

# **BRIGHT FUTURES: Computers are the future for Memorial's Avalos**

**By Mary Meaux The News staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:02 am**

On a busy day not long after spring break Memorial High School junior Zuhayr Avalos was busy with a computer.

With the casing off, Avalos carefully picked up various parts of the inner workings of the computer while giving a glimpse of what he will likely do in the future.

Avalos is a second-year student in Memorial's three-year computer maintenance and repair program. His instructor, Mary Ann Smith, explained that next year Avalos will be a computer technician.

His love of computers began at an early age and Avalos thought of going into a career designing video games.

"At first I thought I'd be a game designer then branched out to wanting to know how computers work," Avalos said. "I like the idea of creating custom computers to meet an individual's needs."

Avalos isn't into high end computer programs and at home he uses what he considers more of a budget computer.

Students in the computer course at the high school learn about building computers as well as repairing them. Some of the work is hands-on while part is through a virtual program paid for by the school district.

"Zuhayr has really taken to the virtual portion," Smith said. The virtual simulator walks students through different aspects of computer work.

The 11th grader is one busy student. He was on the A honor roll in his ninth and 10th grade years at school and is currently on the AB honor roll having made one B that was a mere point from an A and he also holds down a part time job at a candy store in Central Mall.



## **MHS Avalos**

Memorial High School junior Zuhayr Avalos works on a computer in his computer maintenance and repair class. Avalos plans to attend college after high school and pursue a career in computers.

Last year he was nominated for the Flint Hills Resources Outstanding Student Program for his computer classroom work. He also graduated from middle school at the top of his class and was awarded a laptop for his academic success.

Avalos did his homework, so to speak, concerning his career choice.

“I looked into it and it pays well,” he said. “And with technology, no matter where you live people will need technology and computers from schools to large companies.”

During that rare free time when not at school or work Avalos enjoys paying Magic: The Gathering trading card game which relies on strategy and a bit of luck.

Avalos plans to attend Lamar Institute of Technology to major in his career choice, he said, adding that he hopes to be awarded scholarships that would help him widen his college choices.

E-mail: [mary.meaux@panews.com](mailto:mary.meaux@panews.com)

Twitter: [MaryMeauxPANews](#)