Iowa Colony High School



Class of 2026

Kayla Gonzalez

Valedictorian

Houston Christian University - Cyber Engineering



Most Influential Educator

Kevin Shultz

9th grade -12th grade Choir

Within the span of four years, Mr. Shultz has helped me grow not only as a student, but as an individual. He taught me how to be loud, to love who I am, and to embrace the character that's truly me. I feel that because of him, I'm able to accept myself regardless of what others think, and I'm incredibly grateful for the support he's given throughout my high school career.

Mackenzie Grumley

Salutatorian

Lamar University - Chemistry



Most Influential Educator

Michaela Bratsch

10th grade - 12th grade Science

I picked Dr. B for a plethora of reasons. Not only is she there for me through thick or thin, and never fails to put a smile on my face. Because of her, I fell in love with science, and overall, fell in love with learning again. We all need a Dr. B in our lives, however, just not mine. Love you so much!

Dyson Nevels

Davidson College - Mathematics and Statistics



Most Influential Educator
Caitlin Cunningham
10th *grade - 12th grade*
AP Language and Composition Teacher & Aquatics Coach

Coach Caitlyn has selflessly advocated for my success since she inherited the aquatics program. She has drafted many Letters of Recommendation for me, she's nominated me for scholarships that I wasn't even aware of, and she always took care of my entries for my dive meets. Her passion for teaching has inspired me in so many ways, and I can't thank her enough for always being there for me.

Kyndal Deaver

Texas A&M University - Chemical Engineering



Most Influential Educator
Priscilla Roberts
Gateway to Technology and Athletics

Mrs. Roberts was not just a coach but also a mentor to me. She pushed me to take on leadership roles and to go above and beyond. She helped me fall back in love with swim by always making me feel like part of the team. Even as a junior, she welcomed me when I helped coach. She goes above and beyond to makes athletes and students feel appreciated. Thank you, Coach Roberts, for everything!

Aden Saucedo

Rice University - Chemical Engineering

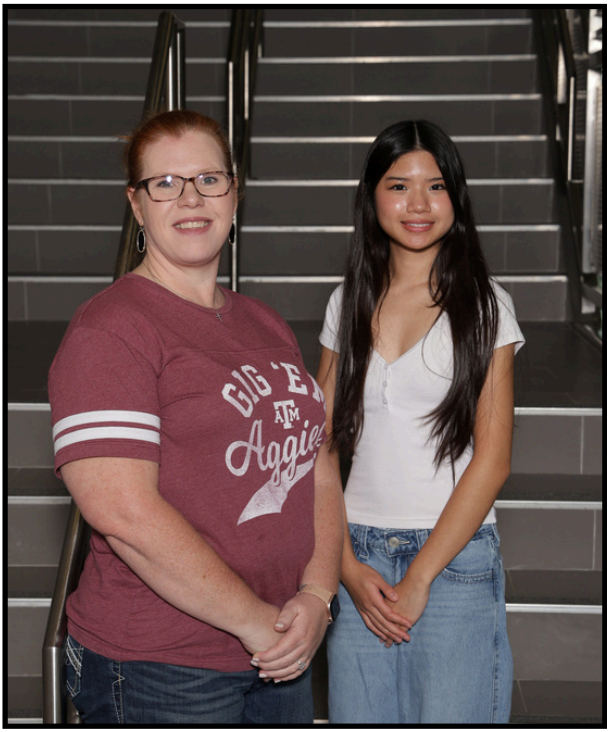


Most Influential Educator
Lucas Saucedo
11th grade AP Psychology, 12th grade AP Macroeconomics

Mr. Saucedo has been the most influential person in my life. He's taught my classes, coached my sports, and most importantly, he's my father. He raised me to aim high and take pride in what I love. His support fuels me daily, and I'm grateful for everything he's done. Not everyone gets guidance, and I don't take it for granted. I wouldn't have it any other way. Thank you, Dad.

Lana Chea

University of Houston - Biology



Most Influential Educator
Kristyn Loomis
12th grade - Floral Design

After all the rigorous AP classes I took, Mrs. Loomis' class became such a sanctuary to come to. She is incredibly knowledgeable, and her random floral facts are probably one of the most interesting things to learn about in the class. Not only is she a great teacher, but the projects and activities she assigns are fun, and they allow me to unleash my creativity after a long day of challenging work.

Robyn Oba

University of North Texas -Biochemistry



Most Influential Educator
Jure Mejia
9th and 11th, APA Algebra 2 and AP Calculus AB

Mrs. Mejia has been extremely supportive. Math has always been my favorite subject, and she made it even better. She never sugarcoated things, but I listened so that I could grow. She encouraged me when I felt like I wasn't smart enough, comforted me when I felt sad, and, most importantly, always reminded me that I could do anything if I put my mind to it. Everyone needs a Mrs. Mejia in their life—just not mine!

Zeinah Hasan

University of Texas - Biology



Most Influential Educator
James Nelson
10th AP World/ 11th National Merit

Mr. Nelson is one of the most impactful educators I've had. He has always made me feel comfortable in the classroom. He has been patient with us and consistently showed up, even as he left Iowa Colony. I will never forget small moments like the gifted book and the time we crossed paths on a cruise. He is truly the best!

Helen Ogwara

St. George's University - Medical



Most Influential Educator
Samantha Stanley
AP physics, DC Environmental Science

I selected Ms. Stanley because she believed in me no matter what. After the first week in physics, I thought I was done for, but with encouragement and support, she helped me succeed. Ms. Stanley has been very influential because she helped me believe in myself.

