



# PADRE PRIDE

## MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

<https://www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza>

## PADRE PRIDE

### MARCOS DE NIZA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

In the year 2020, Marcos de Niza High School celebrated 50 years of commitment to excellence with a rich history of academic and athletic success. The City of Tempe and Mayor Corey Woods officially proclaimed August 14th, 2020 as *Celebrate Marcos de Niza Day*. MdN has so much to celebrate with this golden anniversary. The history, the achievements, the sense of community and the traditions that have been established over the last half century at Marcos de Niza are unrivaled. The past half century has produced many golden moments for Marcos de Niza. In celebration of its 50th year, this video (Marcos de Niza - 50 Years Strong <https://www.youtube.com/c/TempeUnionHighSchoolDistrict/videos>) was produced to recognize the achievements, celebrate the awards, and honor the individuals who built the foundation of the Padre Nation.



On November 13, 2020, the current principal of Marcos de Niza, Sarah Tolar, honored our former MdN principals, Sean McDonald, Frank Mirizio, and Vic Sanchez, for their contributions to the rich Padre history over the past 50 years.

## HIGHLIGHTED INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Staff News
- Student News
- Athletics



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





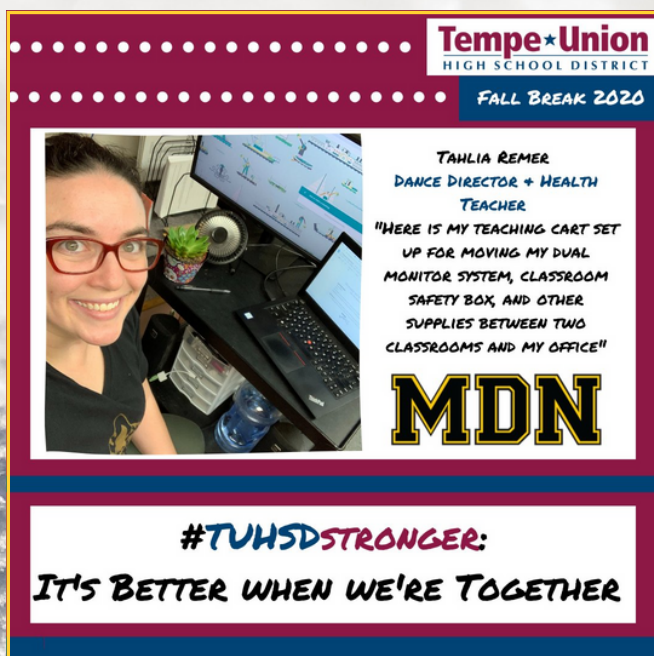
# TEACHERS AND STAFF

## #TUHSDSTRONGER

It's better when we're together. We are highlighting our teachers and staff who are hard at work preparing for the return of their students. Everyone is adapting to the "new normal" and working hard to protect our students and each other, day in and day out.

**Tahlia Remer** is getting her classroom ready for virtual learning and a virtual dance performance. **Bridget Wesloski** helps her economics students prepare for finals. Whether teaching on campus or remotely, our MdN teachers are working hard to help their students learn and succeed!

October was National Principals Month and this year has been filled with unimaginable challenges. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for our amazing and dedicated principal, **Sarah Tolar**. Principal Tolar came through for us when the Padres needed her most, and we can never thank her enough for her dedication!



**Tempe★Union**  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

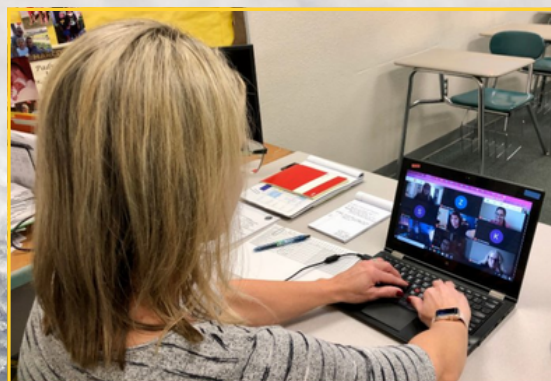
FALL BREAK 2020

**TALHIA REMER**  
DANCE DIRECTOR + HEALTH  
TEACHER

"HERE IS MY TEACHING CART SET  
UP FOR MOVING MY DUAL  
MONITOR SYSTEM, CLASSROOM  
SAFETY BOX, AND OTHER  
SUPPLIES BETWEEN TWO  
CLASSROOMS AND MY OFFICE!"

