

Houston Independent School District

Mirabeau B.
Lamar High School

**An International Baccalaureate
World School**

**State of
the School
2008–2009**



Houston Independent School District

Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center

4400 West 18th Street • Houston, Texas 77092-8501

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The IB Continuum

PYP

MYP

DIPLOMA

Transdisciplinary

Integration

Concurrency of Learning

Program of Inquiry

Areas of Interaction

TOK

Action

Community and Service

CAS

Criterion

Referenced

Assessment

Languages

Languages

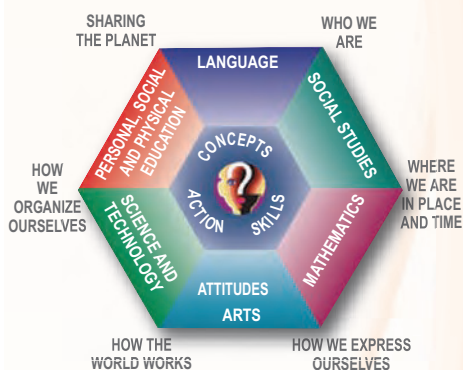
Languages

Exhibition

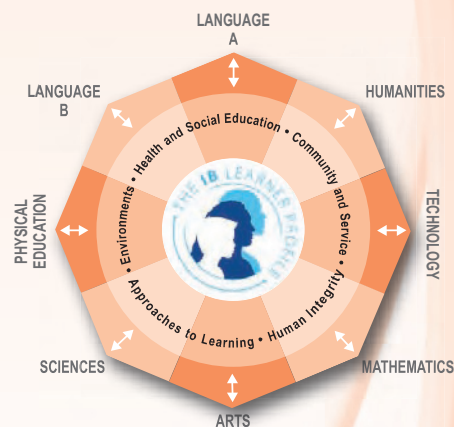
Personal Project

Extended Essay

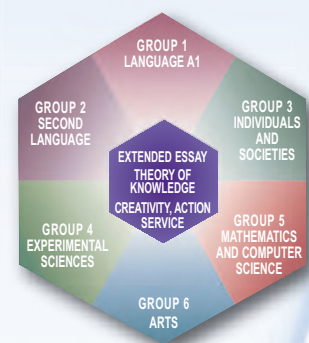
IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME



THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME



IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME



Personalized Student Academic Pathways



Personalized Student Academic Pathways

Lamar students have the option of customizing their education.

IB Diploma Programme

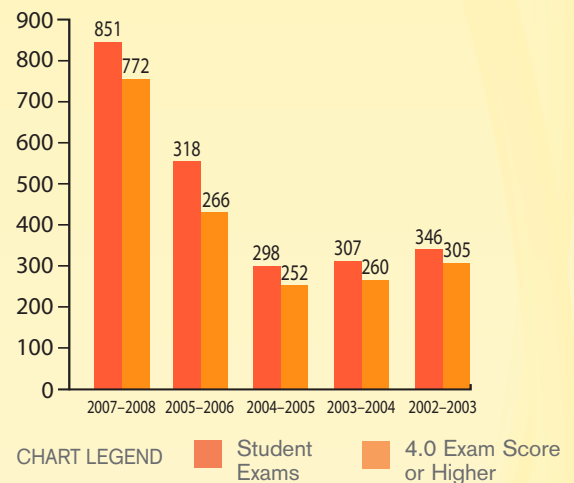
The IB Diploma Programme is the most rigorous academic pathway offered at Lamar High School.

- Students experience a world-class education through a balanced two-year curriculum that is comprehensive and standardized worldwide.
- Student work is assessed by certified IB examiners and moderated by an international examining board.
- Students are required to engage in individual research and inquiry into the theory and nature of knowledge, and to participate in community service and action projects.
- Twenty-four countries accept the IB diploma as undeniable proof of a quality pre-university education.
- IB Diploma recipients who attend colleges and universities in Texas, Florida, Colorado, and California are able to take advantage of state legislation that guarantees students a minimum of 24 hours of credit toward their bachelor degree plans.