Dannylyn Laylo

Alvin College - Nursing



Most Influential Educator
Angela Molina
8th grade Yearbook

Ms. Molina has been the kindest, most thoughtful teacher I've ever had the honor to encounter. Fortunately for her students, she has never been just a teacher. She's been a friend, the person to talk to, the one who cared, and the one who saw me as a person when others only saw me as a student. No words can fully describe how appreciative and lucky I am to have met someone like Ms. Molina.

Joanna Nyamboga

Baylor University - Mechanical Engineering



Most Influential Educator
Rachel Easley
12th grade - AP Literature

During my senior year, I was blessed enough to land in a class with the absolute greatest of all time. Coach Easley's love for literature was reflected so much in her class, and as someone who loves English, I immediately loved her as well. Her way of teaching, joking, and relating made me look up to her as not just a teacher but as a glimpse of a future me in an unexplainable sense.

Lianah Hasan

Texas A&M University- Engineering

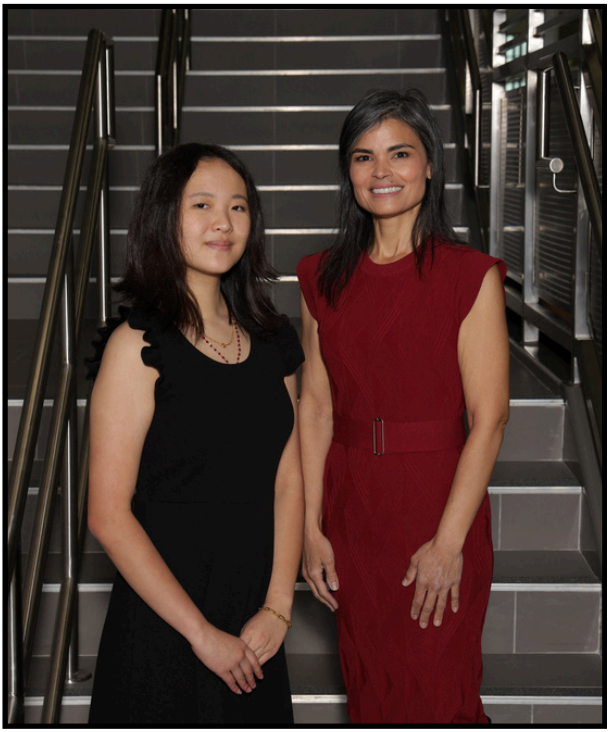


Most Influential Educator
Jay McLeeland
AP World History-11th

Dr. McLeeland has been more than a teacher to me. He has consistently pushed me to grow and supported me when I struggled to push myself. His guidance has had a lasting impact on who I am today, and I don't know where I would be without it. He has also created a space where I feel comfortable sharing anything on my mind, which is why I'm grateful for him.

Summer Zhang

University of Rochester - Economics



Most Influential Educator
Maria Carlo
12, AP 2-D design

I chose Mrs. Carlos because she has brought out my creative side and has challenged me academically throughout high school. Furthermore, Mrs. Carlos has had my back throughout the college process and has inspired me to create meaningful art.

Kharrington Beck

Houston Christian University- Nursing



Most Influential Educator
Tyler Burkham
10th grade - 12th grade Band

Mr. Burkham has taught me not only how to be a better musician, but also a better leader and a better person. When I first transferred to Iowa Colony, my sophomore year, he made me feel welcomed and seen. I wasn't just the new kid in school, but part of a community. I am forever grateful for his kindness.

Rashard Hulin

Texas A&M University - Physics



Most Influential Educator
Amber Jones
9th grade Biology

Ms. Jones inspired my interest in science by making learning engaging and meaningful. As my first high school science teacher, she created a classroom environment that sparked my curiosity and encouraged me to explore the STEM field. Her passion for teaching and ability to connect concepts to real life motivated me to pursue science further.

Ke'Reah Frazer

Baylor University - Business



Most Influential Educator
Michelle Vigilante
2nd/6th grade English

Ms. Michelle Vigilante has inspired me to push past my limits. There has never been a dull moment with her; she brings a bold, radiant light and energy into every room. She is one of the most kindhearted and compassionate people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I dedicate this accomplishment to her, because without her, I would not be the student, woman, or person I am today. Thank you, Ms. V.

Reagan Thomas

University of Oklahoma - Environmental Engineering



Most Influential Educator
Quintin Jones
8th grade - Algebra 1

Mr. Jones shaped my perspective on how I view math. He has given me the confidence to continue working through hard things, no matter how difficult they seem. My passion for doing challenging things and committing to them came from him because he never gave up on me when I struggled. I couldn't have asked for a better teacher to teach me this life lesson.

Hirshan Singh

Adelphi University- NYC - Finance



Most Influential Educator
Cajuan Smith
12th grade - Entrepreneurship

I chose Coach Smith because he is a very inspirational person and directed me on the right path in life. He has always been there for me when I needed help or had questions about adulthood. He always pushed me to be better while still believing in me. He made learning enjoyable, treated everyone with respect, and taught important life lessons about discipline, teamwork, and confidence.

Malavika Manoj Nair

University of Houston - Biomedical Engineering



Most Influential Educator
Brandon Johnson
12th grade - Visual Arts

Mr. Johnson encouraged me to be better and supported me throughout HOSA. He is kind and understanding, and helped me realize that I have so much potential. He listened to my concerns and supported me when I was at my lowest point. Mr. Johnson is also patient and empathetic, understanding what others are going through instead of assuming or judging. Mr. Johnson is the greatest teacher I could have had throughout all four years of high school.

Arie Thomas

University of Houston - Political Science



Most Influential Educator
Tess Stilwell
12th grade - Digital Art

I chose Tess Stilwell because she taught me about digital art this year, a new medium that I was too scared to get into. Before this school year, I strictly stuck with physical mediums and avoided making digital work since I found it too difficult to work with. However, by being in her class, I was more comfortable with making digital art and I was able to learn something new.