**MDN**

**#TUHSDSTRONGER:**  
**IT'S BETTER WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER**





# STAFF NEWS

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### *Athletic Coaches:*

- Keesean Cox
- Jonathan Deremiah
- Briana Gholston
- Travis Holland
- Leander Louis
- Ian Parkinson
- Vaugh Popeney
- Justin Ramsey
- Akayla Taylor
- Zachary Underwood



### *Paraprofessionals:*

- Ximena Burciaga
- Elizabeth Ogden
- Malana Walker



### *Security:*

- Jose Leon Bueno
- Alberto Flores
- Richard Garcia
- Ronald Phillips
- Equipment Manager:  
Ryan Christenson



### *Teachers:*

- Tonya Brock, Math
- Kathrine Brunstein, Math
- Jaya Gunda, Math
- Erin Lillo, English
- Elizabeth Matuszewski, Math
- Robert Ortiz, PE
- Meghan Seremak, Math
- Kate Shipley, Math





# STUDENT NEWS

## 2020 PADRE HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN

November 25, 2020 - Congratulations to our Padre Homecoming **King Zach Paiz** and **Queen Cynthia Tobalin!**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TempeUnionHighSchoolDistrict/videos> - Marcos de Niza Homecoming 2020 King & Queen





## STUDENT NEWS

### MDN Intermediate & Advanced Dance Life is but a Dream

MdN Intermediate & Advanced Dance groups premiered their virtual dance concert "Life is but a Dream" on December 11th, directed by teacher Tahlia Remer. All dance films were original student works from student performance to choreography, from costuming to make up, and even from set designing, filming, and editing. The virtual audience were welcomed to put on their pajamas along with Marcos de Niza dance teams for an evening of nightmares and dreams from the comfort of their own couch.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TempeUnionHighSchoolDistrict/videos> - MdN Intermediate & Advanced Dance Present Life is But a Dream

"Life is but a Dream"

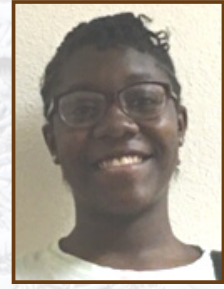




# PADRES OF THE MONTH

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

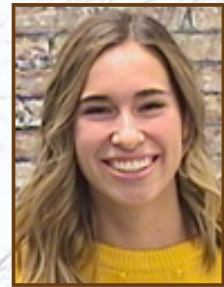
**ACADEMICS:** **CeHara Evens** is the type of student that most teachers wish they could clone. CeHara has shared that she hopes to be her graduating class' valedictorian when the time comes, and with her current skill set, she is well on her way to making that goal a reality. CeHara does a phenomenal job at self-advocating and seeking clarification on a task as needed. In addition, she is always engaged in our virtual learning, regularly answers questions her peers may post in our chat bar, engages in regular, casual, friendly discourse, and utilizes faculty office hours. In addition, she is thorough with her work and strives to demonstrate her abilities.



**ATHLETICS:** **Jacob Irick** has displayed great leadership on and off the field. His dedication to helping others through such tough times has been amazing for our football program. In addition, as a student athlete, he maintains high standards and grades in all his classes, emulating the true Padre attributes.

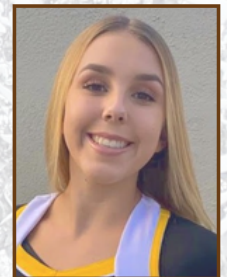


**ACTIVITIES:** Within the first month of school, **Sydney Storrent** has already made a big impact on the choir program and she has stepped gracefully into her role as choir president. She confidently leads her peers and has helped keep spirits high during online learning with choir. Sydney always comes to choir with a positive mindset and takes the time to reach out to her peers and fellow choir members to listen to their concerns and send them encouragement. She is highly involved in many clubs and activities at MDN and she manages her time well to give her best effort in every organization in which she is involved. Sydney continues to inspire everyone around her with her work ethic and positive spirit!

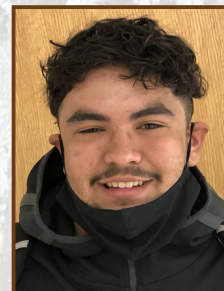


## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

**ACADEMICS:** **Lauren Steinert** is a stellar student who has had her camera on from day one. She has a positive attitude, attends class and participates in discussions every day, where she actively engages with other students in the online platform. She is friendly, willing to help other, as well as a "take charge" kind of kid with an excellent work ethic.



**ATHLETICS:** **Enrique Ruiz** has done a great job on and off the field. In addition to being an excellent student, Enrique is a great teammate. His teammates rely on him heavily and he has taken on the leadership role making sure everyone on the offensive line is on the same page.



**ACTIVITIES:** **Hailey White** has been working around the clock as our student body president, the driving force around creating school wide posters, organizing student tours and our first spirit week, as well as creating welcome-back-basket for teachers and participating on the varsity volleyball team. Hailey is our school powerhouse.

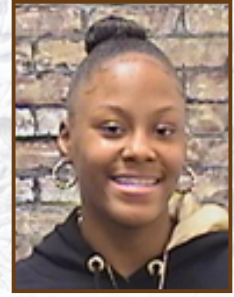




# PADRES OF THE MONTH

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

**ACADEMICS:** **Ozaree Holden** is extremely dedicated to improving herself, taking a minimum of two hour dance classes every night along with a dance class at Marcos and cheer in the afternoon. She participates in the classroom chats and even attends office hours, which can be scary. She is an extremely sweet and respectful student. She goes through great lengths to make sure she understands the content to stay on top of all of her assignments and extracurricular activities.



**ATHLETICS:** **Antonio Hernandez** has done a tremendous job of representing our varsity football team on the field and in the classroom. He displays courage, integrity and dedication on a daily basis while pushing his teammates and those around him.



**ACTIVITIES:** **Arlyn Trejo Ochoa** is currently in her sophomore year and is a violinist in our MdN symphonic strings orchestra. While she has always shown herself to be a natural talent, her work ethic and progress throughout the school year is impressive. Her attention to detail and application of feedback in her exam video reveals that she has put a great deal of time and effort into producing the best possible example of her playing. Soft-spoken and reserved, her musical drive and ability have blossomed.



## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

**ACADEMICS:** **Charlise Sparlin** has attended every ZOOM meeting, turned in all assignments on time, and completed her work exceptionally, going above and beyond in her anatomy and physiology class. In the past three years, her teacher has never felt more strongly about recommending a student for this honor. Charlise exhibits a true Padre scholar.



**ATHLETICS:** **Erik Hernandez** has done an excellent job athletically and academically. He has demonstrated the ability to achieve high grades while also playing a demanding sport. Erik has made meaningful contributions both on the football field and in the classroom.



**ACTIVITIES:** **Kyrian Sowards** has completely changed Drama Club by adapting it to fit a virtual environment with countless council meetings and extracurricular activities. Students are engaged and having fun, which is so important during this time when we do not get to socially interact. Due to his leadership, he has transformed Drama Club into a place where students can just be themselves.





## PADRES OF THE MONTH

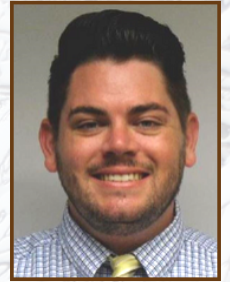
### STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

**CERTIFIED:** **Jamaica Drowne** has done a fantastic job of working with parents/students/teachers in making the virtual learning experience work. She does additional tasks to ensure her staff and students are kept safe upon their return. She is welcoming and always available to her students, staff, and parents, displaying encouragement, empathy and concern. She always has a positive attitude and demonstrates such class and work ethic. She is a rock star!



### STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

**CERTIFIED:** **Connor Exline** regularly goes above and beyond to give his students positive, meaningful and challenging experiences in his classroom. Going back to May of last year, he has spent countless hours of his own time working on the 50th Anniversary of MdN yearbook to ensure that it is the perfect yearbook to honor our school's history. He regularly volunteers to help and provide content for our social media without being asked, and he always goes out of his way to do what is best for each of his students.



### STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

**CLASSIFIED:** **Miguel Hernandez** always goes above and beyond his expected duties to help those around him. He consistently forms positive relationships with students and colleagues. Miguel has been put in a situation where he has had to cover the athletic, security department, and handle his own activities duties. This has been a situation where he has worked 50+ hours a week. He has done this with grace, maturity and professionalism. Marcos de Niza is lucky to have him.



### STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

**CERTIFIED:** **Kathi Ridgeway** came to MdN last year as a replacement math teacher, being certified in both math and english with a minor in biology—an educational triple treat. Immediately, she rose to the lead PLC teacher for Algebra I, exhibiting great leadership. With two new-to-Marcos teachers under her tutelage, she is developing a strong curriculum together. One of our new teachers stated, “Kathi is one of the most supportive people I've ever had the fortune to meet. Even when life is bringing her down, she finds something positive to focus on.” She brings this positivity to both our staff and students.