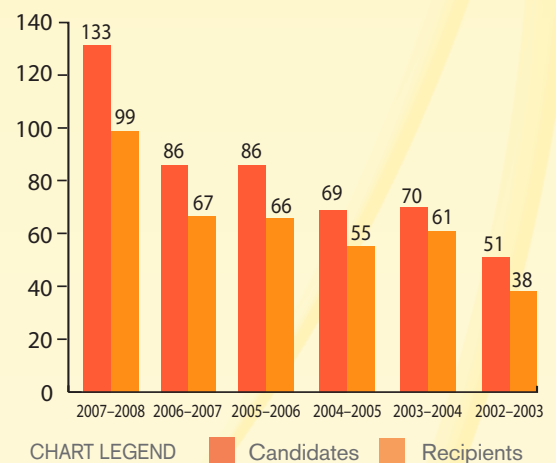
IB Certificate Programme

The IB Certificate Programme is intended for students who do not wish to pursue the IB Diploma. They can qualify for the IB Certificate by taking one or more IB exams in IB Diploma subjects they are studying. The Certificate denotes the IB exams taken and the scores received.

EXAM DATA
FOR IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME



IB DIPLOMA CANDIDATES AND RECEIPIENTS



College



College-Preparation Readiness Classes

College-Preparation Readiness classes for ninth and tenth grades provide an alternative for students who may not wish to pursue the full IB diploma but still seek a college experience. Students who select these courses may also choose the Texas Recommended Program or International Baccalaureate classes.

Dual-Credit College Program in Partnership with Houston Community College System

- Students get an early start on transferable college credits at no cost for tuition and fees.
- Entrance exam requirements met for Texas colleges and universities.
- Students graduate from high school with earned college credit.
- Courses include English, Government, Economics, African-American Studies, Mexican-American Studies, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Sociology, and Psychology.

Texas Recommended Scholars Program

This program is available to all Lamar students, including students in the IB Diploma Programme.

- Students are better prepared for college.
- Eligible students with demonstrated financial need qualify for Texas grants.

College-Bound Campus Culture

- Community involvement will support college-bound culture.
- Intellectual, social, and emotional preparation for every student
- Attitude shift for entire campus—all students are prepared for college
- College emphasis for all students includes: admission exams, FAFSA, college application, and success in dual-credit or IB Diploma courses.

STUDENTS GRADES 11 AND 12
ENROLLED IN DUAL-CREDIT COLLEGE PROGRAM

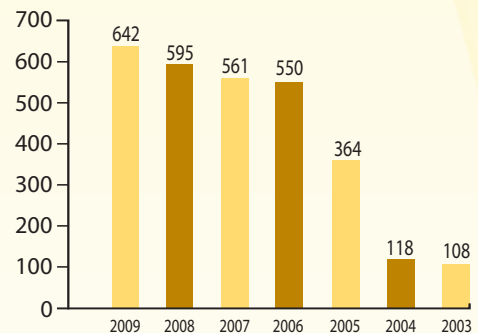


CHART LEGEND Lamar HISD Texas

2008 GRADUATING SENIORS
TEXAS RECOMMENDED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

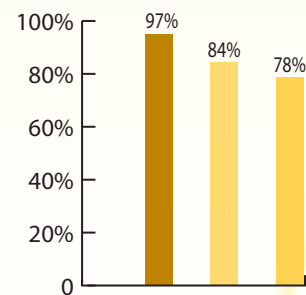


CHART LEGEND Lamar HISD Texas

IB Learner Profile

IB Learner Profile

- To equip students with the skills to learn and to acquire knowledge, individually or collaboratively, and to apply these skills and knowledge accordingly across a broad range of areas.

IB programmes aim to develop internationally minded people who are striving to become:

Inquirers

Their natural curiosity is nurtured. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct constructive inquiry and research and become independent, active learners. They enjoy learning, and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Risk Takers

They approach unfamiliar situations with confidence and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas, and strategies. They are courageous and articulate in defending those things in which they believe.



Lamar Business Administration Magnet Program

Lamar Business Administration Magnet Program is comprised of over 700 students selected by application. Generally, one out of eight applicants qualifies for this rigorous program that includes courses in Business Support Systems, Management and Multimedia, Accounting, Business Law, Economics, and Banking and Finance.

Initiated in 1983, the program emphasizes college-bound readiness in all areas of instruction. Senior internships are provided to students by business partners to allow students to gain work experience in a wide-variety of careers that interest them. These business partners have included oil and gas, accounting and tax firms, lawyers, medical, advertising, financial institutions, insurance, non-profit, and educational organizations. Students gain, not only the work experience, but also the confidence to know what is expected of them in the workplace.

