

Joshua High School



David Beans/Special to the Times-Review

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Joshua senior class of '08 triumphs over obstacles

BY LEIA JOBE
REPORTER2@TRCLE.COM

The Joshua High School class of 2008 will be remembered for triumphing over tragedy, Registrar Toni Landers said.

The class had a series of obstacles to face, including bomb threats and the loss of JHS teacher of the year Madeline Smithson to cancer during the 2007-08 school year, but students stayed strong in their quest for success Landers said.

Smithson taught upper level math and leadership classes. She was also the student council sponsor and usually planned graduation ceremonies, Landers said. She was named teacher of the year two weeks after her Feb. 4 death.

Students and teachers struggled to cope with their grief after losing Smithson, Landers said.

"They're just an awesome group," Landers said. "They've all come together and pulled through because it has been difficult. They worked hard and held their heads up."

Students' grief is reflected in the choice of the class motto, she said. The motto, from an anonymous source, is "I always knew I could look back at my tears and laugh, but I never knew I could look back at my laughter and cry."

During graduation ceremonies at the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in Fort Worth, students will wear the class colors of blue, black and white. The class flower is the lily, and the class song is "Amazing Because It Is" by The Almost.

Teachers, staff and administrators are very proud of the class of 2008, said JISD Superintendent Ray Dane.

"They're a very driven

group and academically strong," Landers said. "They're some of my favorite kids."

Dane also spoke highly of the class.

"We have a great class of seniors who have worked very hard for 13 years now," Dane said. "We're going to miss them, but we know they're going on to bigger and better things."

"We applaud their excellence and look forward to hearing about the things they'll accomplish in the coming years. We're very proud of them."

William Fleischer was named valedictorian of the class of 252 students. Remington Harwell is the salutatorian.

The class also excelled in sports, with the Joshua High School dance team taking the Overall National Grand Championship at competition in Galveston, the softball team advancing to regionals and several student-athletes signing to college teams.

Joshua Class of 2008

■ Number of graduates: 252

■ Graduation: 7:30 p.m.

May 30

Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in Fort Worth

Valedictorian

■ William Fleischer

Salutatorian

■ Remington Harwell

Senior Class Officers:

■ President Annie Cummings

■ Vice President Ashley Clifton

■ Secretary Caitlyn Byrd

■ Treasurer Kristi Moore

■ Historian Michelle Altenberg



Joshua High School

Leia Jobe/Times-Review

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