



## Madera South High School

February 2024

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### A Message From The Principal

Dear Madera South High School Families,

As we move further along through the academic year, I would like to take a moment to emphasize the crucial role that your support plays in the success of our high school students. Maintaining passing grades and completing credits are pivotal steps towards ensuring a bright future for our students. Unfortunately, following the first semester of instruction, there were close to 800 students who received one more failing grades.

High school is a transformative period in a student's life, laying the foundation for their future endeavors. Academic success not only opens doors to various opportunities but also instills a sense of discipline and perseverance that will serve them well in the years to come. As partners in your child's education, we encourage you to actively engage in their academic journey by monitoring their progress, attending parent-teacher conferences, and staying informed about their coursework. Our dedicated teachers and staff are here to collaborate with you, offering support and guidance to ensure your child's success.

Completing credits toward graduation is not just a requirement; it is a stepping stone toward the next chapter of their lives. The skills and knowledge acquired during high school will empower them to make informed decisions and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

We understand that each student is unique, facing their own set of challenges and aspirations. That is why we are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment that caters to the individual needs of our students. However, your involvement remains crucial in reinforcing the importance of academic commitment and responsibility.

Thank you for your continued partnership in fostering a culture of academic excellence. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can guide our students toward a successful and fulfilling educational journey.

Warmest regards,

*Jon Steinmetz*

### Coming Soon

- February 5-9: Nation School Counselor Week
- February 7: MSHS Mock Trial Team @ Madera Courthouse
- February 8: Show Choir Concert, 6:00-9:00 PM, MSHS Cafeteria

- February 12: No School, Lincoln's Day
- February 13-16: Spread the Love Week
- February 16: Field Trip: The Tech Interactive/Stanford University
- February 19: No School, President's Day
- February 20-23: National FFA Week
- February 20: SSC Meeting, 4:00-5:00 PM, Room 102/103
- February 21: 4.0 Student Recognition Night, 6:00-7:30 PM, MSHS East Gym & Cafeteria
- February 22: Madera FFA Meeting, 5:00-7:00 PM, MSHS Cafeteria
- February 26: No School, Teacher In-service Day

## Parent Resource Center

Parent education classes take place weekly in our Parent Resource Center. Classes are available that help parents access technology and school resources as well as provide guidance to parents to better support their child's social and emotional needs.



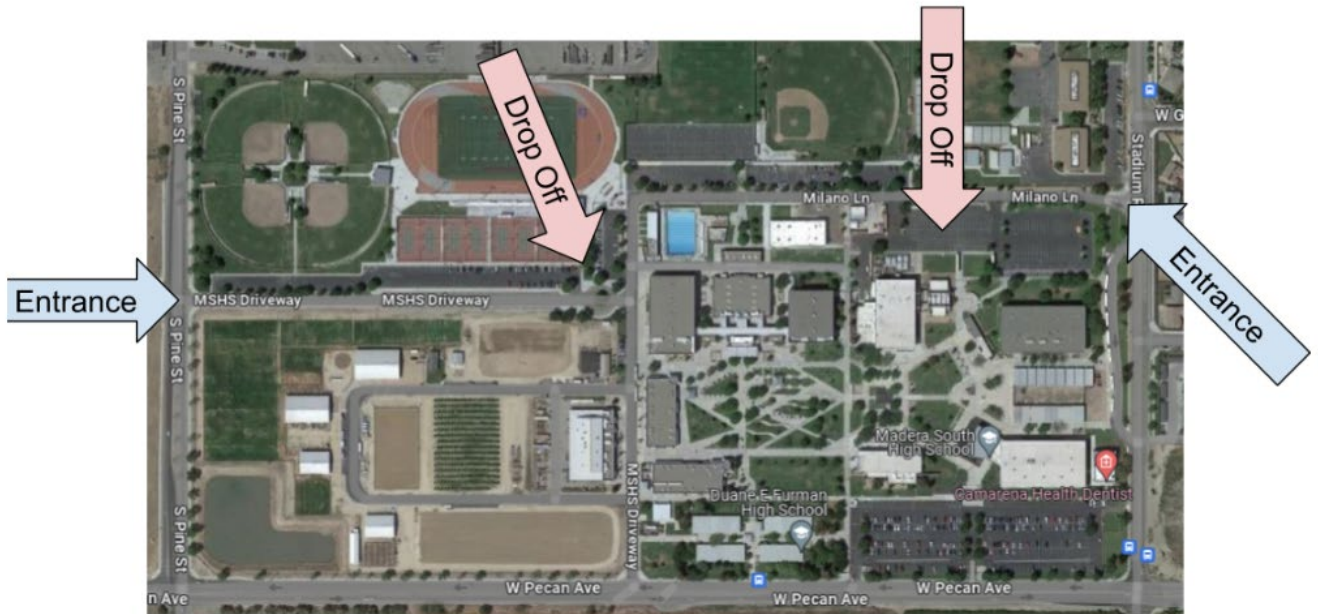
Stallion Parents Learning Technology

## Student Safety-Student Drop-off

As we all know, the safety of our students is our top priority. With that in mind, we would like to remind all parents and guardians about the importance of driving carefully during student drop-off and pick-up times.