This year, in collaboration with the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Lamar added the Global Energy Academy. A cohort of ninety 9th-grade Magnet students visited Halliburton's Real Time Drilling Center and the Schlumberger Corporation. Executives from the Petroleum industry are frequent guest speakers. Houston is a world center for global energy and careers in the Petroleum Industry are a major focus.

Professional Development for our magnet teaching staff is in collaboration with the University of Houston's Global Energy Management program (GEM) at the Bauer College of Business.

College-Bound Strategies

- superior academic preparation
- student work ethic
- student support
- college center with two full-time coordinators

Prior to graduation students will:

- complete a college application
- sit for college entrance exams or qualify through TAKS, SAT, or ACT
- complete the FAFSA
- experience a college campus visit

Texas Education Agency Recognized Lamar High School as the first HISD comprehensive high school to achieve “TEA Recognized Status” for the state’s accountability system.

As the state continues to raise the bar, in 2008, Lamar’s ninth-graders outscored others in HISD and Texas in reading/language arts and math.

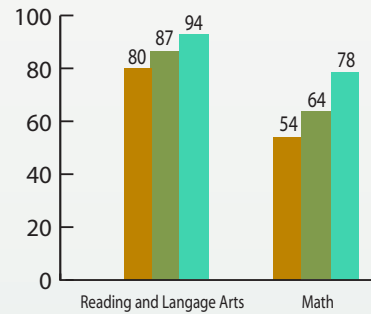


In 2008, sophomores scored above state and district averages across the board.

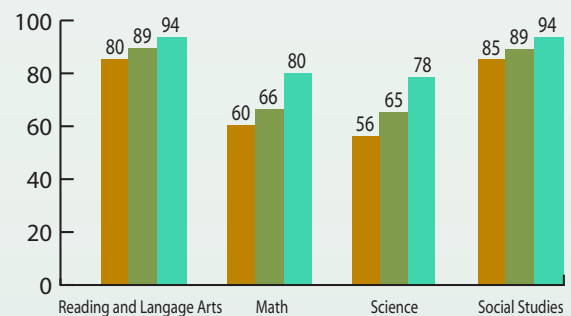
In 2008, exit-level (eleventh-grade) test scores were above district and state averages.



NINTH-GRADE TAKS SCORES—2008



TENTH-GRADE TAKS SCORES—2008



EXIT-LEVEL ELEVENTH-GRADE TAKS SCORES—2008

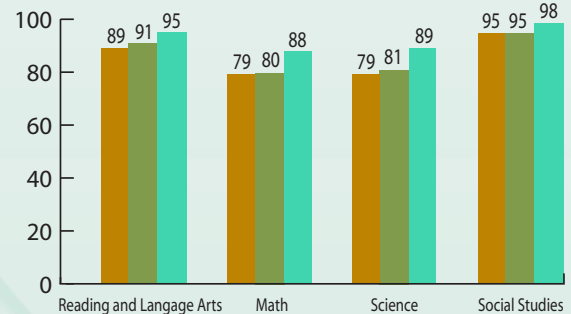


CHART LEGEND ■ HISD ■ State of Texas ■ Lamar High School

Knowledgeable

They explore concepts, ideas, and issues that have global relevance and importance. In so doing, they acquire, and are able to make use of, a significant body of knowledge across a range of disciplines.

Master Teacher Academy

What do we want students to know?

The Master Teacher Academy combines CLEAR, student expectations, and pedagogy into comprehensive lesson designs for core subjects. Non-core subjects also utilize the same strategies:

- IB Middle Years Programme Areas of Interaction and International/Intercultural Connections
- Gifted and Talented strategies
- Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognition combined with authentic assessment
- The Lesson Cycle
- Brain-based Learning
- Kilgo Data-Driven Decision Systems
- 40 Developmental Assets for Healthy Communities—Healthy Youth
- Differentiated Instruction



IB Middle Years Programme

IB Middle Years Programme Unit Plans are written to provide cohesion between the stated topic, the aims and objectives, and lessons within a unit and its connection with the Area of Interaction, the UnitQuestion, and Authentic Assessment.

How do we know students have learned it?

Criterion-Referenced Assessment corresponds to subject-specific objectives and is not subject to teacher judgment.

- Provides clear and specific standards of expected student achievement
- Fosters self-assessment and improvement
- Shows the state of students' conceptual understanding, knowledge, and skills
- Gives flexibility for curriculum design
- Can be applied in a variety of circumstances and contexts, and with a range of assessment tasks

Common Benchmark Assessments, in an objective format developed through Subject Area Teams, are used as diagnostic tools to inform instruction.

