



## Madera South High School

November 2024

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### A Message From The Principal

Dear Madera South High School Families,

As we enter the festive months of November and December, we're reminded of the rich diversity that our students bring to Madera South. At Madera South, we celebrate these unique cultures—not only through holiday traditions like Día de los Muertos, Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas but also by embracing the everyday aspects of students' lives that are deeply meaningful to them. Our celebrations can take many forms, whether it's creating lessons that tap into student interests, working alongside students to help them through a challenging moment, taking extra time to support them in resolving conflicts or sharing their achievements with others.

As we approach the end of the first semester, we hope every student feels that their culture is valued here and that they have a strong connection with at least one staff member. With our weekly student advisory lessons, we aim to see that our students feel truly valued and have a genuine sense of belonging on campus. If there's room for improvement, we're committed to making adjustments to ensure everyone feels engaged and connected to our school community.

We also want our parent community to feel respected and valued. I appreciate the feedback that was received from our parent survey as well as from those who attended the "Cookie Chats" on October 23. Your input is valuable for our staff, and we use it to make decisions that make your student's educational experience one that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative. Please continue to reach out with any needs or concerns you may have.

Best regards,

Jon Steinmetz

### Coming Soon

- November 1: Rodeo Rivalry Football Game vs Torres High School, Toro Stadium, 7:30 PM
- November 4 & 7: Senior Yearbook Photos
- November 5: School Site Council Meeting, Room 102/103, 4:00-5:00 PM
- November 8: Public Safety Field Trip to Alcatraz
- November 8: Grubdown, Student Lunch
- November 11: No School, Veteran's Day
- November 15: FCCLA Leadership, Visalia, 8:00-5:00
- November 20: Stallion Honor Society at SJVTH, 8:30-12:30
- November 25-November 29: No School, Thanksgiving Break

## Staff & Student Event | The Old Timers Parade



The Madera South Cheer and Pom team performed in the Madera Old Timers Parade. Madera South athletes joined in with everyone passing out purple beads and candy to the crowd.



The Madera FFA community service committee was at the Old Timers Parade and were responsible for helping keep the streets clean as the "pooper scoopers."



The Madera South Marching Band and Color Guard combined with MLK marching band and guard to form the Purple Pyramid Marching Band. It is an annual tradition, and we look forward to it every year.

## Student Highlight | Ethan Montejano-Toro and Diamond Michel



The ballot was cast, the votes were counted, and the student body has spoken! Congratulations to our Homecoming Royalty winners, Ethan Montejano-Toro nominated by FFA, and Diamond Michel nominated by Class of 2025!

## Student Highlight | Leadership Conference



Madera South Leadership students had the chance to attend the CADA Area C Leadership Conference where they learned from some of the best advisors and students (including Stallion Alumni Julie Larrivee!) from across the state about how to bring high-impact leadership to our school.

## Student Highlight | Suicide Awareness & Prevention



In honor of National Suicide Awareness Month, the MSHS Peer Counselors wrote uplifting messages on the sidewalks. These notes, filled with words of encouragement, love, and support, serve as a visible reminder that no one is ever truly alone in their struggles. Messages like "You matter" and "It's okay to ask for help" empower students to open up about mental health and encourage a culture of care and connection. This aims to break the stigma surrounding mental health issues and remind everyone that seeking support is a sign of strength.

If you are struggling, there are options available to help. **Call or text #988**, or **chat at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)**, to speak to someone and get immediate support.

**Staff & Student Event | FFA Ag Literacy Days & Pumpkin Patch**



It takes a lot of work to put together a pumpkin patch the whole community can enjoy. On October 9-11th Madera FFA hosted 3 days of [ag literacy days](#) for our local elementary schools to enjoy. Over 1500 elementary students were taught about agriculture and given tours of the school farm by Madera FFA Students.

**Staff Highlight | Christian Galindo, CTE Medical Teacher**





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

My most memorable student support experience would be in my previous role as an athletic trainer at a high school. Being able to help my students recover from their injuries and seeing them get back into playing the sports they love was the best gift I could receive. Looking to make more as I continue in education.

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

Being able to learn from industry professionals during my last two years of undergrad benefited me greatly. My mentor taught me many industry skills but more importantly, taught me how to deal with life challenges and how not to let it affect my personal and work relationships.

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

Whether I am playing or watching, baseball consumes most of my time. Go Yankees. Other than that, my hobbies include golfing, road cycling, and cooking.

***What is a goal you have for the 2024-25 school year?***

My goal for this school year is to create positive relationships and continue learning in this new profession.

## Staff Highlight | Monica Franco, Office Assistant



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

Supporting by assisting a group of kids participating in physical activities and teaching them how to interact and work as a team.

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

Being a parent has helped me understand how to deal with kids and treat others respectfully.

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

I enjoy traveling and camping with my family. Enjoy making new memories with my little ones.

***What is a goal you have for the 2024-25 school year?***

I aim to excel in my new position and support my department as much as possible.

## Staff Highlight | Paloma Lozano, Art Teacher



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

Back when I was still just an after-school tutor, I met a student that the other tutors referred to as a "challenge". I made sure to take some time one day and talk to him. I asked him what he liked to do in school and if he liked learning, and he said "Nobody has ever asked me that before". After taking time to reach out to him, he and I had a great time in the after-school program. Kids just want to be known!

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

My most memorable learning experience was my entire 8th grade year in Art Class. My teacher Mrs. Steiner always challenged me and understood me, and was very formative to my art and my philosophies as an educator.

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

I love to travel, bake, hang out with my dogs, and read! I am on my 33rd book this year.

***What is a goal you have for the 2024-25 school year?***

I am excited to complete my master's program this year, and I hope I cultivate a love of creativity in all my students, no matter their skills or passions!

## Staff & Student Event | FFA National Convention



Eleven Madera FFA Members attended the National FFA Convention last week. Kayla Macedo, Ethan

Montejano-Toro, and Will Thompson were honored as National Proficiency Finalists in their respective areas! And Arturo Madriz was honored as one of the four finalists for the American Star in Agricultural Placement, one of the highest awards given at the national level. The students attended workshops, general sessions, and toured the local area while attending the convention. Thirteen students from MSHS received their American Degree; Arturo Madriz, Lesley Machado, Morelia Vieyra , and William Thompson received their degree on stage at the National Convention.



## Stallion Honor Society | Pinning Day



On October 10, we celebrated our Stallion Honor Society students. Each year, we randomly call on students during lunch to display their Stallion Honor Society pins. Our students have officially agreed to an accelerated compact, which asks them to persevere through the challenges of our accelerated courses and meet the A-G requirements to apply to higher universities. Our students also serve as models to other students on campus, in terms of high academic expectations and good behavior we hope to have for all students. Our Honors Society will develop an academic culture in which students will work together to collaborate during their own time to meet in a study group in the media center and study for their Honors, AP, or DE courses. I have the great pleasure of working with the top students in our school to teach them the content and tools that they will need to succeed in college. I am also happy that many of these students ask about my Physics and Honors Chemistry courses to keep challenging themselves and grow through rigor and high expectations that will push them to their limits.

*-Mr. Cisneros, Science Teacher*

## Stallion Honor Society Student Highlight | Jovani Herrera



Jovani Herrera possesses all of the positive attributes of a model student in the Stallion Honors Society. In Physics of the Universe, he could easily solve complex problems. He was always eager to try his best, attentive to detail and could look at a problem from multiple perspectives. Jovani is very

imaginative and creative; he produced very successful projects that displayed a lot of talent in engineering design. He was an excellent team player and energized his classmates with his drive to complete the work. As a senior student, Jovani enlisted in the National Guard to serve our community and our country. He has completed intensive training to prepare for physically and mentally demanding tasks. He speaks with self-confidence, positivity, and gratitude. Jovani inspires the importance of discipline and work ethic to all of our students on campus. He is also available as a resource and a mentor to any student who wants to know more about joining the National Guard. -Mr. Cisneros

## October Student-Athletes of the Month

### **2024 October Athletes of the Month**

Girls Volleyball- Isabella Zaragosa

Girls Water Polo- Saray Madriz

Boys Water Polo- Jonathan Cruz-Dolores

Girls Tennis- Beyonce Ramos

Cheer- Viridiana Gil

Dance- Alberto Solano

Flag Football- Daisy Arenas

Football- Sinceare McFarland

Girls Golf- Leilani Perez

Cross Country- Olivia Delacruz and Juan Cervantes

## Health and Wellness | Vaping

Vaping, a harmful and dangerous behavior, is becoming increasingly prevalent among our student body. We feel it is crucial to discuss this issue openly and collaboratively to ensure the safety and health of all our students.

Vaping, which involves the use of electronic marijuana cigarettes or other electronic nicotine delivery systems, poses significant health risks to adolescents. These devices often contain nicotine and other

harmful chemicals, which can have detrimental effects on developing brains and bodies. Moreover, there have been reports of severe lung injuries and other health complications associated with vaping.

Madera South takes a strong stance against the use of vaping devices on school property or during school-sponsored activities. We have implemented several measures to address this issue, including educational programs, increased monitoring of common vaping areas, and disciplinary actions for students found in violation of our policies.

However, we believe that tackling this issue effectively requires a collaborative effort between the school and parents. We urge you to have open and honest conversations with your children about the dangers of vaping. Please take the time to educate them about the health risks, legal consequences, and potential long-term consequences of this behavior.

Here are some steps you can take to address vaping with your children:

- **Initiate Conversations:** Talk to your child about vaping, expressing your concerns and providing them with accurate information about its risks.
- **Be a Role Model:** If you smoke or vape, consider quitting or seeking support to quit. Setting a positive example is crucial.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself informed about the latest trends in vaping products and familiarize yourself with the signs of vaping so you can recognize if your child is involved.
- **Encourage Healthy Alternatives:** Promote healthy, non-vaping alternatives to cope with stress or peer pressure, such as sports, hobbies, or counseling.
- **Monitor Online Activity:** Keep an eye on your child's online activities, as vaping-related content is often readily accessible on the internet.
- **Seek Professional Help:** If you suspect that your child is struggling with a vaping addiction, consider seeking professional guidance and support.

We are committed to working closely with you to address this issue and create a safe and healthy learning environment for all our students. Together, we can help our children make informed decisions and choose a path that leads to a bright and promising future.

