

# JERRY TONG

## CLASS of 2026

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### EDUCATION

**Glenda Dawson High School**, Pearland, TX

**G.P.A. 4.0 (UW)**, [5.769](#) (on a 6.0 scale), ranked 12th out of 654

- **SAT: 1550** (August 2024)
- **PSAT: 1520** (October 2024), **National Merit Semifinalist**
- **AP Scholar with Distinction**: Scored 5's on 10 AP tests; scored 4's on 2 AP tests; pending May 2026: 8 AP tests, for a total of 20 AP tests by graduation.
- **National Recognition Program School Recognition Award**

### LEADERSHIP in COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Seedling Sun Foundation, Founder and President**, Nov 2022 - Present

- Nonprofit organization founded with the vision of offering free classes and books. Provide illustrated digital children's books with voice recordings, all written and created by talented young writers and artists, to the general public.
- Website with children's books and online store: <https://www.seedlingsun.org/>
  - To fund events, the online store sells original products, including greeting cards, bookmarks, and handcrafted artworks, all created by volunteers.
- Worked with our California chapter (roughly 15 student volunteers in the leadership team), creating a Book Review Committee; partnered with a local Brazilian Jiu-jitsu studio to offer a writing course (ages 5-14 years old); worked with and was sponsored by Light and Salt Foundation to help individuals with special needs.
- Organized free classes during the school year and summer, including creative writing classes, digital art classes, various traditional art classes, robotics classes, and more. Additionally, held writing and art competitions at the local Brazoria County Library for grades 4-8.
- Launched an art therapy program for individuals with special needs (summer 2023) through a collaborative partnership with the Art to Hearts Association nonprofit. With the help of volunteers, the special needs students were able to write and illustrate a book called "The Shape Town".

**Super Joey Foundation, Houston Chapter**

**President** (June 2024 - Present), **Vice President** (June 2023-June 2024), **Treasurer** (June 2022 - June 2023)

- Nonprofit organization that supports families in the United States affected by childhood cancer; affiliated with Ronald McDonald House and local hospitals.
- Website: <https://superjoey.org/>
- In 2022, organized a fundraiser, selling donated books and raising roughly \$1,500; in 2023, fundraised to support a 7-year-old patient with brain cancer; in 2024, created an online shop and website to fund Houston Chapter events.

**Vern to Learn, Writing Tutor** (February 2022 - March 2023), **Social Media Manager** (July 2022 - March 2023)

- Taught poetry for three hours per week for eight weeks.
- Created social media posts advertising tutoring courses, such as poetry, computer science, art, reading, and science.

**President's Volunteer Service Award**: Gold (100 hours in 2022), Gold (250+ hours in 2023, 2024)

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Way of Soul LLC, Founder and Owner** (November 2024 - Present)

- An apparel and accessories brand creating products inspired by global cultures, focusing less on mainstream aspects and more on unique perspectives that connect consumers to different cultures. Built to support small artists and embrace diversity
- I created the logo and designed the initial products. Marketed on social media; contacted artists, designers, and cultural consultants; oversaw production; handled communication with the manufacturers.
- The first released collection is about Chinese Traditions.
- Website: <https://www.wayofsoulglobal.com/>

**Light&Salt Youth Advocacy Program, Intern**, January - May 2025

- Completed 13 sessions of training and presentation planning, learning about mental health, cancer, tobacco addiction, precision medicine, and physical health.

- Designed and conducted a community outreach project on obesity-related Asian health risks.
- Reached 117 people through a YouTube video, and Zoom or 1:1 meetings. Earned \$500 upon completion.

**Dragon Academy, Tutor, June - August 2022**

- Taught creative writing and trial class; two hours teaching one class per week to 7-10 year olds (Writing 101).

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**DECA (over 100 members- largest club in school), Sept. 2022 - Present**

- Member of an organization that allows students to gain experience in entrepreneurship through tests, role-plays, and written events.
- Joined in 9th grade (Principles of Marketing roleplay event); in 10th grade, participated in Business Management and Administration roleplay event; in 11th grade, competed in the written event section (Entrepreneurship Independent Business), leading a team of three people in writing a 20-page business plan and creating a presentation.
- Leadership Officer, responsible for planning outreach, community service, and conference activities.

**Youth and Gov (school YMCA chapter), Sept. 2023 - Present**

- YMCA chapter dedicated to teaching youth about leadership and how the government operates. Each member competes in one of three events: legislative, judicial, or media.
- Roleplayed as multiple witnesses in the Judiciary Trial Court Event; qualified for state in 10th and 11th grades.

**Independent Research & Publication Program, June 2024 - August 2025**

- Write and publish a research paper about how individuals' sustainability preferences change based on the types of products or services they purchase.
- August 2025 publication in a literature review: "Journal of Research, High School" (30% acceptance rate): [https://www.journalresearchhs.org/\\_files/ugd/ebf144\\_5543218b03144d908e287b7f3b2c3c5d.pdf](https://www.journalresearchhs.org/_files/ugd/ebf144_5543218b03144d908e287b7f3b2c3c5d.pdf)

**Grappling Zone Jiu-Jitsu Studio, Pearland, Texas, May 2022 - Present**

- Engaged in Jiu-Jitsu competition. Currently a Blue belt, with the goal of attaining a Black belt.

**Ping Zhao Art Studio, Bellaire, Texas, March 2018 - July 2023**

- Chinese school for art, 2 hours a week; focused on acrylic paintings for various competitions.
- Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Honorable mention for "Wood Duck in Emerald Elegance

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**Penn Leadership in the Business World, June - July 2025**

- Selected by competitive application for the LBW summer program.
- Evaluated companies and the effects of their business decisions through case studies
- Worked in a team of 5 to analyze CrowdStrike using the value chain, Porter's 5 forces, VRIO, and PESTEL.

**UC Berkeley HAAS Business Academy for Youth, July 2024**

- Selected by competitive application for the BBAY summer program.
- Created a business plan covering marketing, financials, revenue streams, and structure.
- Chief of Operations in a team of 5: helped create our livestreaming platform that connects investors to sustainable startups.

**Penn Essentials of Entrepreneurship July - August 2023**

- Selected by competitive application for the EoE summer program.
- Learned how to create successful startups through skills like market research, product/service design, & investment pitching.
- With a team, I presented our company, PitchedIn, an innovative investment platform inspired by Shark Tank.

**Aggie STEM Camp, Texas A&M, Summer 2022**

- Selected by competitive application for the Aggie STEM summer program
- Learned about product design and engineering.
- Designed and pitched a collapsible and reusable container, inspired by foldable Chinese takeout boxes.

**DISTINCTIONS**

**Scholastic Art and Writing Competition**

- Scholastic Art & Writing - Gold Keys for "Personal Essay" (2024), "Poetry" (2023), and "Short Story" (2022).