



PADRE PRIDE

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTED INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Student Awards*
- *Staff Awards*
- *Performances*
- *Art & Ceramics*



A newsletter to share some of the amazing things our students and staff are doing at MDN.



www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza

Prom 2023

We had a great time celebrating Prom on May 6th at Lido in Tempe. We had a great turnout and students had a fun time celebrating Marcos de Niza and our traditions.

Thank you to our Activities Department, Meredith Morrissey, Maureen Sneed, along with Student Council for all of the planning and work that went into throwing an incredible Prom. Our winners of the Padre Prom Royalty Court were: **Makayla Johnson** - Queen, **Joseph Garcia** - King, **Cassandra Medina** - Princess, **Jeremiah Paiz** - Prince. Please see a few pictures of some of our awesome students below:



STUDENT NEWS

MDN National Signing Day Ceremony

The MDN National Signing Day Ceremony was held in April. We celebrated our senior athletes who signed their Letter of Intent for a collegiate sport. They will continue their education while playing the sport that they enjoy.

The following students signed their Letter of Intent:

Clinton Hopkins, Mason Stromstad, Marcus Jones, Jamaal Young, Jirah, Watson, Xavier Bueno, Cameron Royalty, Paul Bueno and Elian Ruiz.



2023 Courage Award

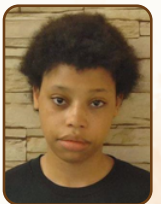
Congratulations to Senior Baseball Captain, Dallas Vacaneri on being awarded the City of Tempe Courage Award. Dallas was presented the award at the City of Tempe Council meeting in April.

The City of Tempe honors your strength and perseverance to continue your education. The City of Tempe's annual YouthFest Courage Award celebrates students who have courageously overcome incredible adversity. They choose to make their education a priority while facing life challenging events.



2023 Mayor's All-Ability Awards

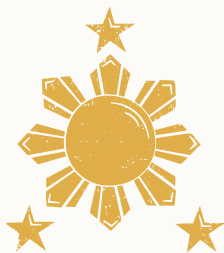
Congratulations to all our 2023 City of Tempe Mayor's All-Ability Awards recipients. **John McGovern** and **Celeste Rivas** were recognized as *Outstanding High School Students* for MDN. **Niveah Gary** was recognized as an *Outstanding Youth* for MDN.



2023 Mayor's All-Ability Awards

<p>OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS</p> <p>Aidan Burke Senior, DV Melissa Estrada Sophomore, MHS Sean Kirk Senior, THS John McGovern Senior, MdN Jairo Perez Senior, THS Celeste Rivas Senior, MdN Kelley Rodeffer Senior, CdS</p>	<p>EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR</p> <p>Ron Denne, Jr. Social Emotional Wellness Coordinator, D.O.</p>	<p>OUTSTANDING YOUTH</p> <p>Niveah Gary Sophomore, MdN Jimor Shem Sophomore, THS Tyra Mosley Torry Sophomore, MHS</p>
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Tempe Union
 HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 A family of schools — A community of learning
 Tempe • McClintock • Marcos de Niza • Corona del Sol
 Mountain Pointe • Desert Vista



2023 TUHSD National Merit Finalist

Padre congratulations to class of 2023 senior, **Makayla Johnson**, on being selected as a Flinn Scholar. Makayla is an exemplary student and is the only Flinn Scholar from Tempe Union this year. Once again, congratulations Makayla, we are all proud of you!

MAKAYLA JOHNSON

MDN

Flinn Scholar

CLASS OF 2023
 MARCOS DE NIZA
 HIGH SCHOOL



Mariachi Ensemble Performances

The MDN Mariachi program hosted a festival in April and they invited mariachi groups from Tempe High, Fees College Prep, and Mesquite Jr. High to perform with them. They accepted school supplies as the entry fee and then donated all of those supplies to Frank Elementary in Guadalupe.

