



Madera South High School

March 2024

A Message From The Principal

Dear Madera South High School Families,

Next week, we begin our final round of NWEA testing. This local assessment has been given twice already this school year. The scores of our students in this round will be compared to their fall scores to determine how much growth has been made. Our school board has given each school a goal for the Spring of 2025 to have 80% or more of our students meeting their projected growth goal. For the spring of 2024, MSHS has set our goal to be at 6%, which would be a sizable improvement from the 40% we achieved in the spring of 2023. With all of the hard work that our staff and students have put in this year, we will be able to reach this goal.

The weather is warming up and spring is right around the corner. Spring break falls during the last week of March this year, which coincides with the end of the 3rd academic quarter. Upon returning from spring break, students will enter the closing stretch of the school year, which for our Seniors marks their last two months at Madera South. These weeks of school will include state testing for our 11th graders and lots of great [events](#) for every student. It will all culminate with graduation on June 5th. Please encourage your student to be involved with as many great activities as possible.

Warm regards,

Jon Steinmetz

Coming Soon

- Madera South Parent Resource Center (PRC)
 - Adult GED Class. Wednesdays. 8:30-12pm. Rm. P2
 - Tech Support Hour. Wednesdays. 4-7pm. Rm. P2
 - Computer Class. Wednesdays. 5-7pm. Rm. P2
- March 1: Parent Listening Session, MSHS Media Center, 7:30 AM
- March 8: MSHS Show Choir @ Hart Encore Competition
- March 11: No School (teacher collaboration day)
- March 12-15: "Battle of the Classes" Week
- March 14: Grubdown
- March 15: MSHS Show Choir @ Xtravaganza Competition
- March 15: "Battle of the Classes" Blacklight Rally
- March 19: School Site Council Meeting, Room 102/103, 4:00-5:00 PM

- March 21-24: State FFA Conference, Sacramento
- March 22: Guest Speaker, Rob Holla: Anti-Vaping
- March 23-April 1: No School, Spring Break

Student Safety-Healthy Relationships



During the high school years, young adults undergo a multitude of changes, both physical and emotional. Amidst this transformative period, the relationships they form play a pivotal role in shaping their development and overall well-being. Healthy relationships contribute significantly to their social, emotional, and even academic growth.

Encouraging our students to cultivate healthy relationships fosters a positive environment conducive to their personal growth and success. Here are a few reasons why promoting healthy relationships is crucial:

- **Emotional Support:** Adolescence can be a tumultuous time filled with ups and downs. Healthy relationships provide a source of emotional support, allowing students to express their feelings, share experiences, and navigate challenges with trusted peers.
- **Self-Esteem:** Positive relationships help boost self-esteem and confidence. When students feel valued, respected, and accepted by their peers, they are more likely to develop a positive self-image and a strong sense of self-worth.

- **Social Skills:** Interacting with others in healthy ways helps students develop essential social skills such as communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. These skills are invaluable not only in their personal lives but also in future academic and professional endeavors.
- **Resilience:** Building healthy relationships teaches students resilience and adaptability. They learn to cope with setbacks, manage conflicts constructively, and bounce back from adversity with the support of their peers.
- **Academic Success:** Research suggests a positive correlation between healthy relationships and academic achievement. Students who feel connected to their peers and teachers are more likely to be engaged in school, participate actively in class, and perform better academically.

As parents and educators, we play a crucial role in nurturing and modeling healthy relationship dynamics for our high school students. By fostering open communication, empathy, and mutual respect, we can help create a supportive community where our students feel valued and empowered to thrive.

I encourage you to initiate conversations with your teenagers about the importance of healthy relationships and to actively promote positive social interactions both inside and outside of school. Together, we can empower our students to build meaningful connections that enrich their lives and contribute to their overall well-being.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in promoting the holistic development of our students.

Health and Wellness

Text

Staff & Student Highlights

Student Highlight | Alayja Hall



Alayja Hall represented MSHS on a Student Voice Panel at the first annual PARSEC Summit in Fresno on Thursday, February 6th, 2024. She spoke about her experiences as a black student, how staff can support culturally responsive teaching and learning, and how we can empower our black students. We are so proud of Alayja!

Student Highlight | Mock Trial



We would like to congratulate the MSHS Mock Trial team and Coach Rickie Hernandez for winning the first Mock Trial championship in school history. Our team knocked off Yosemite High School, which had won the previous 6 county championships and 32 of the 40 competitions in the competition's history. Truly, our Mock Trial team toppled a dynasty! Now, our team will go forward to the state competition, which will be held in March.

Student Highlight | Academic Decathlon



Our Academic Decathlon team competed on Saturday, February 3. They took home 21 medals, and two of our students were the highest scorers in the competition in Essay and Music. We placed 3rd overall in the competition.

Student Highlight | Spread the Love Week



During the week of February 13, Madera South celebrated “Spread the Love” week. Each day, staff and students enjoyed Valentine-themed activities including pictures with Stanley the Stallion, gift-giving, and special student breakfast.

Student Highlight | FFA

Madera FFA has four students who will be recognized for their Outstanding SAE Projects at the California State FFA Conference this March. These members completed applications about their projects, describing how it impacts their future careers and skill development. All four were selected as state finalists and will interview for a chance to be named the State Champion in their area. Ethan Toro is a finalist in the area of Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication, Kayla Macedo is a finalist in Ag Communication, Christopher Tornado is a finalist in Turf Grass Management and Will Thompson is a

finalist in two areas; Diversified Horticulture and Landscape Management.

STATE PROFICIENCY FINALISTS



ETHAN TORO
AG MECHANICS DESIGN &
FABRICATION



KAYLA MACEDO
AG COMMUNICATIONS



CHRISTOPHER TORNERO
TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT



WILL THOMPSON
DIVERSIFIED HORTICULTURE
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT