



The Midland Education Foundation is proud to present the Legacy High School 2023 Shining Star Scholars and Honor Teachers

1. Janak Bhakta, Honor Teacher: Jason Smith, Legacy Freshman Biology

Coach Smith made learning fun. The way he relayed the information to his students was unique and engaging, and forced the content to be learned rather than memorized. Aside from his teaching, his intense sarcasm kept things interesting through a bland year as a freshman on a secluded campus. Additionally, Coach Smith always gave valuable life advice about things other than school. Coach Smith's methods of teaching, his genuine intent to create connections with his students, and his amusing personality greatly impacted my life and educational career.

2. Kendall Harrington, Honor Teacher: Rachel Anglin, Volleyball

Coach Anglin has instilled values in me that I will take with me outside of volleyball. She always encourages us to work hard to be successful. She has taught me how to be responsible and how to be a leader throughout my time in the volleyball program. Coach Anglin not only helped me become the volleyball player I am today, but has greatly influenced me as a student. She holds all of her players to a higher academic standard and makes sure we are responsible in the classroom. She is truly an example of hard work and dedication and I am so grateful for her constant support.

3. Xyra Briggs, Honor Teacher: Landree Page, EAS Algebra 2 and AP Statistics

Ms. Page was always there to encourage me to keep trying, to keep my head up, and to give me advice. She's one of my greatest friends, eating lunch with me even after I wasn't in any of her classes anymore and talking about both of our lives together. She supports me in everything that I do and listens whenever I'm overwhelmed and stressed out.

4. Madilynn Green, Honor Teacher: Ashlee Johnson, Honors Anatomy/Student Council

Ms. Johnson helped me find passion in learning again. I was excited to go learn with her, not only was it enjoyable but I felt accomplished with understanding her materials. Not only did Ms. Johnson spark the passion for learning again, but she also was a good friend to me. This year was difficult in many ways, but I knew that if I ever needed to talk to someone she was there. She would help me feel better after a tough test, and she would even give me life advice when I dealt with personal troubles. I will forever love her study tips, her life lessons, her funny stories, and her compassion for not only me but every student.

5. Claire Hall, Honor Teacher: Kimberlea Brandon, Floral Design

I had just moved here when I took Floral Design 1, so I was still trying to find my place, and her class made me feel comfortable and purposeful. I also just connected with Mrs. Brandon because she is real with her students and talks to them about real life. I then took Floral Design 2, and we got to know each other pretty well. I felt and still feel comfortable talking to her about anything.

6. Elizabeth Babble, Honor Teacher: Raymundo Perez, Tennis

My coach taught me the importance of hard work but also the more vital importance of self love. Not only was he there to cheer me on in a match, he was there to comfort me if I lost. His unrelenting kindness, positivity, compassion, and understanding undoubtedly shaped who I am today. Coach Perez almost never raised his voice, yet we could all see his unwavering passion for both his athletes and his job. He built us up, encouraged us, and most of all he laughed with us. When days were too hard, I could always count on tennis practice to be the bright spot of my day. Coach Perez was the perfect coach because he knew when not to be a coach; he knew when his players needed a confidant, a role model, or a friend. Coaches may be a dime a dozen, but a Coach Perez is truly one of a kind.

7. Cassie Bond, Honor Teacher: Yessica Sanchez, Algebra 2 and AP Calculus BC

Ms. Sanchez has made a substantial impact on my personal life and educational career; although she doesn't know this, she saved my life through consistency, support, and love. Throughout difficult times in high school, I depended on her guidance in mathematics and her wit. She was THE one teacher to make me smile, have my back, make me laugh, while still teaching me what others may consider a foreign language - Calculus. She helped me regain my passion for becoming an educator and pursuing Mathematics like I had always dreamed of. Ms. Sanchez is the first to give up her time to help someone else, even if that means at eleven o'clock at night; she is dedicated and passionate about her job. She has challenged me to push my limits, dream big, and know that it is okay to ask for help. She was the light on some of the darkest days and I couldn't imagine doing life without such an influential person like her.

8. Corissa Perez, Honor Teacher: Katherine Stowers, Vet Med, Livestock production, and Advanced Animal Science

Ms. Stowers has been with me for my highest of highs and lowest of lows. She has supported me and pushed me to be the best version of myself possible. She invited me to the FFA program and helped me discover what I want to do with my life. Ms. Stowers has continued to pour love not just in FFA but also in all of the kids she comes across. She has taught me to be confident in my abilities and understand that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to.

9. Bryson Baylor, Honor Teacher: Beau Garza, Orchestra

Mr. Garza has impacted my life more than he could ever think. As a sixth grader just learning how to play the cello, I looked up to him. Then as time passed on, I began to realize why. He puts his blood, sweat, and tears into the orchestra program, passionately instilling a love for music within his students. Mr. Garza has transformed my high school career, not only musically, but emotionally. He cares for his students as though they were his own kids. This is ultimately why Mr. Garza is not just an educator, he is an honor teacher: he not only teaches, he passionately advocates for his students and for his love of music.

9. Iang Mawi, Honor Teacher: Carol Massie (retired), Rusk Elementary English Second Language

Of all my teachers throughout my academic years, Ms. Massie significantly impacted my life. Not only did she teach me English, but she also taught me to be resilient and to be brave. Despite being so academically behind everyone else when I began school in the US, Ms. Massie never gave up on me; she sincerely believed in me even when things seemed impossible.

**The Midland Education Foundation works to provide resources to classrooms, teachers, and students as they strive for success.
We are proud to celebrate the graduating class of 2023!**