Later in the year, the Mariachi Virtuoso was invited to Orlando, Florida to perform at the American String Teachers Association national conference. While in Florida, our ensemble received instruction from Mariachi Cobre, Disney's own Mariachi band.

The Mariachi Ensemble performed at the Arizona Music Educators Association conference in February, and **Scott Glasser** was awarded the *O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Teaching Music Award* from AMEA.

Amazing work, Mariachi Virtuoso!



STAFF NEWS

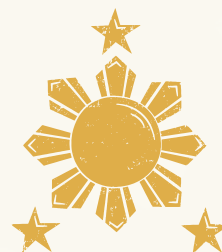
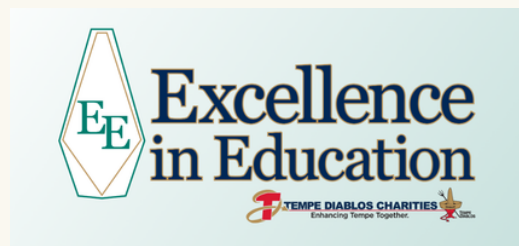
Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Awards

Congratulations to this year's TUHSD award winners:

- Kenya Villela, Tempe High School - Class Act Award
- Katie Chance, Corona del Sol High School - Inspiration Award
- Elizabeth Matuszewski, Marcos de Niza High School - Rising Star
- Charlie Molina, McClintock High School - High Impact
- Erin Kahn, McClintock High School - Lifetime Achievement
- Mayra Arroyo, McClintock High School - Leadership
- Max Pincus, Mountain Pointe High School - Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to **Eizabeth Matuszewski** who was selected as this year's Rising Star Award winner for Marcos de Niza. She is an amazing teacher for Math and Film & TV Production and will also be our new math department chair for next school year.

We appreciate the Tempe Diablos for all that they do to support our District, and to highlight the amazing teachers and staff members that do so much for our students, day in and day out.



Landings Credit Union's I'm [IN]VESTED Award

The winner's of the Landings Credit Union's I'm [IN]VESTED Awards, attended the TUHSD board meeting in February where a reception was held for them. Congratulations to **Mary D'Errico, Robert Owen-Jones, Wendy Kozloski, Amy Miller, Carmen Robles, Christine Lewis, Chuck Patton and Mark Campbell.**



Staff Spotlight

CTE Teacher of the Year

Krista Carr was selected as the district's CTE Teacher of the Year. Krista does a wonderful job as a department leader and is an amazing, dedicated, and competent educator. Congratulations Krista! Thank you for all you do for our students.



Staff News - Congratulations!

Congratulations on your new job positions in TUHSD next school year.

Felissa Dixon, Math – 8 years

Jasen Evoy, Ceramics – 25 years

Katie Kelley, Instructional Tech. Trainer – 7 years

Tahlia Remer, Dance – 9 years



Retirement Spotlight

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our staff who are retiring this school year. You will be greatly missed. Thank you for your service and dedication to education at MdN. We wish you a happy retirement.



Viola Ramos, Admin. Assistant, Academics – 25 years

Farewell Staff!

5 Years of Service or More

Thank you all for your dedication to Marcos, our students, our fellow staff members, and our community. We wish you the best and we will miss you.



