



## Spotlight on our STARS

STARS—Seniors who Take A Role—are making a world of difference in the lives of SBISD children.

### An everyday volunteer

Retired engineer Charles Burckle views himself as an ordinary volunteer. But for eighth graders in Jean Rhodes' math class at Spring Forest Middle School, Mr. Burckle is the man who *never* misses a day.

He's available for one-on-one tutoring during class. He helps with that tricky subtraction problem involving mixed fractions, the one eighth graders all over the world find difficult. He's the kind adult who checks your work or reminds you about the rules of math.

Charles Burckle is a step above "ordinary": Last year, he earned special awards from the campus math department, as well as both campus and district PTAs.



Retired engineer Charles Burckle volunteers at Spring Forest Middle School. Joining him is teacher Jean Rhodes and students Helen Andrade and Sabrina Belfon.

"He rarely misses a day. His commitment has made a difference in the lives and performance of students," Rhodes says.

A volunteer for four years, Charles helped Rhodes improve TAKS math scores last year, the teacher says. After TAKS was over, he continued to help every day. "He really made them feel special because he 'chose their class' for his volunteer work," Rhodes says.

A native of Kansas, Charles worked as a chief electrical engineer with Air Liquide, a large industrial gas manufacturer. He retired after 25 years, then worked a decade more, and finally retired in 2001.

A Spring Branch resident since 1965, Charles and his wife, Gerry, raised two children here. Both graduated from Westchester High School and then Texas A&M University. They have two grandchildren.

His hobbies include woodworking and amateur photography. He calls himself a "world-class putterer."

"I get satisfaction from helping students do a better job," Charles says. "I'm just an ordinary guy who likes to help out." SBISD needs more ordinary guys.

**To volunteer, call 713-464-1511, ext. 2286**



Memorial Middle School teacher Susan Bowers, left, stands with sisters Ruth Plumb and Rosie Savage, and student Jordan Phillips, rear, at the Hillendahl Family Cemetery, Long Point at Pech. Teacher and students helped erect a Texas Historical Marker at the site.

## Marking Spring Branch's past

Jordan Phillips had no idea that the essay she wrote on the history of Spring Branch two years ago would turn into a community civics lesson.

"Writing an essay on local history is not out of the ordinary, but it became something special for our class," says Jordan, today a freshman at Stratford High School.

That "something special" describes the public dedication of a Texas Historical Commission marker May 22 at the Hillendahl Cemetery, 8325 Long Point.

Students in Susan Bowers' Texas history class at Memorial Middle School learned about historical markers, then did the research needed to officially recognize the family cemetery.

Jordan's second-place finish in 2003's Spring Branch Multicultural Society essay contest sparked class interest in the Hillendahls, one of the first German families to settle here.

Several students visited the small family cemetery, which holds the graves of 19 family members. Elizabeth Hillendahl, the first to be interred, died of yellow fever in 1854.

Teacher and students did the research and applied for a marker, which was finally approved by the Texas Historical Commission in Austin. Today the

cemetery at the corner of Long Point and Pech is surrounded by commercial businesses.

"One of the goals of a history teacher is to make students understand the importance of history – where we all came from – and the sacrifices of previous generations to make all our lives better," Susan Bowers says. "In this case, history came alive."

Memorial Middle students and more than a dozen Hillendahl descendants attended the May dedication. The middle school paid for the Texas Historic Cemetery medallion displayed at the site and a reception was held at St. Peter's United Church, Spring Branch's first congregation.

"The students did so much research. It was a wonderful event. It's truly an historical place in Spring Branch, and now the family is recognized with a marker," Jeanne Hillendahl says. Her husband, Herbert, and sister-in-laws Ruth Plumb and Rosie Savage are related to family members buried there.

Two years after it all began, Jordan Phillips is reminded of local history every time she reads a street sign, such as Beinhorn or Conrad Sauer.

"We see the street signs and say, 'Hey, I know that person's name. Before this, I never even thought about how Spring Branch came to be,'" she says.

## Sign up for the sixth annual STAR "Senior" Prom

Mark your calendar! Several hundred partygoers are expected for the district's sixth annual STAR "Senior" Prom on Thursday, Nov. 10. This popular event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northbrook High School, located at #1 Raider Circle.

Admission is free to STAR (Seniors Take a Role) Cardholders. STARCards are available to all district residents 65 years of age or older.

RSVPs will be taken until Nov. 2 on a first-come basis. This toe-tapping evening will include the Big Band sounds of the Memorial High School Jazz Band. Carrabba's

Italian Grill will cater the dinner and dessert once again.



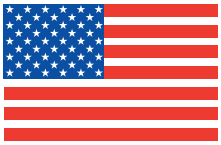
High school students with the Memorial Mustang Outreach Bunch (MMOB) will be event "chaperones."

"Our students really do appreciate all that you have done to make Spring Branch such a great place to live and learn. Through this event we are able to say to you, 'Thanks so much for supporting a great school district,'" Superintendent of Schools Duncan Klussmann says.

Call 713-464-1511, ext. 2272, by Nov. 2 to reserve a spot on this special evening with the STARS.

*Fore! Spring Branch Education Foundation will sponsor its 10th annual Golf Classic on Sunday, Oct. 16, at River Ridge Golf Course in Sealy. For details, call Cece Thompson at 713-365-4781.*

STARNews is produced by the Communications Department of Spring Branch ISD. Its purpose is to keep retired residents informed about the school district they helped build.



