

**AZTEC EXHILARATION.** Pep rallies are no joke for students, especially when a spirit stick is at stake. Another Friday rally in the Aztec Temple Feb. 6 brought out the spirit and competitive nature of the different classes. In the end, uncontrollable senior enthusiasm earned spirit stick bragging rights — again. “I love my school and this is the only school I’m going to, so why not support it?” senior Allyson Sanchez said. “They let us express ourselves, which makes the school beautiful.”  
*Photo by Dominic Hernandez.*



# EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL

12401 Edgemere Blvd.  
El Paso, Texas 79938  
915-937-3200

Enrollment: 2,942

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# EL DORADO NINTH GRADE ACADEMY

14400 Pebble Hills Blvd.  
El Paso, Texas 79938  
915-937-9400

Enrollment: 1,050



# FIRST, KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

So, let us tell you what we think ...

Our school has worked hard to build a reputation of being the best and deserving the best.

But how we see ourselves and how others see us is usually very different and some view "El Do" as that entitled school. The next time somebody says, "El Dorado thinks they're all that," just realize that's nothing but an outside *PERSPECTIVE*.

This time around, some even thought surely the time has come for us to swallow a big piece of humble pie. As the saying goes, all good things are supposed to come to an end.

The assumptions were there.

Sports teams would fail to impress.

Homecoming wasn't going to meet expectations.

The Legend staff was starting over – from scratch.

Academics would fall beneath standards.

In true Aztec style, we didn't pay the flying rumors much attention. Why? Because we know ourselves and we know who we are.

Everything depends on how you decide to view the world.

Sure enough, El Dorado beat the odds again.

2015 brought our year of fortune. Principal Nora Paugh was more than pleased with how the year began. There was that sought-after recognition

by the Texas Education Agency, one of the most successful and heartwarming Senior Sunrises and a definitive shutout win over our longtime rivals, the Montwood Rams football team. We knew it was just the beginning.

Like Head Football Coach James Althoff said, it was as if our athletes' uphill battle ended after struggling for years. And I think that applies to the rest of us too.

"We're good," Paugh said. "I've seen El Dorado evolve, and I cannot give you an unbiased account of El Dorado. Everything I'm saying is biased because I think El Dorado is the best school too. It's not like any other school. A big part of it is the diversity of our school. I love that I see Aztec pride everywhere."

We make every choice about our life. The Aztec perspective is one that chooses to be involved in our school, our community and our future. See this book, which is a chronicle of our triumphs and losses, with a fresh perspective and open mind. It's never too late to change and that's just what Aztecs do every year. We adapt, we adjust and we choose to look again.

This year depended on a lot of things. We knew it would be different. We knew it would progress or regress based on maintaining a positive outlook. We can say it – we're better – better than who we were last year but not as good as we will be next year.

Continue evolving.

Continue practicing the Aztec state of mind.

Continue seeing through the El Dorado *PERSPECTIVE*.

Princesleah Aguilera and  
Bryan Chavez

**A BIT OF SPIRIT.** Under the bright lights of the theater, seniors Gustavo Pereda, Jazmine Venegas and Allyson Sanchez show off their school spirit for the camera and represent different student perspectives. Pereda is president of Media Tech, Venegas is the face and body behind Moctezuma and Sanchez is one of the most unique characters at El Dorado High School. "School spirit means that it's just having fun, being a part of a team, part of the school," Venegas said. "Having the time to spend with others and making the crowd go crazy when you just want to win the game or when you're out there on the field." *Photo by Bryan Chavez.*



**EMPIRE.** A tradition for 12 years now, the seniors put up the legendary triangle symbol with their backs to the crowd. The seniors took the spirit stick for the homecoming pep rally and kept the “champion” spirit at the end of the pep rally. The triangle sign means empire and represents the Aztec temple of the Aztecs. The symbol has been in place as long as the school has been open and continues for the seniors as a symbol of power and superiority over the rest of the grade levels. *Photo Dominic Hernandez.*



And this is how the year went...

We made our school known for all the extraordinary events that place here and changed the point of view of the outsiders and the body that made El Dorado, “El Dorado.”

Our downfall never came. We made history in the process of also learning from our mistakes. That’s what this school year was supposed to be about, right? That’s what high school is all about.

We turned around the expectations from the start and finished the year with the facts and our own expected outcomes.

It all depended on how we were able to see it.

And that’s how El Dorado went against all odds.

2015 ended with fortune, fame, success, unison and everything in between. Our recognition by the

Texas Education Agency remained through the year, varsity volleyball worked toward a first-time playoff seed, varsity girls basketball went on with the longest basketball playoff streak in El Paso, softball reached playoffs for the second time and a tie-breaking game for first place in district and all of this was made possible because we didn’t doubt ourselves for a minute.

But all good things do come to an end. This is especially true for the seniors, but also for someone else on campus who has been with this school from the very start as it’s biggest supporter and brightest fan.

Principal Nora Paugh announced April 14 that this school year would be her last at the head of the empire and that she was retiring.

Everybody was shocked to find that the only administrator still left from El Dorado’s beginning

would be leaving along with the graduating class of 2015.

“There are no words to really describe how I feel about El Dorado. My feelings go beyond love,” Paugh said. “My retirement is very bittersweet. The thought of not being around the Aztecs on a day-to-day basis saddens me greatly. I get so much pleasure from just talking to the students, watching them at their best while they compete and I enjoy getting to know the students on a personal level. I will miss those interactions the most.”

Now, our year and this book are done. We’re better than we were at the start and will live our lives with the El Dorado “perspective.”

\\ Princesleah Aguilera







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# ARTISTICALLY INCLINED

Individually, the students at El Dorado bring in talent from every far corner of creativity. Together, we form an empire. We are bright, innovative, gifted, intriguing and lively. Through fine arts programs at school including dance, band, orchestra, choir, guitar, flags and art, students express their talent and thrive from their experiences.

“Fine arts are important for us because they allow students to take a break from academics,” senior choir member Miranda Anaya said. “I think a lot of students want to turn to fine arts in the future as a career, so offering it at a high school level is a great opportunity.”

The Aztecs perform because it’s what drives us and boosts our confidence. We know that without the art we help to produce, life wouldn’t be as rewarding.

“Orchestra gives me happiness and hope that people will keep using music as an extension of emotional expression,” senior orchestra member Everardo Sanchez said. “This is hard work, love, dedication and frustration.”

A common understanding among students is that any given opportunity is one to seize. Throughout our experiences, hard or simple, we always maintain our smiles and stay positive as we walk through the cardinal red and white walls.

“I’m always happy and proud to perform because I’m doing what I love to do most,” junior flag member Karla Rios said. “I get to perform with the most important people in my life, my flag team.”

Even going through drastic changes, like adjusting to a new choir director or smaller ensembles, didn’t discourage students from full participation. The choir still gave their all at every performance, and individually, students expanded their horizons and continued to grow as the year went on.

Through any rehearsal, competition, performance or show, we stay focused and keep our perspective in mind. Though we all have different accomplishments we wish to reach in life, we all know where we came from and always keep ourselves grounded.

// Aspen Duran



**ART AND CHARM.** Meeting up by the Plaza Theatre in Downtown El Paso, seniors Abiel Barrios, who plays cello, Vivianna Gandara, choir member and Deanna Torres, mariachi member, talk about art and music. The trio make up a small percentage of the Aztecs that are passionate about fine arts. “It’s a way to express yourself through your passions,” Torres said. “People join to find a purpose with art.” Photo by Bryan Chavez.





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volume  
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