Josh Davis, Math – 5 years

Caroline DeChant Green, Paraprofessional – 2 years

Simon Domsky, Math – 1 year

Cheryl Dunham, Science – 5 years

Scott Glasser, Orchestra & Mariachi – 11 years

Michael Hall, Band – 2 years

Janet Scott, CTE Visual Arts – 5 years

**Once a Padre,
Always a Padre!**

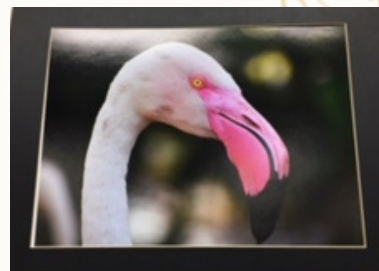
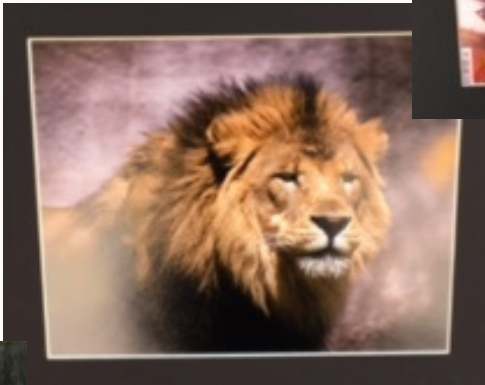
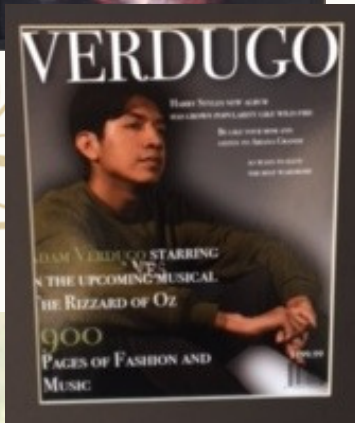
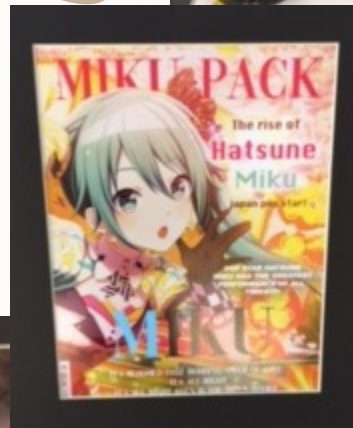


Laurie Varela, Foreign Language – 26 years

STUDENT NEWS

Spring Art Show

Please check out these pictures of incredible artwork from our talented visual arts students! There was an evening reception before a choir concert and the winning artists were awarded at the reception in May.

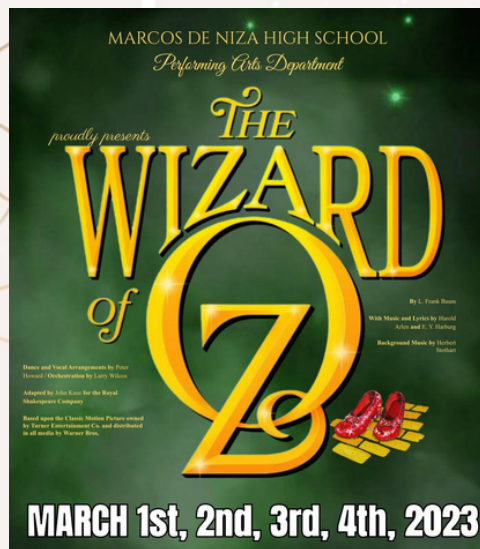


MDN Performing Arts

The Wizard of Oz

Our Performing Arts Department presented the play *The Wizard of Oz* on March 1st - 4th. Our students performed before huge crowds for all four performances.

We're off to see the wizard! This beloved tale, in which a Kansas farm girl travels over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home, has entertained audiences for generations.



www.mdntheatre.com



Cast and Crew of *The Wizard of Oz*

Students of the Year

Andreya Aitchison—Fine & Performing Arts

Andreya has been a prominent individual in the performing arts at Marcos de Niza High School during her tenure as a student. A talented and driven musician, Ms. Aitchison has qualified for the West Region Honor Orchestra on viola for all four years. Pushing herself to the next level, she has developed her musicianship through private lessons and our annual chamber music residency program with the Tetra String Quartet. In addition to playing viola in the MdN Chamber Orchestra and musical production pit orchestra, Andreya has expanded her musical horizons by singing in the MdN A Cappella Choir and performing on stage as the Cowardly Lion in our 2023 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Ms. Aitchison intends to continue her studies at the collegiate level in the fall.



