

## **Tidehaven High School**

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### **Faculty Sponsors**

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### **Student Members**

Robert Sanchez  
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Henry Garcia  
Gloria Guerra  
Jose Garcia  
Miguel Palomares  
Melissa Aguilar  
Elizabeth Nunez



During the summer months, potential club members gathered to prepare for the new school year. The first order of business was ordering club t-shirts. The second order of business was a successful policy/procedures and rules handbook for club members to use.

Officers were elected and group pictures were taken for the yearbook. Meetings were held consistently every Tuesday.

Then in October, two students ventured out of the country to the Caribbean islands of the US and British Virgin Islands to the Ocean Conservancy's Ocean Summit for Caribbean Youth, representing the youth of the Gulf of Mexico. This delegation also stopped in Penuelas, Puerto Rico to meet the middle School teacher and his students who were involved with the Message in A Bottle investigation. Friendships evolved for what will be the rest of those club members lives.

Because of the travels, a high school project was started between Tidehaven and Rafael Irizarry Middle School, a pen pal project that was featured in local newspapers and formed the basis to encourage bilingual speaking and translating skills. Along with that strong bond, Tidehaven High School donated over 100 English library books to Penuelas Middle School.



Four SSC members traveled to Matamoros and South Padre Island in February to observe the sand dunes of those areas and to compare them to the sand dunes of Matagorda Beach. This experience took students to an even bigger level. They learned so much about Mexican culture as they visited

Colegio Juvenal Rendon, museums, *mercados* and a major newspaper facility that will be embedded in their memories forever. We continue our commitment in monitoring the Matagorda Beach erosion for the University of Texas at Austin Bureau of Economic Geology. This year we also hosted many of the SSCs that visited the South Texas Nuclear Plant, which is only eight miles from our Tidehaven campus.

In May 2008, Tidehaven hosted the Penuelas, PR delegation for an entire day before they attended the Annual Conference in Sinton. They were able to visit with many students, faculty, staff, administrators and board members, as well as parents.

Tidehaven has also made connections with alumnus from Tidehaven who want to start SSCs at the college level and in Louisiana. There were many other projects we continue to work on and have begun work on the portable LCRA visitor project for the Matagorda Nature Learning Center at Matagorda Beach. Our journey continues into the next five years...