Ninety-two percent of Lamar's sophomores and juniors take the PSAT.

HISD provides the opportunity for all sophomore students to take the PSAT, and Lamar extends that opportunity to all juniors.

Class of 2009 National Merit, National Achievement, and National Semi-Finalists

- 9 National Merit Finalists
 - 22 Commended National Merit Finalists
 - 12 National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalists
 - 1 National Achievement Finalist
- There are 2 Outstanding Participants in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

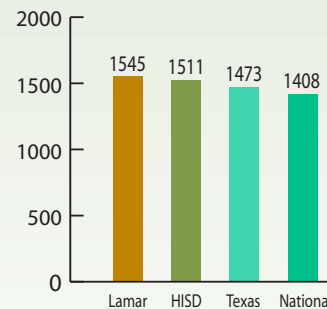


Outstanding Performance—2008 SAT and ACT test scores show Lamar students score above district, state, and national averages.

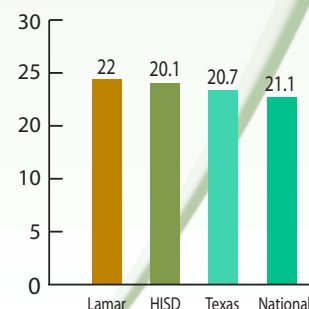
Critical Thinkers

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to approach complex problems and make reasoned decisions.

SAT SCORES—2008



ACT SCORES—2008



IB Middle Years Programme Tenth-Grade Personal Project

- Understand and apply the methods, techniques, and strategies contained in Approaches to Learning, one of the five MYP Areas of Interaction.
- Address two or more of the other MYP Areas of Interaction.
- Demonstrate the personal abilities and skills required to produce an extended piece of work utilizing the research path or design cycle to develop the project and writing skills to develop the personal statement.

Career and Technical Education

The Lamar CTE department provides equity in excellence and unlimited educational opportunities for all students to acquire the necessary academic and technical skills needed to enter into a high-skill, high-wage, high-demand, global workforce and/or continue their education at the postsecondary level. Lamar takes steps to ensure that lack of English-language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps)

Lamar's JROTC is currently ranked second out of the 25 JROTC programs in HISD. The Lamar program, established in 1937, stresses post-secondary education at either the university or technology-school level. The 20 JROTC graduates in the Class of 2008 include a military-academy appointment and 16 college-bound students.



Communicators

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication.



Reflective

They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and personal development. They are able to analyze their strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.

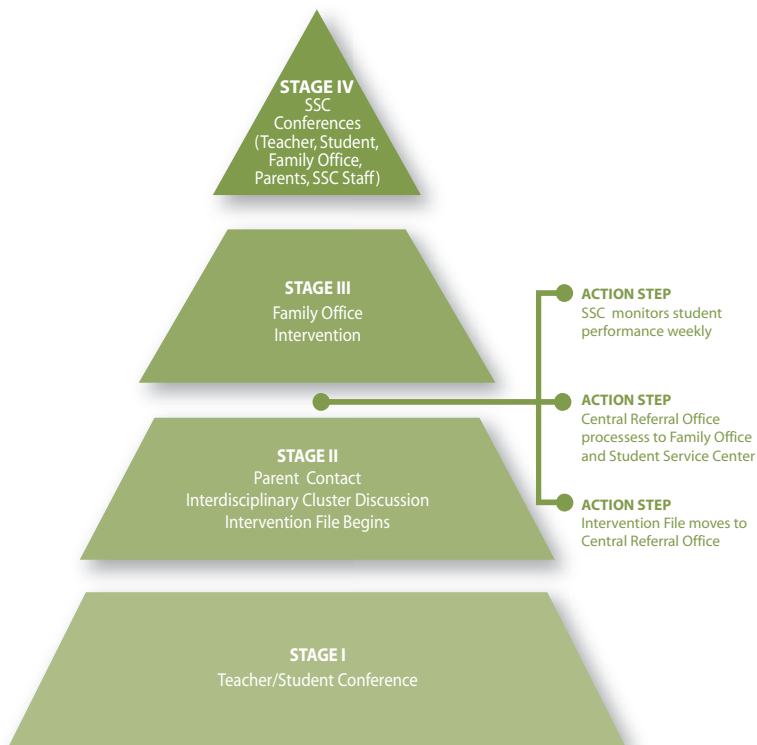
Teacher Interdisciplinary Clusters

- Study recent research in the educational community.
- Share examples of student work and the rubrics designed to utilize Criterion-Referenced Assessment.
- Discuss student academic progress and make suggestions for interventions.
- Discuss student behavior and recommend appropriate interventions.

