

GOLD GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Marysville Joint Unified School District



Highlights in this issue:

**JOHNSON PARK STUDENTS
LEARN TO CODE**

**SCHOOLS EXPAND STEAM
PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES
ACROSS THE DISTRICT**

**HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS
ATTEND COLLEGE
INFORMATION DAY**

Greetings! This is your October issue of the Gold Gazette, our monthly districtwide newsletter that includes important updates about exciting things happening across the Marysville Joint Unified School District.

This month, we are highlighting all of the amazing work that is being done to prepare our students for the world of tomorrow. This includes college and career preparation as well as the introduction of new STEAM curriculum in our classrooms and afterschool programs!

If you have a special event, person, program, or project that you would like to share with our community, please email Courtney Tompkins at ctompkins@mjusd.k12.ca.us so she can highlight your story in the Gold Gazette. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to her as well.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear MJUSD Community,



Great examples of teaching and learning are visible at every school site. Please join me in thanking our school leaders as we celebrate National Principals Month throughout October.

The two years of distance learning really pushed districts back several years, and getting back to what we were doing well before the pandemic is still hard. This is even more evident when things we once did well now feel like just one more thing to do. What we need to be very understanding of is that the work we have started will take some time to reach full implementation. We also recognize that—in order to truly focus on equity and access to quality learning for every student—we must address the social, emotional, and academic needs we are seeing due to the two-year disruption.

This year, we have started the work of developing the Graduate Profile to bring together suggestions from staff, parents, community partners, and students, so that we can identify the essential skills for students to learn before they graduate from high school. I hope you had a chance to participate in the Graduate Profile survey that was sent out last month.

As the work around student success continues, we have also reestablished some programs that we did very well before the pandemic, such as AVID which is a course designed for college success. In addition, we have partnered with Chico State to work directly with our students while expanding Dual Enrollment options with Yuba College; Dual Enrollment enables high school students to take college courses and earn high school and college credits. Please visit the District's College and Career webpage at www.mjusd.com to learn more about these programs. This year, high school students and their parents will also have access to a free digital app that allows them to track college application status and learn more about college programs.

Making sure that every student has the opportunities for success in school and beyond is what drives educators to be passionate advocates for students. We can see this passion in our classrooms, in our sports programs, in our students' arts and music performances, and in the work that is occurring across the district. A big thank you to all teachers and staff members for their ongoing contributions to our school communities. We have a lot to celebrate in October!

Sincerely,

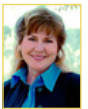
Fal Asrani, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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HOW MJUSD IS EXPANDING COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

By Jay Trujillo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Educational Services, led by the efforts of our Director of College and Career, Jami Larson, has embarked upon an important mission to bring college and career opportunities to every MJUSD student. While success in life does not require a college degree, it is our goal to show students the possible paths they can take after high school and make sure they are aware of the resources available to them as they choose whether to pursue higher education.



Here are some of the ways we are working to bring this vision to life:

- Partnering with Yuba College to offer:
 - New public safety dual enrollment courses, Fire Science and Administrative Justice
 - The Early College Program, which allows students to earn an Associate Degree and a High School Diploma simultaneously. Each year, we add a new group of freshmen students to the program, which spans all four years of high school.
- Bringing representatives from California State University, Chico to our campuses to help students foster connections with counselors in an effort to increase the accessibility of attending a four-year college.
- Working with UC Davis to become a partner high school in their Medical School pipeline grant.
- Hosting workshops with high school and college representatives to assist students in applying for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which allows students to qualify for financial aid.
- Rolling out the Siembra College Connect app, a digital tool for students and parents to connect with colleges and universities. Through this app, users can receive information about programs, admission criteria, financial aid, and more.
- Establishing a College and Career Guiding Coalition this year which will evaluate the current progress of actions, provide timely feedback, and build community support for College and Career initiatives.
- Adding two positions to the new College and Career Department to plan, organize, and provide a wide variety of college and career information and materials, as well as communicate with students, staff, parents, and community representatives to help develop and maintain a strong college going culture.
- Offering virtual college campus tours to middle and high school students. Through panoramic virtual reality goggles, students are able to transport themselves onto college campuses and get a glimpse of college life.
- Launching a formalized summer internship program in the summer of 2023. Work experience through community classrooms already occurs in several of our Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, including Early Childhood Education, Medical Occupations, Sports Medicine, Dental Assisting, and Nursing Assisting. We are also expanding work-based learning options in CTE courses across the district.
- Offering Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) courses at our middle and high school campuses. AVID students graduate and attend college at higher rates, but more importantly, they can think critically, collaborate, and set high expectations to confidently conquer the challenges that await them in life.
- Later this school year, College and Career initiatives will be pushed into the middle schools. The College and Career Department is working with local business leaders to create a professional speakers series.

As you can see, MJUSD is taking a comprehensive and targeted approach to bring college and careers to all students. Read on to learn more about these programs and initiatives. We can't wait to see the dreams that unfold!

COLLEGE AND CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELORS SPOTLIGHT

by Becca Rolufs, *Work-Based Learning Specialist*

This month, we are shining a spotlight on two important individuals who guide and support our students' journeys through high school and into the required preparation for their future careers. Meet Lindhurst High School Counselor, Kenny Her, and Marysville High School Career Center Technician, Stan Easter. **Kenny Her** has been helping shape the futures of LHS students for 18 years. He was gracious enough to share some information with us to get to know him better.



Kenny Her

Q: What drew you to becoming a Counselor?

A: I am drawn to the job because I can earn a living while helping students overcome developmental, personal, and social problems. The job makes everyday exciting because I have a busy schedule with diverse responsibilities. I get the chance to interact and collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and school psychologists to accomplish school-related tasks and duties. I create a space where students can share their concerns freely, address personal problems, and help students become more confident as they get older. I like the stability and autonomy of the job. Lastly, this job gets me more vacation time that aligns with my own kids' school schedule.

Q: What college did you attend?

A: I attended Chico State after high school. I earned my Bachelor of Art in Sociology and a minor in Social Science. I continued my education at Sacramento State University and earned my Master of Science degree in Counselor Education.

Q: What is your favorite part of being an LHS Counselor?

A: My favorite part of my duties is interacting with the students. Whether I am talking to them about their academic, career, post-secondary plan, or just helping them cope with their social and emotional concerns.

Q: How do you define success?

A: For me, success is helping a student reach their "AHA" moment. A moment of insightfulness, discovery, and accomplishment for themselves.

Q: What or who motivates you?

A: I am motivated to be a counselor because I want to help young people. I grew up in this community and understand the struggles in my community. My motivation is that I love to see the young people in this community be successful, and I want to make a difference.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to become a high school counselor?

A: I would say "Go for it!" This occupation helps change young people's lives and make lifelong friends.

Q: What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

A: I like to garden and grow my own chili peppers.

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: These three are my favorite hobbies: tennis, fishing, and hiking.

Q: Are you currently binge-watching any shows?

A: I am currently watching "The Rings of Power" and "The House of Dragons."

Q: If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: I would eat steamed chicken seasoned with herbs with a chili pepper dipping sauce on the side.

Q: Do you have a favorite fandom?

A: I like to watch the ATP Tour (The Association of Tennis Professional) and NFL Football. I just enjoy watching the preparation involved at the professional level, the high level of competition, and the humility of victory or graciousness in defeat between two people or teams.

Stan Easter has been making an impact at Marysville High School for 10 years, coaching the boys' varsity basketball team and has increased that impact in the role of College and Career Technician for the past 2½ years. We asked Stan a few questions to get to know him better.



Stan Easter

Q: What drew you to becoming a Career Center Technician?

A: I love working with kids and helping them become the best version of themselves. This position has allowed me to work with kids who have different paths in life — college, military, trade school, or directly into the work field. It means a lot to me to guide students as they make those decisions.

Q: What is your favorite part of being an MHS Career Center Technician?

A: Being able to help kids figure out their path is the best. Some kids don't believe that they can make a career doing the things they love. After talking and having them take assessments, we are able to figure out career paths and the schooling needed for those careers. The excitement they show knowing that they actually have a future is amazing.

Q: How do you define success?

A: Success is relative to the situation, so it is always changing. I would say success, for me, is trying to help every kid who comes and sees me to realize their potential.

Q: What or who motivates you?

A: What motivates me is who I was yesterday. It's hard, but I try every day to be better than I was the day before.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to become a Career Center Technician?

A: Make sure you love helping kids. If you have that love, this job is the one for you.

Q: What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

A: I joined the Marines right out of high school.

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: Playing basketball and going to concerts with my girlfriend.

Q: Are you currently binge-watching any shows?

A: Martin, Snowfall, and 90 Day Fiancé.

Q: If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: Oxtails, baked mac & cheese, fried cabbage, cornbread, and sweet potato pie.

Q: Do you have a favorite fandom?

A: LA Dodgers, LA Clippers, and Dallas Cowboys.



Our District Reads!

In August and September, MJUSD students have read ...

44,543 BOOKS
134,020,898 WORDS
for **19** minutes per day!



HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS ATTEND COLLEGE INFORMATION DAY

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Informations Officer



Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani and MJUSD students during the College Information Day event at Yuba College.



Students speak with representatives during the College Information Day event at Yuba College.



A representative from UC Davis speaks to students during College Information Day.

Yuba College recently offered a unique experience for students right in our backyard – College Information Day. Hundreds of MJUSD students attended the event on September 22, which featured more than 30 representatives from CSU, UC, private, and out-of-state colleges and universities, and of course, from many of the programs and departments at Yuba College. There were prizes, food, live music, and other fun activities during the event. Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani attended the event and had a chance to chat with some of our students who were roaming the campus, gathering information from prospective colleges. Some of the students who attended said they really enjoyed walking around a college campus, learning about the various options available to them.

STAFF MEMBERS SHOW THEIR COLLEGE PRIDE FOR COLLEGE COLORS DAY

by Becca Rolufs, Work-Based Learning Specialist

Marysville Joint Unified School District employees donned our college colors in honor of National College Colors Day on September 2, 2022. Whether it was our alma mater or our favorite college sports team, we showed off our college spirit. We had a great turn out of excited employees, proud to represent their favorite colleges and win great prizes from our community. We represented colleges far and wide, from as close as Sacramento State and Chico State, to as far as Syracuse University in New York.

The College and Career Department would like to thank Schools First Financial, College and Career Director Jami Larson, and Blue Zones for donating so many wonderful prizes that we were able to send each spirited employee home with a gift! We look forward to seeing you all show your college spirit once again next year!



Adriana, Jacquez, Tracy Pomeroy, Melissa White, Angie Buckland, Don Mitchell, and Luvpreet Sahota at Johnson Park.



Kynoch teacher Jean Youngren with her students sporting her Washington State Cougars college pride.



Yuga Gardens outreach consultants Pablo Lopez and Patricia Magam sport their Yuba College gear.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS REAL-WORLD SKILLS

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer

Our high school students can enroll in courses to gain hands-on experience in culinary arts, automotive technology, sports medicine, and dental assisting, just to name a few.

These courses are offered through the District's Career Technical Education (CTE) Program, which includes classes in 18 different career pathways offered in 8 different industry sectors. This year, we added Public Safety courses through Yuba College and a Certified Nursing Assistant course, thanks to a partnership with Tri-County ROP.

CTE courses provide students with real-world workforce skills development, career exploration, and college preparation. In fact, the U.S. Department of Education found that students enrolled in CTE programs have a high school graduation rate of more than 90 percent, compared to the national average freshman graduation rate of 75 percent.

A critical component of CTE courses is the work-based learning opportunities which allow students to learn how to practically apply the knowledge and skills they have learned and teaches them how to succeed in the workforce. To learn more about our CTE offerings, you can visit our website at www.mjUSD.com and search for Career Technical Education under the College and Career page or reach out to your student's school to request copies of our CTE brochures or the CTE Program Guide.



LHS students learn how to build structures in the CTE Construction course.



MHS student films a news segment in the Multimedia Production CTE class.

MEET OUR NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER WORK-BASED LEARNING SPECIALIST



Becca Rolufs

Hello! My name is Becca Rolufs, and I am the new Work-Based Learning (WBL) Specialist at MJUSD! I am from the neighboring small town of Nicolaus, CA. I attended college at CSU Chico where I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology and a Minor in Marketing.

In my spare time, I enjoy weightlifting, hiking with my dogs, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. I have always enjoyed helping people and making an impact in my community, which makes me very excited to have the opportunity to do just that at MJUSD. As the WBL Specialist, I am your liaison between local businesses and the classroom. I will be coordinating a plethora of WBL experiences for our students throughout the school year, which will include bringing guest speakers into the classroom, getting students out to visit local businesses, and coordinating summer internships and student-led enterprises.

My goal is to help students learn that they are in the driver's seat of their career and their future. By allowing our students to have an in-depth view into multiple career fields, they will not only gain experience early on, but they will also gain confidence in choosing the career path that is the right fit for them.

I look forward to building relationships with our local businesses and watching our students become strong members of the future workforce. If you know of a local business that would like to participate in a WBL experience with MJUSD, please contact me at brrolufs@mjUSD.k12.ca.us.

SCHOOLS EXPAND 'STEAM' PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE DISTRICT

by Courtney Tompkins, with contributions from Michelle Higgins, Heather Marshall, Tami Straolzini, Duane Triplett, and Ashley Vette.

Seven schools serving students in our rural, foothill, and mountain communities — Arboga, Cordua, Browns Valley, Loma Rica, Dobbins, Yuba Feather, and Foothill — are unique in many ways, but the students they educate have a lot in common. These schools have joined together to pilot a STEAM initiative that aims to increase educational opportunities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and bring more project-based learning to the classroom.

Students in these communities are already involved in theater, 4-H, animal sciences, and resource management and conservation. And through the introduction of these learning modules, students are able to see a direct connection between their interests and the fields of math, science, and technology. Here are some of the ways teachers are incorporating these concepts in the classroom:

Robotics and Coding at Foothill Intermediate

Students at Foothill Intermediate School are beginning a robotics unit in their technology class this year after learning the basics of coding in the previous unit. There has been a lot of excitement among students about building and coding robots, with the ultimate goal of having a robotics competition between the seven groups in class.

“Technology is fun and entertaining at the same time,” said Foothill 6th grader Miles Hansard. “It teaches me the fundamentals. I like technology because I like computers and anything having to do with coding.”



Foothill students learn robotics after learning the basics of coding.

Pyramid Building and Rafting at Browns Valley and Cordua

Browns Valley and Cordua have enjoyed learning what being STEAM schools mean to us and, in doing so, we have made a promise to our community to incorporate it into our everyday practices. This has led to us trying new things like a STEAM Open House, painting parties, and science-centered field trips, including a roller rink activity, and the Salmon Expedition on the Yuba River that students got to enjoy earlier this month.

STEAM has also become a part of the afterschool programs at both sites. One recent activity involved building pyramids out of toothpicks and marshmallows. “Science is fun, especially when you CAN eat the marshmallows,” said student Lilly Hutton. Browns Valley is also unique in that it has a weather station in partnership with UC San Diego and the Yuba Water Agency. The station measures important data including wind direction, rainfall levels, and groundwater percolation.



Browns Valley students build pyramids with marshmallows and toothpicks in the afterschool program.

Teachers attend STEAM Symposium

The first weekend in October, 13 teachers and administrators attended the 10th Annual California STEAM Symposium. The weekend in Anaheim was filled with excitement as we watched World Renown magician Jason Latimier relate magic to wonder in students. Vendors and presenters provided our group with many resources to bring back to the district that will help improve our teaching of 21st Century Skills to the students in MJUSD. Teachers are motivated to try new resources, equipment and strategies, so be on the lookout for new things coming!



Teachers attend the STEAM Symposium in Anaheim on Oct. 1-2, 2022.

Life Sciences and Salmon Expedition at Loma Rica

Loma Rica's 4th and 5th grade students have been focusing on life science and how the structures of plants and animals help them to survive, grow, behave, and reproduce. They learned how to make scientific drawings that are accurate, big, colorful, detailed and have an explanation. Students also dissected flowers and identified structures, and were able to set up their own experiment looking at how water, soil, and air may or may not help a plant to survive.

All of this builds up to the 4th grade Salmon Expedition on October 19 when students will learn about salmon migration and the importance of ecosystems on the Yuba River rafting trip with South Yuba River Citizens League.



Loma Rica students on the Yuba River Salmon Expedition during the 2021-2022 school year.

Life Sciences, Engineering, and Dam Building at Dobbins and Yuba Feather

Mrs. Harryman's 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade classes have been working on building a bioactive vivarium to house our veiled chameleon, Opal. To do this, students learned about animal husbandry and how to provide the most natural environment possible for Opal. We studied the veiled chameleons' natural habitat, Yemen, to better understand the humidity, temperature, plants, food, and nesting habits of veiled chameleons in the wild. Students then learned the difference between an aquarium, a terrarium, and a vivarium to gain a better understanding of what we would be creating. Finally, students learned about bioactive habitats (self-sustained, self-regulating habitats) and all the things we would need to create one. This includes a substrate (the dirt), springtails, isopods (the bugs or, as we call them, "the cleaners"), plants, leaf litter twigs, and sand, which is necessary for nesting.



We have also started working on building contraptions, which involves learning science and engineering concepts. We are studying Rube Goldberg, who became famous for his comic-style drawings of contraptions. We have learned about the laws of gravity and how this knowledge will help us, and we have drawn our first set of plans. As we learn more about the science, technology, engineering, math, and art needed to create functional contraptions, we will continue to improve on our designs, build and rebuild our contraptions and have lots of fun while doing it. This is a year-long project.



Yuba Feather students try their hand at building a water-resistant dam.

Yuba Feather 2nd grade students have been studying the life cycle of beavers. As part of that study, they have been looking at the engineering process beavers undertake to build their dens and dams. The culminating activity was to build their own dams and see if they will hold back water.

The 2nd grade classroom invited the 1st graders over for this engineering project. The 2nd grade students explained the project to the 1st graders and then both classrooms teamed up to see who could build the most water-resistant dam.

Literature, science, and the real world at Arboga

Arboga embraced the opportunity to become a STEAM school from the outset of this year. On the elementary side, the teachers at Arboga have as its paramount objective to provide a strong foundation in literacy.

To help promote and reinforce this fundamental idea, our teachers have provided STEAM activities that support the literature the students are reading. From 1st graders participating in crayon container build challenges while reading "The Day the Crayons Quit", to 5th graders building popsicle stick bridges after reading one of their Wonders stories, our elementary teachers are striking a perfect balance between literature and science.

In our middle school, students are discovering about the building blocks of all matter while being able to build models of molecules and basic molecular formulas. In addition, our middle school students participate in an elective wheel where each class has some STEAM component to it. From arts survey to fine arts to multimedia, the teachers in the upper grades continue to integrate writing and literacy in an applied arts manner.

Additionally, our life skills class focuses on real-world math and science, including topics ranging from budgeting and finance to farm-to-table food. This class is especially meant for all those adolescents who ask the question, "When are we going to use this in the real world?" This ties into our final elective offering – engineering. In this survey course, students learn about several branches of engineering and have an opportunity to use the engineering design process to build models for levees, earthquake-resistant cities, heart valve replacements, and yogurt cup speakers, to name a few.

The STEAM initiative has even crossed over into our after school program where students have had the opportunity to build marble runs and make homemade ice cream. The staff at Arboga has made amazing strides in establishing its new STEAM identity and we are looking forward to providing our students with even more exciting opportunities in the weeks and months ahead.



Arboga students have fun with STEAM projects.

YUBA FEATHER STUDENTS HIKE THE VALLEY CREEK TRAIL

by Melissa Vermillion, 5th/6th grade Teacher at Yuba Feather Elementary

Last month, the 5th and 6th grade students at Yuba Feather Elementary School enjoyed a hike along the Valley Creek Trail. They were joined by representatives from the Plumas National Forest, Four Winds of Indian Education Inc., and Yuba Feather staff members. During the excursion, students participated in a variety of science-based activities, such as observing organisms in the creek and learning about wildland firefighting. They also enjoyed the serene surroundings while making observations, leaf prints, and writing poetry.

Cecily, a National Forest Service Archaeologist, shared some interesting information about the "old days" in and around the historic town of American House, near La Porte, and talked about the impact of mining in the area. Eric, a Wildlife Biologist, explained how they track wildlife and students got a chance to listen to recorded bird calls the biologists use in their line of work. Emily, a Botanist, discussed a variety of pine cones and how they could be used to identify different types of trees. And our guests from the Four Winds of Indian Education – Shane, a member of the Maidu tribe and Hilo, a member of the Mechoopda tribe – provided information about native plants and talked about their many uses and cultural significance. The students learned about the ways plants were used traditionally, as a food source, medicine, or both.

While hunting in the creek for critters, students learned about preserving the creek ecosystem. The day wrapped up with lunch in the wilderness, with a cool breeze in the air and a gentle gurgle of the creek in the background. Thank you to all of our special guests! We had a wonderful time!



Yuba Feather students hike the Valley Creek Trail in the Plumas National Forest.

MJUSD TO STRENGTHEN COLLEGE GOING CULTURE WITH CHICO STATE PARTNERSHIP

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer, and Jami Larson, Director of College and Career

MJUSD is zeroing in on enhancing the college going culture. We are working to strengthen the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools that encourage students and their families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access and success in post-secondary education. To do this, we recently established a four-year college partnership with California State University, Chico (Chico State). Admissions staff and counselors from Chico State will have a regular presence on our campuses. They will work with students, staff, and families to provide information about enrollment, scholarships, and funding.

During the week of September 12, Chico State Admissions presented to all freshmen and high school Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students. Chico State's TRIO programs – Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search (ETS) – also engaged with sophomores and high school AVID students later in the month. TRIO programs are federal outreach and student services programs designed to provide academic support from middle school to post baccalaureate for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds - low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities. In October, the Chico State College of Agriculture will connect with interested students at both LHS and MHS. November will bring the Chico State College of Communication and Education to MJUSD high school campuses.

The Chico State Upward Bound and ETS programs are collaborating with high school counseling teams to assist with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process to help students apply for college financial aid, which includes grants and student loans. We are also scheduling parent meetings to highlight Chico State programs and share opportunities for high school students.

If students plan to attend a college other than Chico State, the information provided by Chico State staff will help them as well. College and career education is the culmination of a student's PreK-12 learning experience. Simply stated, being prepared for college and careers allows students to choose the future they desire.

AVID CLASSES RETURN TO MJUSD

by Jami Larson, Director of College and Career

This year, MJUSD has implemented Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) across our 3 middle schools (Foothill, McKenney, Yuba Gardens) and 2 high schools (Lindhurst and Marysville). AVID offers students of all backgrounds the opportunity to be college-ready.

Many students have a desire to attend college, however, not all students have the opportunity. These students are often the first in their family to attend college, and are from underrepresented groups in higher education. AVID supports students to build the confidence and knowledge they need to succeed in college and their future careers.

The request to bring AVID to our schools originated last year with our student leaders, who asked us to include in our course offerings. Through AVID, MJUSD is working to bridge the gap to help more students with the desire to go to college and be fully prepared for a successful future.



McKenney students outside of their AVID classroom.



Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani speaks to AVID students at McKenney Intermediate School on August 25, 2022.

MHS, MCAA STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AT COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

by Stan Easter, MHS College and Career Technician

On September 29, we hosted a College and Career Fair which featured 30 representatives from universities, junior colleges, military and careers. The fair was available to MCAA and MHS students during the lunch periods to give information to our students regarding options they have after high school. Present at the event were representatives from Yuba College, Sierra College, Chico State, Sacramento State, Grand Canyon University, and University of Nevada, Reno, as well as from branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, Adventist Health, Marysville Police Department, Cal Fire, Yuba County Office of Education, and a host of others. The students were engaged and seemed to love the different options made available to them.



A representative from Jessup University at the College and Career Fair on 18th Street on Sept. 29, 2022.

DID YOU KNOW STUDENTS CAN EARN COLLEGE CREDITS WHILE ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL?

by Jami Larson, Director of College and Career

MJUSD is proud of its partnership with Yuba College that gives high school students the option to complete dual enrollment courses to earn both high school and college credits. Last year, 136 of our high school students earned credits at Yuba College.

Early College Program

The Early College program allows eligible students the opportunity to earn up to 60 credits (AA degree) while in high school. Students are able to receive support and resources to help ease the transition to college. In addition, the Early College Program reduces both the time and cost of a college education. Students earn transferable UC and CSU college units and learn to navigate the college experience with the support needed to ensure success now and in the future.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment, like our new Fire Science and Administrative Justice courses, allows students to take community college classes, taught by college instructors, on our high school campuses. Students earn both high school and college credits.

Concurrent Enrollment

In addition, eligible high school students can take college courses outside of their high school schedule. This spring, Yuba College will offer French I on the MHS campus and Counseling 10 on the LHS campus. Classes will be offered after school.

Benefits

Completing dual enrollment courses is a huge financial benefit as families can save thousands of dollars by having these courses finished before entering a four-year college. Students who earn college credits in high school are more likely to enroll in college and earn a college degree after high school. When college courses, where students earn high marks, are present on a high school transcript, it shows the student is ready for college.

If you would like to know more about dual enrollment, please contact Director of College and Career Jami Larson at jl Larson@mjud.k12.ca.us.

We thank Yuba College for this ongoing partnership and for their service to our community.

THE FUTURE OF CODING AT JOHNSON PARK ELEMENTARY

by Tracy Pomeroy, Johnson Park Principal

Teaching elementary students how to write as a means to communicate with others is not a novel idea. Teaching students to organize their thoughts and express their ideas is one of the many reasons for teaching writing. At Johnson Park, 5th and 6th grade students are learning new ways to organize, express, and share ideas through coding, thanks to Teacher Tina Lovell. Ms. Lovell began sharing her coding passion and expertise with students last school year by introducing the web-based program CodeMonkey Jr.

"I love CodeMonkey because it gives me a new skill to learn and I have a lot of fun with it," said student Alissia Coronado. "It makes me happy when I play it and helps me remember it's ok to try again. It helps me remember to have a growth and a fixed mindset. It helps me remember it's ok to make mistakes."



Johnson Park students learn to code using a web-based program called CodeMonkey.

This school year, three other fifth and sixth grade teachers have decided to join in on the coding fun! Approximately 64 students are using CodeMonkey Jr. to learn block coding, sequencing, basic functions, and variables in preparation for text-based coding. One of our second grade teachers, Mrs. Richards is using Code and Go Robot with her class as an introduction to coding. Students learn the coding functions to make a mouse robot move in various directions.

"CodeMonkey ... has some fun levels and challenging ones too," said student Ivan Solis. "It's great to increase my knowledge on block coding, and it's fun while doing it. I like trying to get all the bananas in all the levels. It's a tricky and exciting game to play."

Not only are these coding experiences helping our students develop problem-solving and computational thinking skills, but they are learning in ways that foster creativity and nurtures their imagination and resilience. Our students are encouraged to think creatively, explore challenges, experiment with ideas, question assumptions, make mistakes, and learn new perspectives to problem-solving. Coding skills such as organization, bridging ideas, and project design are valuable for all children, even if they choose careers outside of computer sciences.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Last month we resumed our Student and Staff recognition program and received a whopping 90 nominations! Thanks to all who nominated their students and their peers. Of the nominees, 10 students and 10 staff members were selected to be publicly recognized during the October 11, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. You can read all of the nominations on our website at www.mjUSD.com. Each month, we will continue celebrating our students and staff members so keep the nominations coming! The winners for the month of September are:

STUDENTS

Caleb Anderson, Arboga Elementary School

"He sets the example for how to treat others as well as how to be accountable. He is a wonderful classroom leader!"

Bexley Buchta, Ella Elementary School

"Bexley is a hard worker and friend to all! She is kind and considerate and a great role model to all her peers."

Trinity Duran, Lindhurst High School

"Trinity has done a great job of leading our Junior ROTC Corp of Cadets this year. She is highly respected by all cadets in the Corps."

Emma Haymore, Arboga Elementary School

"Emma is a part of our Multimedia Club and is a great role model for the students in the group... I am so proud of her and the example she sets for her peers."

Student and staff recognition continued from p. 12

Rachael Henry, Kynoch Elementary School

"Rachael is a great classmate towards her peers. She is respectful and helpful to others around her. Rachael always goes above and beyond to support her deskmates and is a superb collaborator."

Tyra Lacorbieri, North South Lindhurst High School

"Tyra works hard to complete all her assignments and is always respectful in class, but I really nominated her because I often observe her practicing kindness in my classroom."

Anthony Lopez, Cedar Lane Elementary School

"Anthony is a responsible and hard-working student. He tries his best in class and is a fabulous Wildcat!"

Adam Terrell, Yuba Feather Elementary School

"Adam demonstrates all the qualities of our big 4 (be safe, be responsible, be respectful and be ready to learn). Adam is also very polite and uses his kind manners with every student, from the kindergartners to his peers in 2nd grade. He is always looking out to help others... He is a super kid and he really deserves this award."

Sophia Valencia, Marysville High School

"A friend to all, always has a positive attitude, great student, and athlete."

Keegun Venice, McKenney Intermediate School

"Keegun always helps in class. He keeps his teammates on track and does fantastic work. Even when subbing in another classroom, Keegun helps out and shows that he knows our school-wide behavior expectations. He is a role model for other students."

STAFF

Jessica Alcantar, Covillaud Elementary School

Ms. Jessica has spearheaded a "Girls on the Run" team for Covillaud this year. She has taken on the Head Coach role and encouraged several of us to work with her and the girls as assistant coaches. This is such a great program for girls, and I'm thankful Jessica took the initiative to bring the opportunity to Covillaud.

Meaghan Alvarez, Lindhurst High School

"Mrs. Alvarez goes above and beyond for her students. Every day she comes into her classroom ready to be there for her students. She also runs the OH club and works hard to ready her students for a career in the floral industry...GREAT JOB Mrs. Alvarez! LHS is that much better because you are!!!"

Kelly Buchanan, Lindhurst High School

"Mrs. Buchanan is a kind, considerate teacher that consistently models respect and kindness in class."

Sunshine Harlow, Arboga Elementary School

"I know I can go to Sunshine for anything. She is a great friend and an even better teacher. She genuinely tries hard at everything she does. Any child in her class is lucky to have her. I wish I could get her a million warm and fuzzies, just like the ones she gives her students!!"

Jami Larson, District Office

"Jami is the epitome of efficiency!! Her positive can-do spirit is infectious and inspiring. I can only hope to do a fraction of the amazing things she does for our students and co-workers."

Pete Pantoja, District Office

"Mr. Pantoja is thoughtful about making decisions that will positively impact our students. He is always looking for and finding things for our students to learn that they would not otherwise have the opportunity."

Alex Romero, Marysville High School

"Alex is amazing at handling many tasks at once and always is ready with an answer for anyone who needs help. She also works hard to complete the tasks she is given, even when given last-minute ones. She is amazing to work with."

Victoria Topete, Foothill Intermediate School

"Victoria is ALWAYS hard working and smart in her approach to her job. She was tasked with starting the afterschool program at Foothill. She has done so without a ton of instructions, she asks great questions and is constantly meeting or exceeding expectations. Thank you for your hard work, Victoria!"

Ashley Vette, Loma Rica Elementary School & Foothill Intermediate School

"Mrs. Vette is always available for any questions or concerns. She does not judge and is quick to find a positive solution to any problem. She is there to support staff, students, and parents alike! She is an amazing person and principal."

Taylor White, Cordua Elementary School

"Cordua is so lucky to have Taylor White as our Librarian. She is a walking ray of sunshine and brightens every room that she is in. Students look forward to going into the library and spending time with her. Kinders love having story time with Ms. Taylor, and they always have a fun coloring project afterward. Taylor plays an important part at Cordua, and we are so thankful to have her!!"



Student winners were recognized during the Oct. 11, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting.



Staff members were recognized during the Oct. 11, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting.

CABINET CORNER: DISTRICT EXECUTIVES HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS UNDERWAY



Jennifer Passaglia, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Nutrition Services celebrated National School Lunch Week October 10-14, 2022 with theme days including a fan favorite of Rockin' and a Rollin into 60/70's day! We really were feeling all the love from so many folks joining in on the positive vibes while soaking in our groovy aura of Peace Love and School Lunch! On October 12, we held a community meeting at Mary Covillaud Elementary School to kick off the 16-classroom building project that will break ground next year.



Bryan Williams, Chief Technology Officer

We are working to add door buzzers, security cameras, and improved intercom systems at school sites throughout the district to improve campus safety. Our goal is to create a secure single point of entry at each campus. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority.



Gabe Simon, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services

This month, Personnel Services is launching our Teacher Pathways program of support. Pathways provides ongoing site- and District-based supports for our intern teachers and pre-interns. The purpose of the program is to provide the support based on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession to ensure that these teachers continue to develop as educators in our District and work towards their certification in their content area or grade level.



Jay Trujillo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

We are excited to have launched our TK-3 Literacy Committee charged with developing our K-3 Literacy Plan. The Committee has already met twice, and they will be meeting twice per month through December. The first few meetings are designed to give members a strong foundation on the "Science of Reading" and knowledge around effective reading practices and the elements that should go into our plan. The Committee will then assess our current needs and level of practice. The last stage for the committee will be to begin writing the plan based on their learning, experience, and findings. It's super exciting work, and I want to give a shout out to Lori Guy, site administrators (6), District staff (4) and the 15 teachers who have volunteered to serve on this Committee.

OCTOBER SCHOOL SITE NEWSLETTERS



Browns Valley Elementary



Marysville High School



Cordua Elementary



McKenney Intermediate



Edgewater Elementary



South Lindhurst High School



Ella Elementary



Yuba Gardens Intermediate



Johnson Park Elementary

MARYSVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HELP US SHARE THE WARMTH!

COAT & BLANKET DRIVE

Throughout October, we are collecting donations of new or gently used coats and/or blankets to share with our community this winter.

Items will be accepted Monday-Friday, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, at the entrance to the MJUSD office.

All donations will be distributed at our **So Thankful** community outreach events on Nov. 21st and 22nd.



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Browns Valley Elementary
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Cedar Lane Elementary
Principal Rebecca Evers
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Cordua Elementary
Principal Heather Marshall
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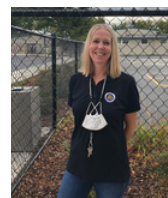
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Edgewater Elementary
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Academy for the Arts
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Marysville High School
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Marysville School for Adults
Director Bob Eckardt
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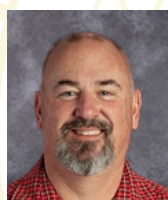
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Olivehurst Elementary
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South Lindhurst High School
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