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### September

21-22	<i>Clue the Musical</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
24	<i>Clue the Musical</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
25	<i>Clue the Musical</i>	Spring Woods High School	2:30 pm
26	<i>Clue the Musical</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm

### October

5	Symphony Honor Orchestra	Startford High School	7 pm
6	Fall Concert	Spring Woods High School	7 pm
11	MHS Orchestra Concert	MHS Performing Arts Center	7:30 pm
11	Fall Choir Concert	Northbrook High School	7 pm
13	Fall Orchestra Concert	Northbrook High School	7 pm
16	<b>SBEF Golf Classic</b>	<b>River Ridge Golf Course</b>	<b>11 am</b>
19	<b>SBISD Bandstravaganza</b>	<b>Tully Stadium</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
19-20	<i>Big Love</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
22	<i>Big Love</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
23	<i>Big Love</i>	Spring Woods High School	2:30 pm
24	<i>Big Love</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
25	Cello Choir Concert	Startford High School	7 pm
27-29	<i>Nunsense</i>	Stratford Playhouse	7:30 pm
27-29	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Northbrook High School	7 pm
29	<b>Spring Branch Parade</b>	<b>Begins at Clay Road YMCA</b>	<b>10 am</b>
29	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Northbrook High School	1 pm
29	<i>Nunsense</i>	Stratford Playhouse	2:30 pm

### November

4-5	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Westchester Academy	7:30 pm
5	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Westchester Academy	2 pm
10	<b>STAR "Senior" Prom</b>	<b>Northbrook High School</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
10-12	<i>Once on This Island</i>	Spring Oaks Middle School	7 pm
12	<i>Once on This Island</i>	Spring Oaks Middle School	3 pm
11-12	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Westchester Academy	7:30 pm
12	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Westchester Academy	2 pm

### December

2	MHS' A Ceremony of Carols	Chapelwood UM Church	7 pm
3	Wassail Dinner	SHS Orchestra Room	1& 6pm
6	Holiday Concert	Northbrook High School	7 pm
8	Winter Concert	Spring Woods High School	7 pm
8	MHS/SBMS Winter Concert	Spring Branch Middle School	7 pm
9	Choir Concert	Westchester Academy	7 pm
9	Orchestra Concert	MHS Performing Arts Center	7:30 pm

Note: Special reservation and pricing policies may apply for seasonal events or those with special dinner or dessert options. Check ahead to obtain STARCard discounts for events listed above.

## News in a Flash

Did you know that you can sign up on your personal computer for SBISD's Flash e-mail news service? SBISD's new Flash news service will help you stay informed by delivering school district information "first and fast" – via your personal computer. To sign up, visit the SBISD Web site at [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com) and then follow the easy sign-up instructions.

## 2005 SAT scores by area school district:

Verbal Score		Math Score	
Spring Branch ISD	524	Spring Branch ISD	548
State	493	State	502
Nation	508	Nation	520
Conroe ISD	532	Conroe ISD	549
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	509	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	529
Houston ISD	464	Houston ISD	473
Humble ISD	530	Humble ISD	532
Klein ISD	512	Klein ISD	535
Pasadena ISD	472	Pasadena ISD	491
Spring ISD	472	Spring ISD	491

## SBISD students score high

Spring Branch ISD students posted SAT scores above state and national averages once again, according to figures released by the College Board. SBISD high school students consistently earn high scores on the test, a key measure of student readiness for college.

SBISD's average verbal score was 524, much higher than state and national verbal scores of 493 and 508, respectively. The College Board administers the SAT nationwide.

SBISD's verbal score was 31 points higher than the state average and 16 points higher than the national average. Memorial and Stratford high schools, as well as Westchester Academy for International Studies, scored higher than the state. Memorial and Stratford posted scores higher than the national average, too.

The district's average math score of 548

topped a state score of 502, as well as the national average of 520. SBISD students scored 46 points higher on average than other Texas test takers and 28 points higher than students nationwide.

Memorial and Stratford high schools scored above both the state and national average, while Spring Woods High was within a point of the state average.

About two-thirds of the senior class districtwide took the SAT at least once during their high school years.

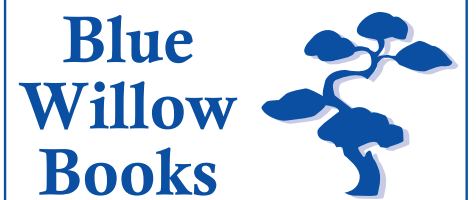
"Once again, Spring Branch students outscored the state and nation by a wide margin," Superintendent of Schools Duncan Klussmann said.

"Our students continue to produce some of the highest SAT scores in the Houston area – if not the highest – even as two out of every three of our high school seniors now take the SAT."



STARCards are distributed free of charge to citizens, 65 or older, who reside in SBISD. It's our way of saying thanks for all you've done, and continue to do, to support our district. Benefits include:

- ★ 20% discounts on SBISD continuing education classes
- ★ Free admission to SBISD regular season "home game" athletic events (playoffs not included)
- ★ Free admission to student performances (some seats are limited and advance ticket pick-up may be required)



★ 10% off on Wednesdays (14532 Memorial Dr.)

To receive your free STARCard and earn these discounts, please contact the Communications Department at 713-464-1511, ext. 2272.