What do we do if students don't learn it?

Student intervention strategies are systematic, timely, and directive.

At Stage III of the **Student Intervention Strategies**, assistant principals in family offices initiate further interventions, including Lamar's **Student Service Center**.



In 2003, The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) was replaced by The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The new assessment dramatically increased student-learning standards by requiring understanding of content at the upper levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. Assessment standards included, not only reading, writing, and math (TAAS), but also science and social studies.

When comparing all previous data charts in this report, the combined result is that Lamar continues to raise achievement levels for all students, and is closing the gaps between student populations.



TAAS SCORES DENOTE CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAP

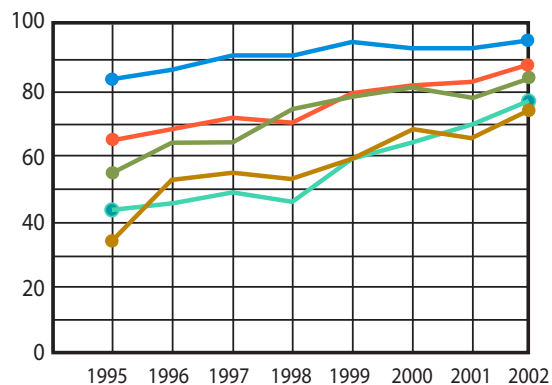
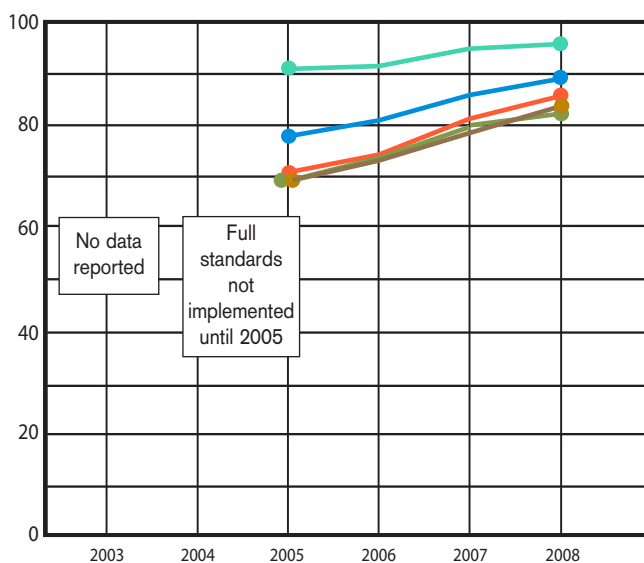


CHART LEGEND

- All
- African-American
- Hispanic
- White
- Economically Disadvantaged

TAKS SCORES



Principled

They have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning. They have integrity, honesty, a sense of fairness and justice, and respect for the dignity of the individual.

Caring

They show empathy, compassion, and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to action and service to make a positive difference to the environment and to the lives of others.

Well-balanced

They understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being for themselves and others. They demonstrate perseverance and self-discipline.

The International Baccalaureate Programme Requires

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

Age-appropriate, moderated criterion-referenced assessments

The inclusion of international-mindedness in the curriculum
A culminating product of students

Transdisciplinary initiatives within the curriculum

Students to act in their communities as a result of their learning

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

Samples of teachers' assessment of students are moderated by IB with reports to the schools

All students must study another language

The Personal Project at the end of grade ten may be a piece of writing or may take other forms.
Areas of Interaction

A community service project is required of all students.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Students, themselves, are assessed in multiple, authentic ways in all subjects.

