

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Bellaire HS Class of 2021 has record-breaking nine valedictorians

Top scholars from across the district to be honored at ceremony on April 13

April 12, 2021 – Bellaire High School’s Class of 2021 will make history this year with nine valedictorians crossing the stage in June.

Alkiviades Boukas, Daniel Chen, Evie Tseng-Ying Kao, Angela Ling, Miles Mackenzie, Wenson Tsiach-Hao Tang, Christopher Zhou, and twin sisters Annie and Shirley Zhu all have a perfect 5.0 GPA.

“These students are inspiring examples of what can be achieved through dedication and hard work,” said HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan. “I am incredibly proud of all of them for this milestone achievement and know that they are also actively involved at Bellaire High School. Balancing school and extracurriculars is no easy feat, and they were able to do it and maintain a 5.0 GPA. I am confident each of them will find tremendous success and ultimately give back to our community in amazing ways.”

Bellaire Principal Michael McDonough said even during their freshmen year, he started hearing that the Class of 2021 was something special.

“I began to consider the idea of two to three valedictorians, but I never imagined nine” McDonough said. “These students are also involved in after-school activities and leaders in various organizations. To juggle their schoolwork and extracurriculars, then throw in a pandemic and virtual learning, and still maintain a 5.0 GPA. It is nothing short of amazing. I could not be prouder of them.”

The nine valedictorians started charting their path to 5.0 early on while also making sure to take courses they were interested in.

“My favorite class was 1B Astronomy with Mr. Newland. He was a great teacher,” said Tsiach-Hao Tang. “Becoming valedictorian, for the most part, was planned because we had to take summer school P.E. and health before freshman year. My parents were pretty involved because they helped me choose my courses. They also told me about the summer school P.E. opportunity, so I guess they were a big part in me being valedictorian.”

Tang is also president of the Wake Up Call Club, plays piano and practices traditional Chinese dance.

This year's crop of valedictorians has some advice for those who are also setting a goal of achieving a 5.0 GPA.

"Go through classes with the goal of pushing yourself and to not compare yourself to other people," said Annie Zhu. "When coursework gets challenging and balancing academics with extracurriculars gets hard, remember to cut yourself some slack because making mistakes is the best way to grow."

The historic nine valedictorians will join other HISD valedictorians and salutatorians at the annual Scholars Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, April 13 at Delmar Stadium. The event is open to media.

When: Tuesday, April 13
7 p.m.

Where: Delmar Stadium
2020 Mangum Road
Houston, TX 77092

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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