Hubbard Jacob Smith

Gouri Pillai Katelin Stilen

Sophie Kester Fotoula Stroumpos

Paul Konyha Riley Studebaker

Brendan Larson Maegha Tipirneni

Nathalie Larson Ganesh Venu

Nicole McGill Alexandria Wilson



"Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people—- your family, friends, coworkers and even strangers you meet along the way."

—Barbara Bush

Ву

Audrey Nguyen Class of 2022

Success is defined as the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. To some, the most important type of success is the attainment of wealth, scholarship, or fame. To others, success is realized by making a difference in people's lives. The secret to true success, regardless of one's interpretation of the concept, lies in self-perception. As human beings, we have developed into a species that values morality. We determine our self-worth by measuring how "good" of a person we are-how morally correct we push ourselves to be. One crucial staple of good character is kindness. Since our days in grade school, we have heard the golden rule: treat others how you want to be treated. This simple message (though admittedly cliché) rings true in all stages of life. Kindness remains a necessity and serves as a benchmark of character and therefore self worth. True success should yield happiness and pride in oneself. If one gains material success but cannot be content with the type of person they have become, they cannot reap the benefits of success in its entirety. How can one ignore the painful twinge of guilt felt when they have succeeded materially but failed morally? Success without personal contentment is not success at all.

The possibilities for success are broadened when one embraces kindness as a mindset for their lives. In every field of work or walk of life, human interaction is inevitable. The care with which we engage in these daily interactions influences the amount of lives we are able to touch and the depth of the relationships we are able to foster. A coach's success is determined by his bond with his athletes, a firefighter's by the impact on her rescued, and a waiter by his service to customers. When we treat those we meet with kindness, the range of lives we touch grows larger, and in turn, the perception of our personal success is greater. The pandemic has revealed how kindness and compassion are woven into the human experience. Every smile, every embrace, every word is a stitch closer to genuine success. True success is the restaurant owner who donates food to front line workers hungry from hours spent at the hospital. True success is the teacher who stays after a Zoom call to help a virtual student. True success is the doctor who sits with her covid patient to shelter him from the loneliness of dying alone.

Showing kindness for others will never limit one's ability to succeed—it can only amplify the rewards of success. Treating others well does not just reflect kindly on us; choosing kindness enriches our lives by gifting us with the treasure of meaningful relationships. By consciously choosing kindness and treating others the way we want to be treated, we achieve true success by touching the lives of those around us and letting them touch ours.

FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2020-2021 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

TOP 7% OF THE JUNIOR CLASS

Shriya Alli Claire Hookstra

Isabelle Bartlett Evelyn Jiang

Ty Brantley Aiden Kaouk

Chumeng Cai Balint Kidd

Elaina Chong Judy Koussayer

Riley Davis Christian Larue

Samantha Delany Qingyang Li

Grace Enochs Abigail McDonald

Ryan Flick Britton Merritt

Benjamin Fox Elaina Moss

Madison Fuhr Camden Myers

Connor Gibson Audrey Nguyen

Annika Gill Ronan O'Donnell

Juan Gonzalez Jaiden Patel

Carlos Henriquez Paige Patton

Gabriel Hernandez Haley Romine

Isaac Hernandez Jacob Sims

Emily Thomas