



**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**
young lives transformed through science

10TH GRADE STUDENT BIOS

ALEJANDRO MUÑIZ



- **Nickname/short name:**
Alejandro
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Curious, calm, timid, opens up with baseball conversations, has over 10 cats, siblings with Isabella Muniz & Gabriela Muniz
- **Interests:** Enjoys learning about science, plays soccer, enjoys feeling active, pet lover, reading, Cesar Chavez Club, part of Ocean Discovery after school programs since 3rd grade
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Beatriz López
 - Dad:



ALEXA ARREDONDO

- **Nickname/short name:**
Alexa
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Outspoken, curious, wants to be biologist, does not miss any opportunity to be involved in OL programs, reliable and high achiever
- **Interests:** Enjoys learning about the ocean, weather, animals, likes dancing with her family at events
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Natalia Ixtlas
 - Dad:

ALEXANDER MANAWIS



- **Nickname/short name:**
Alex
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Wants to be a professional football player, moved from the Philippines 2 years ago, quiet at first and a risk taker
- **Interests:** football player, seeing and touching animals, enjoys swimming, use to camp out a lot in the Philippines
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Vanessa Paola Manawis
 - Dad:

JOSE ALEXIS VALDEZ



- **Nickname/short name:**
Alexis
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Quiet at first but social and the life of the party, smart, thrives in group settings, English is his second language and is practicing the language to speak it fluently (his goal), moved from Mexico 2 years ago
- **Interests:** Plays volleyball, mariachi/ trumpet player, favorite ocean animal is an “ajolote” an amphibian sea lizard, likes to go to Ensenada during his vacation
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Gema Preval
 - Dad:

AMY AVILES



- **Nickname/short name:** Amy
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Wants to become a family therapist, great at projecting her voice, can be an awesome leader with less distraction, fiddles to focus and admits that is her weakness and wants to get better at it, likes working with kids and is a great advisor and encourage uplifting to others, high achiever, works at pick up stix with her mom.
- **Interests:** Enjoys art, music/ trombone player, bracelet making, great at rubric cube paper and plane creation
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Maira Edge
 - Dad:



EVA LEONARD

- **Nickname/short name:** Eva
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Curious, shy at first but shines when she is out of her comfort zone, likes to try new things, siblings with Tatyanna, cheerleader at Hoover, benefits from encouraging words to push her off her limits when trying new things
- **Interests:** Learning about the ocean/animals and obtaining a career in that field
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Mayra
 - Dad:

GABRIEL LOPEZ



- **Nickname/short name:**
Gabriel
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Wants a career in science, favorite subject is history, likes learning about dinosaurs, thrives with leadership, mom is a great encouragement
- **Interests:** Explore nature, learn about science, playing the trumpet and video games, JROTC, camping
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Edith López
 - Dad:

IRVING AVITIA



- **Nickname/short name:**
Irving
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Quiet, shy at first but can be very outgoing, enjoys cooking and baking, his dad is a teacher at Hoover, shines academically and very involved in Hoover sports
- **Interests:** Playing football, learning about ocean animals
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Dad: Matt Moody
 - Dad:

JOSHUA CARTER



- **Nickname/short name:**
Joshua
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Funny, hard-worker, adaptive, role model, balances many other club involvements while maintaining great grades, helps others, has established great communication with staff and peers, respectful
- **Interests:** Loves science, mechanics, swimming
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Shannon Cherko
 - Dad: Keith Carter

KIMBERLY GONZÁLEZ



- **Nickname/short name:** Kimberly
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Timid but likes to socialize with her friends, camera shy, hot Cheetos passionate
- **Interests:** Loves the ocean, animals, wants to pursue a career in marine biology, plays soccer in an external team, dances folkloric, likes jazz music and singing
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Marisol Zamora
 - Dad:

LESLIE ROMERO



- **Nickname/short name:** Leslie
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Wants to become a nurse and is part of the health academy at Hoover, can get carried away easily with distraction, thrives in supportive environments, can benefit from encouragement during program and academically, is working on her postiviness during program.
- **Interests:** Enjoys visits to the beach, likes being outdoors, traveling to Veracruz, exploring, being a role model for her little brother, ballet, swimming,
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Araceli Santos
 - Dad: Lives in Veracruz