All diploma candidates must be assessed (speaking, reading, writing, composing) in a Language B

The Extended Essay, a 4,000-word piece of written independent research
Theory of Knowledge and Concurrency of Learning

A minimum of 150 hours over two years in (CAS) Creative Action Service



Community Service

Lamar students have contributed more than 30,000 hours of community service with

Amigos de las Américas

adult literacy programs

blood drives



Christmas gifts for children at
Depelchin Children's Center

Collaboration with Veterans of
Foreign Wars with packages
for service personnel in Iraq
and Afghanistan

Collaboration with
Upper Kirby District

Habitat for Humanity

environmental projects

Medical Bridges Program

hospital volunteers

peer tutoring

programs on drug and
alcohol abuse awareness

missions to foreign countries

Toys for Tots

recycling projects

Texas Children's
Hospital Christmas
Cheer displays
and Christmas
card project

St. John's Academy
Christmas party and
Valentine's Day party

Warm-Up America
knitting project

Women's Shelter



A Safe and Caring Environment

Lamar's Vision is to provide a high-quality education in a safe, student-centered learning environment that facilitates high quality educational opportunities for every student. The faculty and staff will generate teaching and learning that supports critical thinking, high achievement, ethical behavior, and a respect for intercultural diversity.

Leadership, service, and positive character traits will be nurtured by and for all. Teachers, administrators, staff members, students, and parents alike are charged with preparing each student to be productive citizens in a technological and global society.

Lamar's Student Diversity and Our Response—our students are, not only ethnically diverse, but also recognize diversity within diversity—something for everyone that allows students to be fully engaged. We believe it's important for every Lamar student to be a part of an organization.



Lamar offers a full Fine Arts spectrum—hip-hop to jazz and modern dance; piano and choral music to concert band, marching band, and orchestra; drawing and painting to sculpture and ceramics; and classic plays to student-directed one-act plays. A diversified comprehensive athletics program providing opportunities ranging from the model high-school student athlete to the college-bound scholarship winner. Clubs and organizations that support the needs and desires of our eclectic population continue to be chartered on a regular basis providing our students the opportunities to make connections.



Honors and Achievements

- The Class of 2008 was offered over \$5.2 million- in academic and athletics scholarships.
- In 2008, ninety-nine (99) students received the prestigious IB Diploma granting them, collectively, more than \$1 million reduction in college/university costs based on the number of core credit hours awarded.
- The Lamar Chorale Women's Choir was selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Convention in February 2009.
- The Lamar Choral Department received five Sweepstakes awards at the University Interscholastic League choir competition.
- The Lamar High School *Orenda* yearbook staff recognized by Taylor Publishing with an Award of Excellence honoring its accomplishments in yearbook design and coverage



Sports, Clubs, and Organizations

According to a study by the Carnegie Corporation, students who participate in constructive, organized school activities are less likely to get involved in risky activities, and while engaged in constructive activities, students learn specific competencies, prosocial values, and attitudes. Lamar's clubs and organizations are constantly evolving to meet student needs.



Open-minded

Through an understanding and appreciation of their own culture, they are open to the perspectives, values, and traditions of other individuals and cultures and are accustomed to seeking and considering a range of points of view.



ACADEMIC DECATHALON AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY ARROWHEAD HONOR SOCIETY ART CLUB ASIAN CULTURAL CLUB BAND AND COLOR GUARD BASEBALL BASKETBALL (BOYS AND GIRLS) BREAKFAST CLUB CHEERLEADING CHESS TEAM CHOIR CHORALE CHRISTIAN STUDENT UNION COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB CONCERT WOMEN CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK (BOYS AND GIRLS) CULINARY ARTS DEBATE CLUB DIAMONDS DRAMA CLUB/THESPIANS ENTREPRENEURS OF AMERICA FIELD HOCKEY (GIRLS) FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES FOOTBALL FRENCH CLUB FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE GERMAN CLUB GERMAN HONOR SOCIETY GOLF IB DIPLOMA CANDIDATES ICE HOCKEY (BOYS) INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CLUB INTERACT ITALIAN CLUB JAPANESE CLUB JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA JROTC KEY CLUB LACROSSE (BOYS AND GIRLS) LAMAR CABLE TELEVISION LAMAR LIFE (NEWSPAPER) LAMAR STUDENT COUNCIL LA VIDA DULCE MADRIGALS MAGNET SCHOOL MUSLUM STUDENT ASSOCIATION NAME THAT BOOK CLUB NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ORCHESTRA ORENDA (YEARBOOK) PHOTOGRAPHY PING PONG CLUB POETS ALIVE QUILL AND SCROLL QUIZ BOWL RANGERETTES DRILL TEAM SENIOR CLASS RUSSIAN CLUB SCRABBLE CLUB SOCCER (BOYS AND GIRLS) SOFTBALL SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION TENNIS VOLLEYBALL WAKONDA CLUB (FRESHMEN) WARRIORS WATERPOLO (BOYS AND GIRLS) WRESTLING YOUNG DEMOCRATS CLUB YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB OF AMERICA YU-GI-OH-CLUB