The school drop-off and pick-up zones (see below) can be bustling with activity, with students crossing the road and parents maneuvering their vehicles in limited space. To ensure the safety of everyone in our school community, please consider the following guidelines:

- Obey Traffic Rules: Follow all traffic rules and regulations, including speed limits, no-parking zones, and designated pick-up/drop-off areas. Be mindful of crosswalks and pedestrian areas.
- Familiarize yourself with and adhere to the school's drop-off and pick-up procedures. These guidelines are in place to streamline traffic flow and enhance safety.



- Avoid Distractions: Put away your mobile phones and other distractions while driving through the school zone. This helps maintain focus on the road and the students in the vicinity.
- Be Patient: During busy drop-off and pick-up times, patience is key. Take your time, maintain a safe following distance, and be considerate of others.
- Watch for Pedestrians: Be vigilant for students crossing the road. Always yield the right of way to pedestrians, and be prepared to stop when necessary.

By collectively adhering to these guidelines, we can create a safer environment for our students and promote a positive and respectful community. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to the safety of all members of our school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Together, we can make our school drop-off and pick-up times safe and efficient for everyone.

## Student Safety-(Title)

(insert image)

Text

## Health and Wellness-Concussions



Concussions can occur during sports or any time there is direct contact with the head or from an injury to another part of the body with enough force to shake the head. It is important for you as parents to inform coaches, nurses and teachers whenever your child experiences an injury, either directly or indirectly, involving the head, even if it seems minor, because it could lead to a concussion. Concussion symptoms are not always present immediately after an injury occurs. Swelling or a bleed inside the skull may not cause symptoms initially if it is minimal but as swelling worsens or bleeding accumulates (hematoma) inside the skull it creates more pressure inside the head and signs and symptoms become more evident.

Signs and symptoms to look for after a head injury include: Dizziness, the individual appears spaced out, confusion, forgetfulness, clumsy or awkward movements, delayed or inappropriate responses when spoken to, slurred speech, changes in behavior or personality, memory loss, seizures, unconsciousness, headache, nausea and/or vomiting, difficulty standing or walking, blurred or double vision, noise and/or light sensitivity, drowsiness, difficult to arouse, difficulty sleeping, difficulties with concentration, report the they “don’t feel right,” nervousness, agitation, irritability, feeling more emotional. These signs and symptoms warrant immediate evaluation by a trained medical professional.

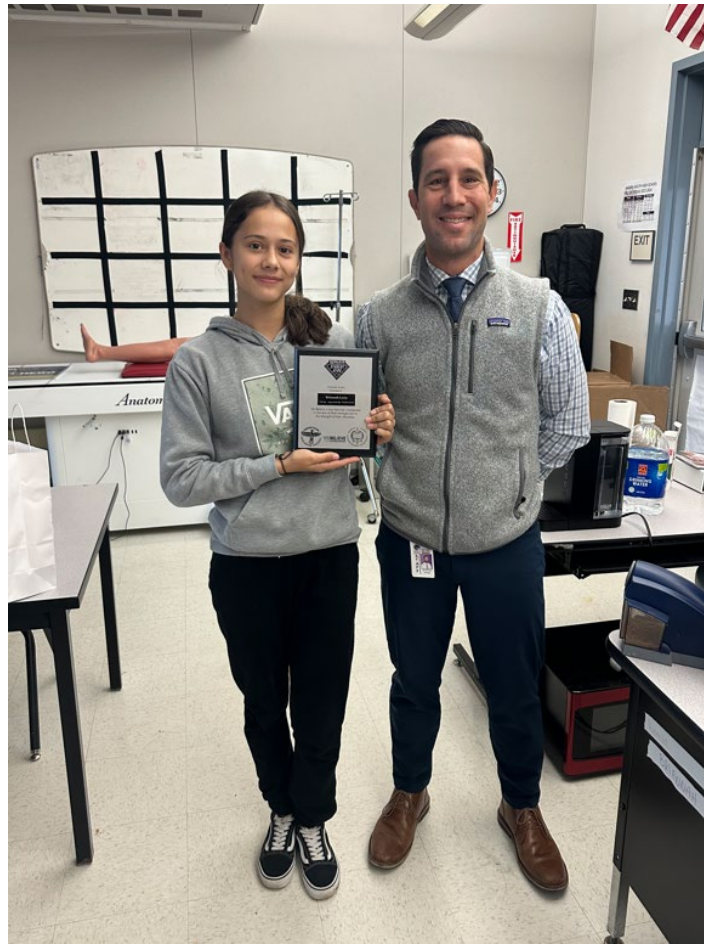
Coaches and/or athletic trainers will provide players and their parents with concussion paperwork when a concussion is suspected during sports. Attached are the [forms](#) for a medical provider to complete when your child is evaluated for a concussion. Even if your child's head injury is not related to sports or occurs outside of school you can still use these forms. We want to keep your child safe from reinjury and do not want them to become overwhelmed with school work until they are deemed ready to return to full participation by a physician. Often recommendations include a gradual return to activity and academics. Only a trained physician is qualified to make the appropriate recommendations for your child to return to physical activity and learning. Therefore, it is very important that the school receives these forms completed by the doctor so that staff are informed of the appropriate accommodations needed for your child's physical activity level and academics.

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## Staff & Student Highlights



## Student Highlights | Quarter 2 Student Heroes



Briannah Lorta, 12th Grade



Caleb Fant, 11th Grade



Genesis Pacheco, 9th Grade





Justin Caballero, 10th Grade

Staff Highlight | Jennifer Castro, Student Advocate



Jennifer Castro is our new student advocate at Madera South High School. She has joined our excellent student support teams and begun making connections with her caseload.

***What is your most memorable student support experience?***

At my previous job, I was a bilingual facilitator at Westcare California for a program called Celebrating Families. The program was designed for families experiencing chemical dependency and domestic violence, I got the opportunity to work with kids ages 4-6. It was a great experience and I was able to support the kids and help enhance their emotional and social skills as well as develop healthier skills. I worked with different age groups but the 4-6 year old hold a special place in my heart. I was able to see the behavior of the children change the more they learned about healthier life skills like anger management, communication, and how to say no.

***What is your most memorable learning experience?***

My most memorable learning experience was working with families with chemical dependency. Being able to fully understand that chemical dependency is a sickness and they need help. Chemical dependency also affects the whole family so getting support for children is extremely important. It was a sad but rewarding experience.

***What hobbies or interests do you enjoy?***

Reading, playing the guitar, and watching crime documentaries.

***What is a goal you have for the 2023-24 school year?***

My goal is to make a difference for my students. I hope to grow more this year and learn more.

## Student Highlight | Madera FFA Members Selected As Regional Stars

Two Madera FFA members were selected to represent the San Joaquin FFA Region in the State Star awards this spring. The State Star Award recognizes students who have excellent Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects in one of four areas; Farmer, Placement, Agriscience, and Agribusiness. Members complete an application and record book detailing their SAE projects at the sectional and regional level. If they are chosen at the regional level they compete as one of the six regional representatives. The members interview with industry professionals and the California State FFA Officers in the spring with the winners announced on stage at the California FFA State Convention.

### San Joaquin Regional Stars



**AGRIBUSINESS**  
**WILLIAM THOMPSON**  
**MADERA FFA**



**AGRISCIENCE**  
**JESSALYNN SOTO**  
**HANFORD FFA**



**FARMER**  
**MYKEL MULL**  
**CHOWCHILLA FFA**



**PLACEMENT**  
**MORELIA VIEYRA SANTANA**  
**MADERA FFA**

William Thompson was selected as the region's Star in Agribusiness. The Star in Agribusiness award recognizes students who have developed a business that is related to agriculture but not involved in the production of any commodities. Will's project is WillBilly's Landscape, a project he started when he was younger as a way to help pay for his Little League expenses. Will continued to develop his project throughout high school, having a customer base of 28 and specializing in acreage maintenance as well as landscape installments. Will was named the 2023 California State Proficiency Award Winner in Turfgrass for his SAE and will be competing again in the area of Diversified Horticulture and Landscaping.

Morelia Vieyra Santana will be representing the region in the Star Placement Area. The Star in Placement award recognizes students who work in an agriculture business. Morelia works at Allegre Stables where she helps to start young horses in their groundwork and prepare them to saddle broke.



Morelia's passion for horses and the horse industry started at a young age and led to her involvement in the stables. Morelia was named the 2023 National Proficiency Winner in the Equine Science Placement area in October.

Written By: Saray Madriz Alcarz, Madera FFA Reporter

## Student Highlight | FMCMEA Honor Choir





Congratulations to our 2023 - 2024 FMCMEA Honor Choir members, Sarai Meras, Cezar Jimenez, Lizbeth Apolinar, Angelica Giron, Anai (Valentina) Pacheco, Daniel Ortiz, and Isaac Colmenares. They were selected to perform with the best choir students from all the schools in Fresno and Madera counties. Extra congratulations to Sarai Meras who was selected as a soloist for the concert!