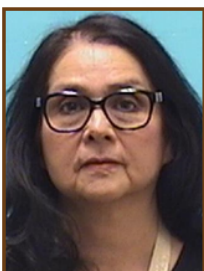
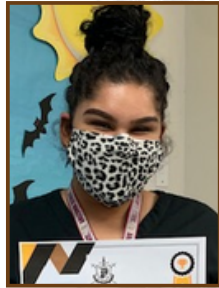




## EXCEPTIONAL STAFF OF THE MONTH

STAFF OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

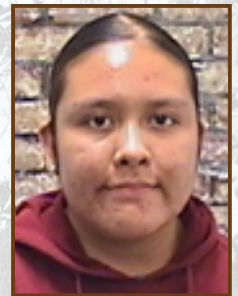
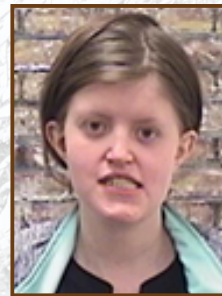
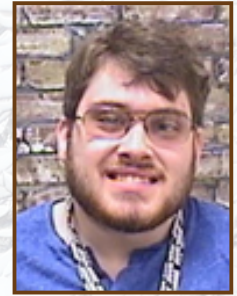
Jennifer Ostreicher, Karina Pachecho, Jamaica Drowne, Jan Moreci, Felicia Tew, Ximena Burciaga, Audrey Belancin, Karen Allen, Rosanna Ruiz, and Janis Halleman received a certificate for *Exceptional Staff of the Month* for their dedication and hardwork.



## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

John (Jack) McGovern, Marshall Sanderson, Celeste Rivas, Brenna Larson and Diana Arenallo received a certificate for *Exceptional Student of the Month* for their dedication and hardwork in the classroom.





# STUDENT NEWS

## The 2020 4A Arizona Varsity Awards

Congratulations to our 4A Desert Sky All Region athletes: 1st Team All Region, 2nd Team All Region and Honorable Mentions.



Honorable Mentions: JoJo Williams, Chris Ramirez, Antonio Hernandez, Noah Martinez, Damian Gonzalez and Isaiah Duncan



# STUDENT NEWS

## ATHLETICS - Football

Congratulations to Coach Anthony Figueroa, from his first win as head varsity football coach with a score of 21-7 over Ben Franklin (Coconino) to the 4A Desert Sky All Region competition, he has lead his team to victory .



Congratulations to our Sports 360 AZ All-Academic Fall Team selections: Jacob Irick, Antonio Hernandez, Erik Hernandez and Enrique Ruiz.



## ATHLETICS - Cheer

Our Varsity Cheer Squad brought home a first place Band Chant Award for their performance at the AIA State Championships in December. We are so proud of their hard work and perseverance this year.





# STUDENT NEWS

## ATHLETICS - Volleyball

Marcos de Niza's **Hailey White** doesn't slow down for anything. The senior volleyball captain leads on and off the court while managing her busy schedule.

<https://www.azpreps365.com/articles/12260-marcos-de-nizas-hailey-white-doesnt-slow-down-for-anything>



Our Girls Volleyball team win up North in Prescott, AZ on November 10th in the 4A Conference Play-In.





# STUDENT NEWS

## ATHLETICS - Swim and Dive State Meet

The following Padres represented Marcos de Niza on November 6th at the 2020 AIA State Tournament:

**Sam Supriyasilp, Hayden Porter, Corbin Bray, Michael Flaherty, Pyper Hatch and Edwin Morales.**

### State Results:

**Sam Supriyasilp, Hayden Porter, Corbin Bray, Edwin Morales**  
(200y Medley Relay) 16th Place

**Hayden Porter** (100y Breaststroke) 7th Place  
**Sam Supriyasilp** (200y Individual Medley) 8th Place  
**Sam Supriyasilp** (100y Breaststroke) 17th Place  
**Corbin Bray** (100y Butterfly) 20th Place

Swim and Dive celebrated their two senior leaders **Michael Flaherty**, and **Hayden Porter** Congratulations to Michael and Hayden.









## SWIM + DIVE STATE BOUND





## STUDENT NEWS

### ATHLETICS - Cross Country State Sectionals & State Meet

On November 4th, our cross country team competed in sectionals. We couldn't be more proud of our student-athletes and all that they have achieved this season. Congratulations to **Luke Sieveking** for qualifying for state with a time of 18:14 (35 second PR).



## STUDENT NEWS

### MDN Baseball earns American Baseball Coaches Association Academic Excellence Award

Congratulations to our entire baseball program on this outstanding achievement. Thank you to our coaches and players for leading the way both on the field and in the classroom.

On July 28th, the MDN baseball program was one of 143 high school baseball programs across the United States and one of only seven in Arizona to be awarded the American Baseball Coaches Association Academic Excellence Award. In order to qualify for the award, a team's GPA must average above 3.0.

A special thanks to **Miguel Hernandez** for his hard work with the baseball program, for holding these student athletes accountable with their academics and for helping them to succeed.

[https://www.abca.org/ABCA/Awards/Academic\\_Excellence/2019\\_20\\_ABCA\\_Team\\_Academic\\_Excellence\\_Award\\_winners\\_announced.aspx](https://www.abca.org/ABCA/Awards/Academic_Excellence/2019_20_ABCA_Team_Academic_Excellence_Award_winners_announced.aspx)



## Follow Marcos De Niza on Social Media!



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