MELODY MAGAÑA



- **Nickname/short name:**
Melody
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Can come off at shy but opens up very quickly, has been part of Ocean Discovery after-school programs since she was in 5th grade, then became an Ocean Leader in 9th grade, likes to stand up for others
- **Interests:** Read, draw, video games, marine biology, wants to pursue a degree in science
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Deborah Bolaños
 - Dad: Brandon Kassab

NADIA AHMED



- **Nickname/short name:** Nadia
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Strong leader, great at projecting and presentation skills, social butterfly, can get along with anyone, loves math, has received 3 perseverance awards from her elementary school and she is most proud of that, ASB Leader in middle school, loves making art projects, likes to ask questions
- **Interests:** Wants to open her own business to help people in need, become a nurse or study medicine to help people in need, go back to her country and regulate rules
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Guardian/Sister: Nada Ahmed
 - Mom:
 - Dad:

NAOME E DÍAZ



- **Nickname/short name:**
Naomee
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Manages her own schedule to ensure she is actively engaged in her community: Cesar Chavez club, soccer, ODI, thrives in leadership groups, stands up for others and is working to increase her academics.
- **Interests:** Nursing, soccer, likes meeting new people, wants to become a nurse practitioner and care for kids
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Mónica Díaz
 - Dad: Omar Díaz



SAMUEL POPOW

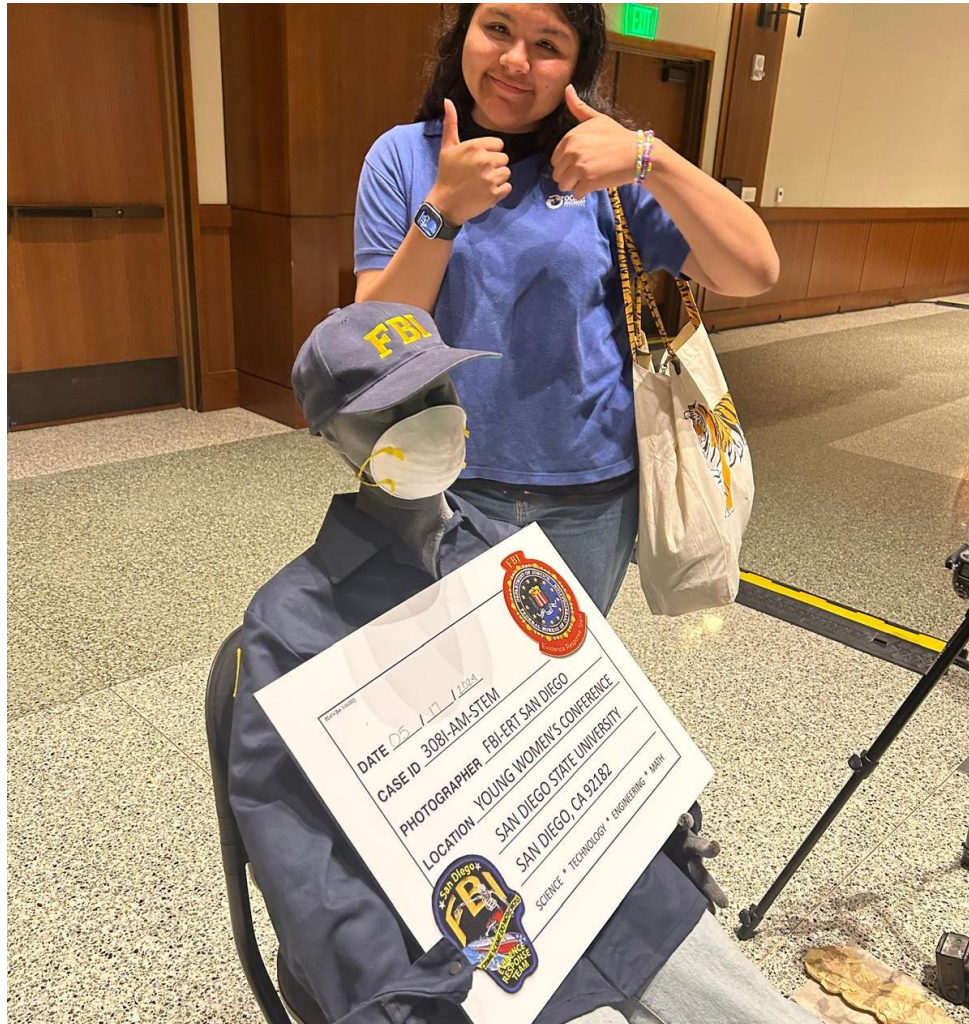
- **Nickname/short name:** Sam
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** outgoing, deep thinker, curious, various interests in the field of science, smart, kind, can benefit from social and emotional well being conversations during program at home
- **Interests:** art, murals, marine biology, environmentalism, philosophy, culture, writing
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Guardian/sister: Maria Popow
 - Mom:
 - Dad:

SHEYENNA BROWN



- **Nickname/short name:**
Sheyenna
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Shys away at the beginning when trying to open up, thrives in community environments, best friends with Amy (OL), high achiever, admits that she wants to grow socially with her peers, great support at home that allows her to thrive
- **Interests:** volleyball, violin player, crochet, writing, marine life
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Eugene Brown
 - Dad: Robert Brown

SOLKAMIRY GUTIÉRREZ



- **Nickname/short name:** Sol
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Strong leader, projective voice, nominated to become an OYC Director one day, high confidence, great listener, tutors her own group of friends when struggling with HW, enjoys the challenge to speak up in front of people and do presentations that allow her to come out of her comfort zone
- **Interests:** biology, life, animals, hard science
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Evangelina Hernández
 - Dad:

STEVEN GARCÍA



- **Nickname/short name:**
Steven
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Plays football, Part of Cesar Chavez Club – went to DC with the club, has been part of Ocean Discovery’s after-school and summer camp since 5th grade, shines when working with high performing peers, benefits with small group settings, high participation and a great risk taker even if he feels challenged
- **Interests:** ocean animals, sports such as football and soccer, enjoys skateboarding
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Gabriela Martínez
 - Dad: Luis García Garduño

VALERIA CASTILLO



- **Nickname/short name:**
Vale
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Has expressed she loves being an Ocean Leader, great at making friends, high participation and high achiever, siblings with Alexandra (OL)
- **Interests:** working with children and wants to be a teacher, loves cooking, art and writing
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Hilda Palma
 - Dad: Porfirio

ZAKEYIA MOHAMED



- **Nickname/short name:**
Zakeiya
- **Class of:** 2027
- **Description:** Likes to take leadership roles when working in a group setting, has great role models in her family that are in college and have graduated, high achiever
- **Interests:** animals, wants to become a neurosurgeon, go to college, part of the JROTC program at Hoover
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Guardian/brother: Shams el-din
 - Mom:
 - Dad:



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11TH GRADE STUDENT BIOS

KENIA SIMON DIEGUEZ



- **Nickname/short name:**
Kenia
- **Class of:** 2026
- **Description:** loves the ocean and learning about ocean animals, likes to work independently but shines in group settings, often the quiet person of the group but has brilliant ideas, shy and is working on getting outside of her bubble
- **Interests:** Become a pediatrician and cure kids who have cancer
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom:
 - Dad:



KIMBERLY SALGADO

- **Nickname/short name:** Kimberly
- **Class of:** 2026
- **Description:** Wants a career in the arts, very organized in calendar and commitment to extracurricular activities
- **Interests:** Filming, part of the Idea Club (filming), art and science interest, leader of the ROTC club at Hoover
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Dalia
 - Dad: Ernesto

DIEGO AGUILAR



- **Nickname/short name:**
Diego
- **Class of:** 2026
- **Description:** Favorite subject at school is math, loves pets (cats), serious face; inner excitement, demonstrates emotion when he is upset, sad or non-interested, high achiever, likes to be involved in activities that push him out of his comfort zone
- **Interests:** Become a biologist or perhaps be in a field of non-profit education
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Maria
 - Dad:



MIA SERNA

- **Nickname/short name:**
Mia
- **Class of:** 2026
- **Description:** Wants a career in aerodynamics Engineering and Marine Biology, high achieving, 4.5 GPA
- **Interests:** tennis, drawing, girls tennis team, college bound programs
- **Parent Names/notes:**
 - Mom: Alba
 - Dad: