



# Mendez Minutes

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School

Edition 5 Tuesday, April 1, 2025

## Quote of the Month

By: Josue Rios, Romeo Velazquez,  
& Ms. Elmore

Journalists Josue Rios & Romeo Velazquez offer you this quote for the month of **April**.

**"April is the time to turn over a new leaf." – Terri Guillemets**

We felt that this quote is perfect for the April edition as Spring welcomes-in a season of rebirth and renewal.

**Last issue: May 2025**

### Meet the staff:

Teacher/Editor: Ms. Elmore

Copy Editor: Mrs. 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 Velazquez

Aiden Villagomez

Jayden Zerecero

## Feature Article

### **SBAC is Coming—Mendez Scholars, "You've got this!"**

By: Mrs. Helen Pena, Assessment and Data Specialist

It's almost time for the SBAC test, and we know what you're thinking: "Do I have to take this test?" The answer is, "Yes!" But don't stress, Mendez Scholars, the SBAC is a test designed to show how much you've learned. We believe in you—"You've Got This!"

Here is a **list of things that you can do to ensure that you're ready**:

1. Pay attention in class and participate in the test prep sessions that your teacher provides.
2. Read each test question carefully. Please do not rush! Use the test-taking strategies that your teachers have taught you.
3. Get a good night's sleep each night during testing week.
4. Eat a hearty breakfast—a hungry brain is a distracted brain.
5. Stay positive and encourage yourself!
6. On the day of the test, hold your head up high, take deep breaths to relax, and be confident!

**The First Day of Testing is Monday April 28.**



## Announcements

### **Spring Break!**

By: Genesis Mora & Camila Santos



We reached-out to both faculty and staff to find-out their plans for Spring Break 2025. Here's what they shared with us:

**Mr. Terrones:** "I look forward to shopping." 🎉

**DSO, Mr. Orozco:** "I look forward to catching-up on homework and spending time with my friends and family." 🎉

**Mrs. Ngo:** "I look forward to spending time with my daughter and going out of town with my bestie, Ms. Munoz." 🎉

**Spring Break begins at 2:33PM on Friday 4 April 2025.** 😊

**School resumes at 8:00AM on Monday 14 April 2025.**

**Have a wonderful and restful break!** 🙌

## Feature Story

### Here's Officer Hernandez

By: Jayden Zerecero & Mrs. Cortes

**Mr.** Cristian Hernandez is a District Safety Officer, DSO, here at Mendez Fundamental Intermediate.

Officer Hernandez attended Portola Middle School and Orange High School in Orange, CA.

One fun fact about Officer Hernandez is that he recently got a new dog and its name is Noah.

In his free time, Officer Hernandez enjoys dirt bike riding with his son.

Officer Hernandez is a valuable member of our family and he will always put safety first.

Finally, Officer Hernandez always welcomes a friendly smile and a kind hello from his Mustang Family Members!



**Mr. Cristian Hernandez, District Safety Officer**

## Don't Forget...

By: Ms. Elmore

**N**ational Teachers Appreciation Week is **May 5 - 9**.

During Spring Break take time to think about all that your teachers do to teach, motivate, encourage, and inspire you to do and be your best.

**How can you honor your teachers?**

Here are some suggestions:

## Feature Story

### Meet Mrs. Stephanie Resendiz!

By: Mrs. Stephanie Resendiz

**M**rs. Stephanie Resendiz is Mendez's Social Worker. She was born in Mexico and proudly raised in Santa Ana, where she attended Edison Elementary, Lathrop Intermediate, and Century High School.

Mrs. Resendiz went on to earn her degrees in Human Development and Social Work from UC Davis and Cal State Los Angeles. This is her fourth academic year serving students in the district.

At Mendez, Mrs. Resendiz provides mental health support through individual counseling by offering students a safe space to talk, process their feelings, and build the skills that they need in order to thrive in and out of the classroom.

When Mrs. Resendiz is not in her office, you can hear her sharing stories of her sweet rescue pitbull. She loves taking him to the dog park and the beach. Mrs. Resendiz also enjoys trails across Orange County, trying out new dinner recipes at home, and exploring local coffee shops.

**Mrs. Resendiz ROCKS!!!**



**Mrs. Stephanie Resendiz, Mendez Social Worker**

## Feature Story

### He's like no other—Mr. Jesse Penunuri!

By: Brandon Diaz, Joana Ortiz, & Mrs. Cortes

**Mr.** Jesse Penunuri is one of the best—he's like no other!

Mr. Penunuri attended Willard Intermediate and Saddleback High School in Santa Ana, CA.

One part of Mr. Penunuri's job that he enjoys very much is celebrating his colleagues through **FACES of MENDEZ**. Mr. Penunuri will have Mendez colleagues share their love for teaching and their love for hobbies and/or activities outside of teaching every Wednesday at 9AM. Parents and the community get to learn a little bit more about our wonderful Mendez Family via Zoom.

Mr. Penunuri is the first person that you'll want to meet when you visit the front office because his warm smile and positive energy is inviting.

In addition to his main job in the Wellness Center, he is our school's Running Club Coach and Morning Fitness Coach.

The advice that Mr. Penunuri would like to share with Mendez Mustangs is: "Join as many activities here at Mendez as you can and create wonderful relationships with your classmates and teachers!"



**Mr. Jesse Penunuri, Community Liaison**

- ☐ present a handmade card
- ☐ make a small gift or token
- ☐ present him or her with a gift card to his or her favorite store, restaurant, or coffee shop
- ☐ give flowers or a plant
- ☐ play a song on an instrument
- ☐ design a piece of artwork for your teacher to display in his or her classroom or at home
- ☐ write an original poem and recite it to your teacher
- ☐ make gift baskets of your teachers' favorite treats

Teachers will appreciate gifts that are from the heart!

Remember that it's the little things that mean the most (e.g. saying **"Thank You"**, **"Please"**, **"Good-Morning!"**, or **"Good-Afternoon!"**, picking-up trash without being told, opening and holding a door for a teacher, and offering to help a teacher with tasks before or after school). ❤️

## Did You Know?

By: Jacob Martinez & Ms. Elmore

**A**pril has many unique days! Here are a few days that we want to recognize.

**April 3rd** is **National Burrito Day!** What foods (e.g. rice, chicken, eggs) go into your favorite burrito? Yummy!!!

**April 10th** is **National Siblings Day!** Shower your siblings with hugs and love! 🤗 **(P.S. It's also Ms. Elmore's birthday! 🎉)**

**April 25th** is **National Hairstylist Appreciation Day.** Send your hairstylist a text message of appreciation. Moreover, if you have a hair appointment on this day, give your stylist a larger tip--perhaps 30% instead of 20 or 25%!

**T**here's a birthstone for every month of the year! **April's** stone is a diamond. Diamonds are special stones that symbolize strength and love. If your birthday is in **April**, wearing a diamond is believed to boost one's confidence.

Hmm? Perhaps Principal Moreno will buy all Mendez Mustangs a diamond to wear during the week of the SBAC Test. 😊

## Community Events

### **What can you and your family do in April?**

By: Isaac Gonzalez Lopez

Here are a couple events happening in our Santa Ana community this month.

#### **FREE SALSA DANCE LESSONS**

##### **Cielo in the Streets**

**Where: 459 - 499 French Street Santa Ana, CA 92705**

**When: April 5, 2025**

**Free Salsa Lesson at 6PM  
Dancing from 7 to 10PM**

**Price: FREE**

**More Info:**

<https://www.travelsantaana.com/event/cielo-in-the-streets-monthly-dancing-in-the-streets/807/>

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#### **BubbleFest**

**Where: Discovery Cube  
2500 N. Main Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

**When: March 28 - April 14**

**Details: Price: Tickets must be purchased for the show and access to the festival.**

**More Info:**

<https://www.discoverycube.org/orange-county/events/bubblefest/>