Tavon Clark—English

If the ideal student of the year for the English department is a student who does everything we ask for exactly when we ask for it while ensuring that the content matched our expectations for ideas and expression, then we would not be sitting here talking about Tavon Clark. Standard expectations never work for Tavon because he is the type of student who sees connections that we do not. Tavon is the kind of student that encourages his teachers to look at the world through a new lens, and the truth is, it's totally fine that he does this on his own timeline because greatness cannot be rushed. No matter what Tavon decides to do in the future, we can all be sure that he will continue to enrich the world with his own brand of measured logic. Good luck, Tavon!

Gavin Connell—Math

Gavin is an exceptional math student who had quite an unusual high school math career. He did not have a single math class that was in person for the entire school year. He started with Honors Algebra in 2020-2021 and switched to virtual learning for quarter 4. When he returned to school in the fall of 2021 for AP Calculus AB, nothing was as it was before. Even in this virtual/hybrid setting, he advocated for himself and his classmates and was never afraid to communicate or ask questions on Zoom. As a junior, Gavin took AP Calculus BC virtually through Mountain Pointe High School and then did the same as a senior for AP Statistics.



Tokujiro Ellis—World Language

Tokujiro has shown himself to be an excellent Spanish student throughout his career at Marcos de Niza. He is continuing his studies of the Spanish language which he started in kindergarten through the Dual Language Program in the Kyrene district. Tokujiro always participates in class and really sets the bar high for the other students combining an extensive vocabulary in Spanish with an impressive ability to communicate both orally and through his writing. He is highly motivated and sets a great example for his fellow classmates. Tokujiro is on course to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy, and we are confident that he will do an excellent job on the AP Spanish test. It has truly been a pleasure to have such a driven, motivated, intelligent, knowledgeable student in the World Language program at Marcos.

Pyper Hatch—Physical Education

Pyper is a perfect choice for PE student of the year. She's a self-starter that encourages and challenges classmates to lift with the proper techniques. Pyper was enthusiastic to compete in the weight room, and conditioning on the track with classmates. Pyper has an impressive IQ in areas of fitness, nutrition, and body movements.



Makayla Johnson—Science

Makayla satisfied her graduation requirements for science last year but a passion for Neuroscience led her to take Anatomy and Physiology this year. She always comes to class willing to learn and her enthusiasm carries over to the rest of the class. If Makayla doesn't understand something, she researches on her own to find out the information and then asks clarifying questions to make sure. Although many students struggle with Anatomy and Physiology because it demands a large portion of time and energy, Makayla thrives in this type of atmosphere. She seems to rise above the stress. Her perseverance was shown in AP Physics last year where Makayla took online courses taught at another school. Many students left the class at the end of first semester but Makayla completed the course with an A. She is planning to pursue an advanced degree in science. We can't wait to see all the amazing things that Makayla will accomplish in the future.

Students of the Year

Benjamin Lopez—Fine & Visual Arts

Ben is a role model AP Art Student and Padre. His work ethic, drive, and determination makes him deserving of the 2023 Fine Arts Student of the Year. Ben is an independent learner with a true passion for art. He is always willing to test out new ideas and graciously accepts and utilizes constructive feedback to improve his work. Ben is a member of the Fine Arts Academy and has met all of the requirements to earn the Fine Arts Seal upon graduation. He has already completed professional quality work for his AP portfolio. Ben’s work has been selected to be displayed at the District Office, Downtown Tempe Arts Festival, and the TUHSD Art 6 Show. His awards include the Hope Foundation Scholarship for \$2000 and 3rd Place in the Sister Cities Art Contest.



Brooke McComas—Educational Services

Brooke is an exemplary student. Her English teacher had the pleasure of teaching Brooke from 10th to 12th grades in her English classes at Marcos de Niza High School. Brooke is intrinsically motivated. She has eagerly put into action the concepts she has learned in her English class. She contributes enthusiasm and thoughtful input to our literary discussions and writing assignments. She is a caring, dedicated, and focused student. Outside the classroom, Brooke works at a daycare center where she helps teach and care for younger students. Brooke stands out because of her level of effort, her ability to overcome obstacles, and her dedication to learning. We are confident that Brooke will continue to serve the community and grow individually after she graduates in May.

Nathan Noriega—Military Science (JROTC)

Nathan has been an integral part of our JROTC program. Always motivated to be an active member of the program and participating on JROTC special teams and leading numerous Color Guard details during his time in the program. His hard work and dedication will serve him well in his future endeavors.



I'Moni Thompson—Social Studies

I'Moni brings such positive energy to the classroom. She is a critical thinker who engages in the content and asks great questions. She is kind and respectful. I'Moni approached this semester with vigor and much enthusiasm. She is receptive and reflective about feedback in her academics. I'Moni is such a “natural” hard-worker that she was able to stay well ahead of her work load. One of I'Moni's extraordinary strengths is her concern about academic achievement. She always finds time to give 100% each and every day. She is a fantastic student and truly enjoys her personal interests and pursuit of academic success. I'Moni goes the extra mile on her work, she engages in discussion, she is interested in the content. I'Moni is polite and respectful to teachers and students.

Fatima Vardak—Career and Technology Education (CTE)

Fatima Vardak is an amazing student and so deserving of CTE student of the year. As editor of *Libro de Oro* this year, Fatima led the staff with her patience and friendly personality. She stepped up in the beginning when she became the only editor and took on many responsibilities to ensure the yearbook would be finished on time. Without her help, the yearbook wouldn't have been finished on time. She has an amazing future ahead of her when she attends ASU in the fall and studies law. Fatima is a natural leader and will accomplish so many great things in her life...we are so proud of her!



Jacob Cazel—Career and Technology Education (CTE)

Jacob is the CTE Student of the Year for the TUHSD. He is in the Construction Technology class here at MDN. Congratulations on this achievement. We are proud of you.



Congratulations Students!



MDN Dance

Under the Big Top

Our Dance students performed in the circus dance concert ***Under the Big Top*** on May 4th and 5th. Students have been preparing throughout the school year for the performance and danced beautifully. Choreographers who created pieces included guest choreographers Zakiya Johnson and Ashley Bauer Webb as well as many student choreographers from both beginning and advanced dance.



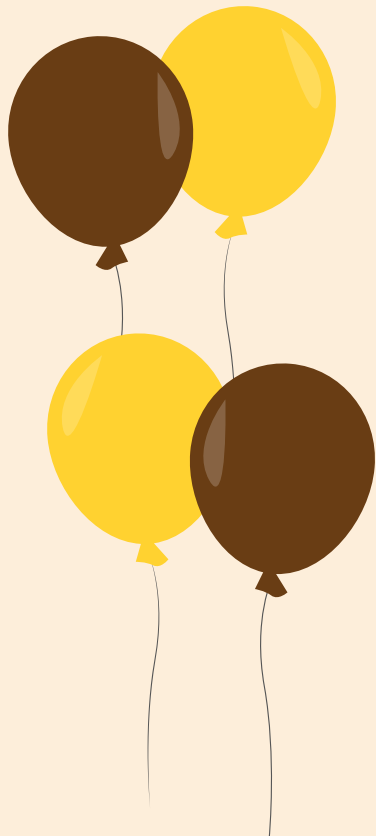
May 4th & 5th, 2023 @ 7:00pm
Marcos de Niza High School
Auditorium

Marcos de Niza High School

**Congratulations, Class of 2023
Marcos de Niza Graduates!**

We are so proud of you. We will miss you. Stay strong, Padres.

The Victor C. Sanchez, Jr. Stadium was illuminated by fireworks on Thursday, May 25th to honor the Class of 2023.



Follow Marcos De Niza on Social Media!