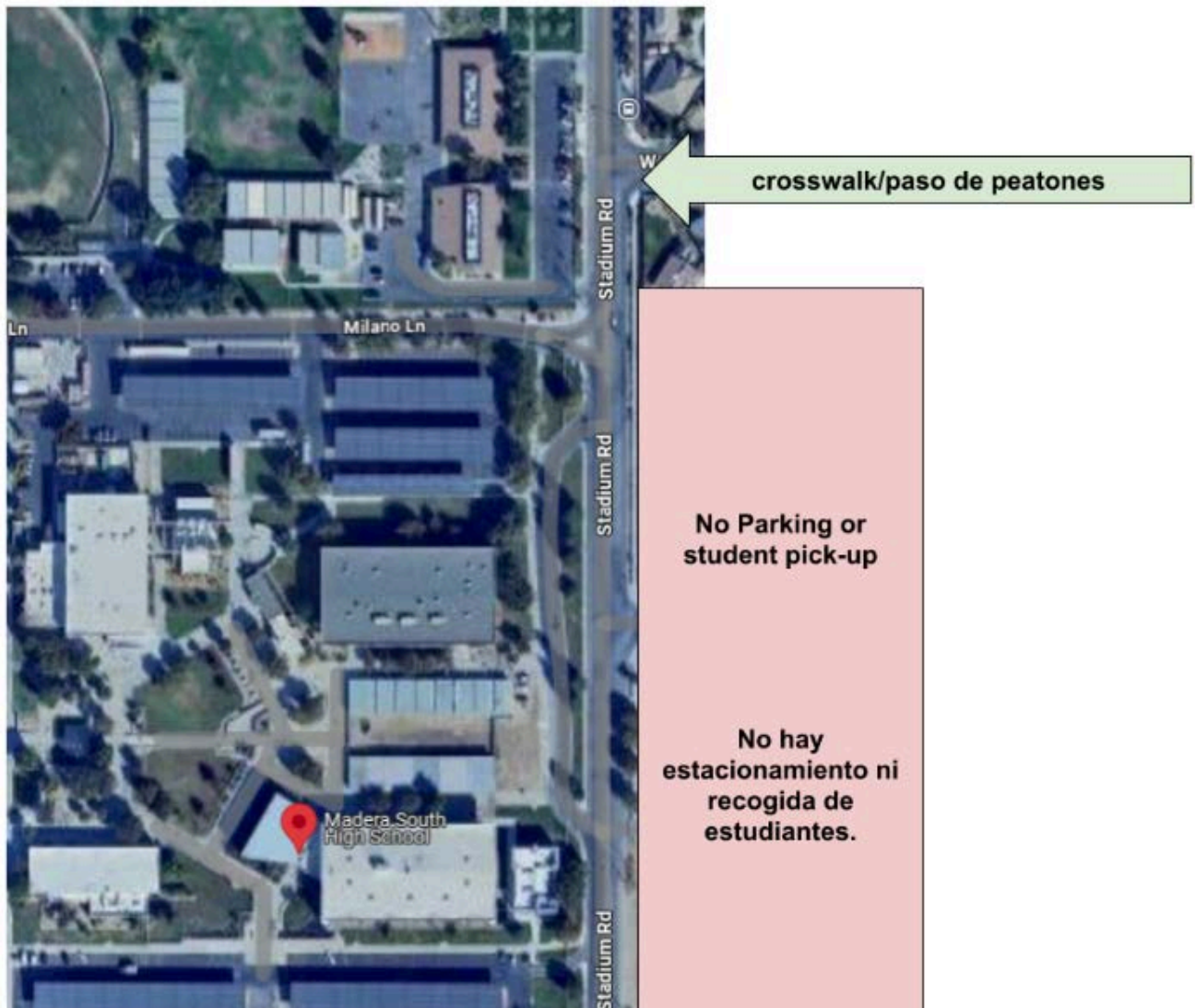
If you have any questions or concerns regarding vaping or our school's policies, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your involvement and support are crucial in ensuring the well-being of our students. Thank you for your partnership in creating a safe and nurturing environment for our students.

## School Safety | Street Crossings



At [High School Name], the safety of our students is a top priority. With students often traveling to and from school by foot, we want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of crossing streets safely and encourage you to discuss this essential topic with your student.

Crossing streets illegally—by jaywalking, ignoring pedestrian signals, or crossing outside of designated crosswalks—poses significant dangers. Drivers may not expect pedestrians in unmarked areas, which increases the risk of serious accidents. In recent years, we've seen an increase in pedestrian incidents across communities, often due to unsafe crossing practices. These incidents can lead to severe injuries and even loss of life, tragedies that can often be avoided with a few safety habits.



Please encourage your student to use designated crosswalks and follow traffic signals carefully. Waiting for the proper signal to cross, avoiding distractions like phones or earbuds, and making eye contact with drivers can help ensure that they're seen and safe. Remind them that safety should always come before convenience when navigating busy roads.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our students safe. Together, we can help our young people develop habits that prioritize their well-being and ensure a safer journey to and from school each day.

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Friends make me happy!**



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