



# Mendez Minutes

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School

Edition 6 Friday, May 2, 2025

## Quote of the Month

By: Josue Rios & Romeo Velazquez

Journalists Josue & Romeo offer you this quote for the month of **May**.

**"Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality."** — Malala Yousafzai

## Meet the staff:

Teacher/Editor: Ms. Yolanda Elmore

Copy Editor: Mrs. Yvette Cortes

## 7th Grade:

Belen Cabanas

Brandon Diaz

Noemi Garcia Haro

Elias Giron

Isaac Gonzalez Lopez

Melany Guadarrama

Santiago Huerta

Jacob Martinez

Alexandria Melgoza

Andrew Molina

Genesis Mora

Joana Ortiz

Angel Ramos

Josue Rios

Camila Santos

Romeo Velasquez

Aiden Villagomez

Jayden Zerecero



2024 - 2025

Journalism 7 Scholars

## Feature Article

**"We wish you all the best!"**

By: Principal Gabriel Moreno

To the **phenomenal 8th Graders moving on from Mendez Fundamental, we wish you all the very best in high school!** You've grown so much here, and as you take this next big step, remember the values you've embraced: Be **respectful** in all your interactions, take ownership of your journey by being **responsible**, and step confidently forward, **ready** to embrace the opportunities ahead. We're so proud of you!



Principal Gabriel Moreno

## Feature Article

**"End-of-School Year Traditions Around the World!"**

By: Ms. Linh Thuy Ngo

In FINLAND, high school students participate in what is called *penkkarit*, a tradition where they gather in trucks and throw candy at passersby. AFRICAN and HAWAIIAN students

## Feature Article

**"Keep Reading Deeply!!"**

By: Michael Covey

**8th Grade Promoting Class** of 2025,

I love reading. I really do. Like really really.

And yes, I love books 📖, but I also love shows, movies, music, and even the news. I love reading a close soccer game ⚽ or a menu to a restaurant I've never been to before 🍔 (or looking up the menu before I even go!). I think it's the anticipation 🎉 —not knowing what's coming next, but the waiting, the watching, and the wondering. 🤔

For you, that "next" is high school—and I couldn't be more excited for you. 🎉

My students know I always have a lot to say 😊, but I leave you with this: keep reading deeply, writing honestly, and speaking your truth 🗣️. Our world 🌍 needs your voice.

Time to cook. ❤️



Mr. Michael Covey, English Teacher

## Feature Story

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

By: Mrs. Stephanie Resendiz

This month, we are shining a light on the importance of mental health. Middle school can be fun, but also stressful at times. Whether you're feeling stressed, sad, anxious, or just need someone to talk to, you're not alone. There are people who care for you and want to help. If you ever feel like you need more support, start by talking to your school counselor. They can help connect you to the right resources. Just like we care for our physical health, it is important to take care of our emotions and mind.

#### Five Tips to Take Care of Your Mental Health:

- 1. Talk it out:** Don't keep everything inside. Talk to a friend, parent, counselor, or teacher.
- 2. Get Moving:** Try stretching, walking, or playing a sport. Moving your body helps boost your mood!
- 3. Take Breaks:** It's okay to step away from schoolwork or social media when you're feeling overwhelmed.
- 4. Be Kind to Yourself:** Be your biggest cheerleader! Replace negative thoughts like, "I can't do this" with encouraging ones like "I'll try my best."
- 5. Do Things That Make You Happy:** Listen to music, play games, draw, or hang out with people who make you laugh.



dance and hold family dinners. In RUSSIA and EASTERN EUROPE students recite poems/songs and have a symbolic ringing of the last bell. In ASIAN countries, students wear traditional clothing like the *kimono* for graduation. VIET NAM, in particular, even adopted a last-day-of-school water "battle" between students and staff.



The most memorable celebration comes from MEXICO where students choose a *madrina* or a *padrino* to be their chaperone as they receive their certificate. This tradition highlights the importance of familial support in helping students achieve their goals. These traditions show that school ending is a time to be proud of your accomplishments, to honor your family's support and to enjoy fun activities with your friends, no matter where you are in the world.



Ms. Linh Thuy Ngo, Science Teacher

## Feature Stories

### "My Work Here is Done!"

By: Mrs. Teresa García

When I was a little girl, I dreamed of becoming a teacher! I played school with my siblings and cousins, worked hard in school, and was proud to be a first-generation student. My perseverance led me to where I am today—a TEACHER! I worked at McDonald's through college, was an instructional assistant, and then a substitute teacher before reaching my goal.

I have worn many hats: math lead, AVID coordinator, social committee extraordinaire, and Cancer Warrior advisor. I even taught Mr. Jesus Mora at Spurgeon—now we're colleagues! I walked with Morning Fitness for over 10 years and call my students "My lovely gems." I sing on birthdays and have my own "Garcia Time" on GMM. I will especially miss Ms. Rubio, Ms. Salas, my AVID and Math Team and my gems.

Grateful for my 31-year journey as a teacher, I look forward to being a stay-home "Gramacita". I am thankful to my husband and three sons for the love and support provided throughout my teaching career.

And just like that "Poof, my work here (at Mendez) is done."

#### First Year of Teaching 1994



#### Last Year of Teaching 2025



## Letter from the Editor

### **"He Guides My Steps!"**

By: Ms. Yolanda Elmore

One of my mottos has always been: "What's next for me, Lord?"

Two years ago I was a Lathrop Spartan, and I taught *Language Arts 7* and *AVID 6*. I enjoyed my time at Lathrop, and I developed great relationships with teachers, staff, Administrators, and students.

I began my first year here at Mendez Fundamental Intermediate in August 2023. When I met with Principal Moreno and he told me about my assignment: *Language Arts 6*, *Language Arts 7*, and *Journalism 7*, I almost fell-out of my chair. He told me, "We're confident that you can handle it!" I thought... "but we just met (LOL)!"

In my second year at Mendez, I crafted a school newsletter as part of the curriculum for *Journalism 7*, I joined the *Social Committee*, *PBIS Committee*, and continued as a *Renaissance Member* (year two).

When I reflect on my time at Mendez I am grateful for many blessings.

Here are just three that stand-out for me:

- 1. The number of amazing scholars whom I have had the pleasure to teach.**
- 2. The relationships that I have formed with sensational colleagues in all disciplines.**
- 3. The supportive staff who are always willing to lend a hand and a warm smile.**

Now as the 2024 - 2025 school year comes to an end, I want to say, **"Thank you, Mendez Mustang Family, for being welcoming, supportive, and caring. I hope to see you all next year"**

P.S. Principal Moreno, I guess you were right! 👍

## Feature Article

### **"He's One of the Best!"**

By: Angel Ramos &  
Ms. Yolanda Elmore

Mr. Oscar Sanchez has been a Plant Custodian for Mendez Intermediate Fundamental for about seven years.

Mr. Sanchez attended Sierra Intermediate School and, then, he attended Century High School both in Santa Ana, CA.

When Mr. Sanchez is not working hard to ensure that Mendez remains a clean and beautiful campus, he is with his wonderful family.

The Sanchez family enjoys watching the Los Angeles Lakers and going to Disneyland.

After completing this interview, I can see why anyone at Mendez will tell you that he is patient, funny, nice, hard-working, and easy-going.

Thank you, Mr. Sanchez. We appreciate all that you do!



**Mr. Oscar Sanchez, Plant Custodian**

### **"We'll Miss You, Mr. Glenane!"**

By: Camila Santos & Mrs. Heidi Erhard

Mr. Glenane has 37-years of teaching experience and 24 of those years have been here at [Mendez Intermediate Fundamental](#).

His favorite part about working at Mendez is seeing how enthusiastic the students are about Physical Education. He likes that the students have fun while they're learning a new sport or skill.

He shared with me that what he will miss the most is proving to students that they have the potential to accomplish many things.

Finally, Mr. Glenane's advice for students is to work hard and take advantage of everything that your school years (middle school through college) have to offer. He hopes that students use every skill and talent that they were blessed with to help people.



**Mr. Peter Glenane, Physical Education Teacher**

## Noteworthy News



**Congratulations to 220 of our 8th Grade Mendez Scholars who scored Spanish Level 2 on the High School Placement Test. In addition, those scholars also have a minimum 2.0 GPA in English Language Arts.**



## Farewell Mustangs

By: Mendez Faculty & Staff

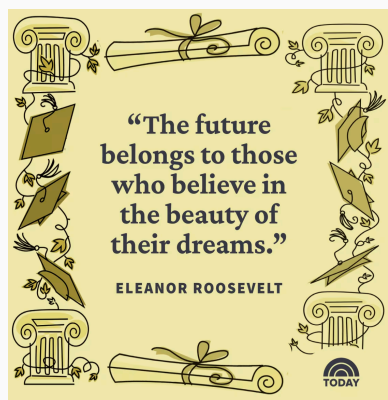
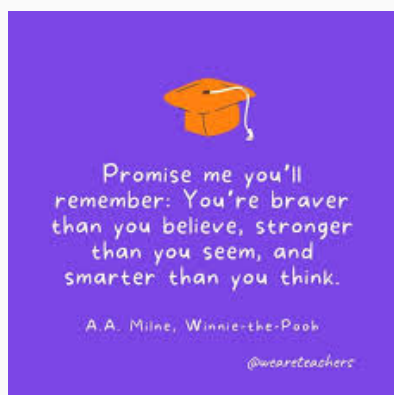
It would not be good form to say farewell to you **without** sharing special messages from Mendez Faculty and Staff.

We hope that you will treasure these messages for a lifetime.

Here's to you, **Mendez Mustangs!**



<https://bit.ly/44Bpplb>



## One Amazing Mustang!

By: Ms. Yolanda Elmore & Mrs. Teresa García

Danett Guevara is one of Mendez Fundamental's AMAZING Mustangs. Danett is also one of Mrs. Garcia's 8th Grade AVID students.

Let's look at Danett's fantastic accomplishments in her three years at Mendez Fundamental Intermediate.

**D**edicated to completing over 100 service hours in her three years in AVID.

**A**ctively involved in clubs and cheerleading

**N**ice, kind, and caring young scholar

**E**xcited to be one of the finalists for the \$10,000 scholarship as an AVID stand-out

**T**ook the top spot among all other 8th Grade AVID students with her essay submission on being an AVID scholar.

**T**hrived in her three-years as an AVID student for she learned valuable *organizational skills*, essential *study skills*, and strong *communication skills* all which will continue to help her succeed in high school and college.

When I asked Danett what she appreciated most about the AVID program she said, "**Ms. Elmore, AVID helped me to become a better person and a better student.**"



**Danett Guevara, 8th Grade AVID Scholar**

This Biliiteracy Pathway Recognition means that our **Mustangs showed progress in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish. Mendez Fundamental Intermediate earned first place among all the other middle schools on this placement test.**

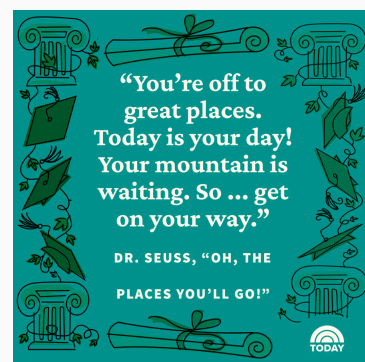
## Next Up. . . High School!

By: Ms. Yolanda Elmore & Mrs. Tina Tran

Our Promoting 8th Graders are on their way.

Let's look at where our future leaders will attend high school.

<b>Godinez HS</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>39.57%</b>
<b>Santa Ana HS</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>20.05%</b>
<b>Seegerstrom HS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>14.09%</b>
<b>Middle College HS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10.84%</b>
<b>Valley HS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9.21%</b>
<b>Century HS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3.52%</b>
<b>Saddleback HS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2.44%</b>
<b>Out of District</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.27%</b>






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