Parent-Teacher Organization–PTO

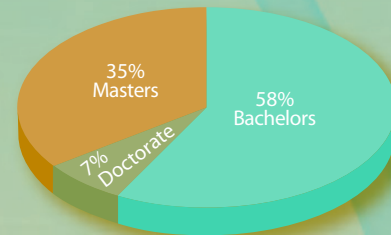
- Membership numbers over 300.
- 100 board members serve in numerous capacities
- More than \$20,000 collected in membership dues combined with aggressive fund-raising initiatives support outreach programs to the school community in both informative and educational pursuits.
- Freshman orientation; Freshman Parent's Orientation; Grandparents' Spirit Day; College Night; College Corner; Freshmen Round Up; Parent Partners; National Honor Society; Teacher Appreciation; Foreign Exchange Students; IB Mentor Luncheon; MYP Personal Projects; Textbook Pickup; Year Book Pictures; After-Prom Party; IB exams and TAKS Testing; Tours
- Supplies and staffs the school store raising over \$40,000 for the Student Assistance Fund
- Provide a Campus Grounds Master Plan in consultation with an architectural firm to prioritize future projects

Lamar Alumni Association

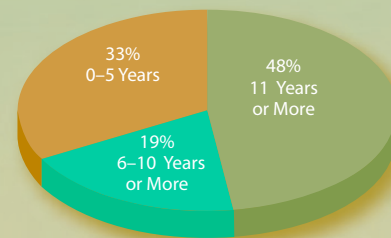
- Contributed \$850,000 to the renovation of the Lamar High School Auditorium Project. This includes replacing 1400 wooden seats with new upholstered seats, installing a new stage floor, a new curtain, new lighting and sound, renovating the lobby, and repairing the outdoor canopy
- Sponsored the 70th Anniversary Event for school in November 2007, which was attended by 2,000 alumni.
- Purchased a new greenhouse for \$83,000 for the horticulture program
- Purchased acoustical shells for \$21,000 to enhance choral performances in the auditorium
- Contributed \$15,000 for the creation of a new softball field for the girls' softball program at the school
- Sponsors the annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon for 400 alumni at which several outstanding alumni are honored
- Awards two new \$1,000 scholarships to seniors each year (continuing each year that the student remains in college) and now has eight students on scholarships at local colleges
- Continues to raise funds for the Capital Campaign which will be used for future enhancements of the school, including new fencing and landscaping
- Publishes a Lamar High School Directory for alumni every five years
- Publishes the alumni newsletter twice a year

Outstanding Professional Teaching Staff

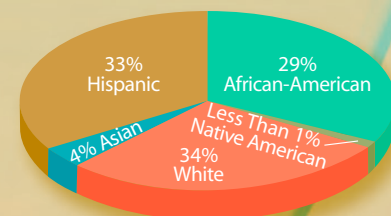
FACULTY—HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED

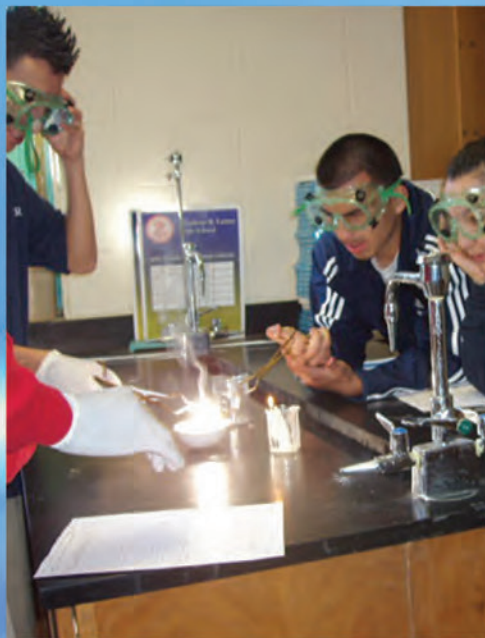


FACULTY—YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE



STUDENTS—ETHNIC BREAKDOWN







I'm Happy to Be (2006)
Jekaterina Vassiljeva, Student Artist
Rita McIntyre, Teacher