



# PADRE PRIDE

## MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

# MDN

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

### IN THIS ISSUE

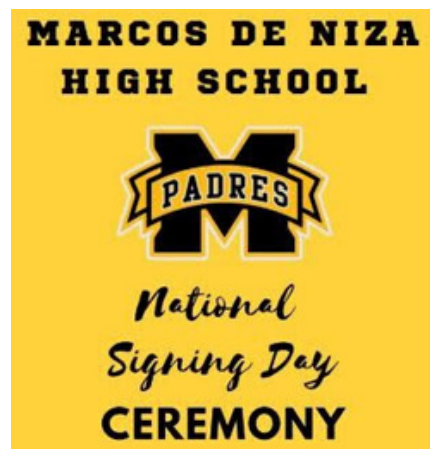
- Student News
- Staff News
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### National Signing Day Ceremony

The MDN National Signing Day Ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. We celebrated our senior athletes who signed their Letter of Intent for a collegiate sport.

The following students signed their Letter of Intent:

- Aden Tuchfarber—Scottsdale Community College, Soccer
- Alex Norrish—Fort Hays State University, Football
- Dante Kircher-Myton—Papago Pumas-MCC, Football
- Dillan Gulley—Luther College, Football
- Ethan Galetti—Benedictine Univeristy Mesa, Baseball
- Frank White—Papago Pumas-MCC, Football
- Josh Tata—Dean College, Football
- Malaki Corella—Papago Pumas-MCC, Football
- Martell Thompson—Iowa Western, Football
- Matt Canada—Luther College, Football
- Micah Willingham—Papago Pumas-MCC, Football
- Noah Perez—Itasca Community College, Wrestling
- Sofia Rubio—Indian Hills Community College, Wrestling



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

[www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza](http://www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza)

## Students of the Year



### Ta'Nyah Bailey—Social Studies

Ta'Nyah has taken on the challenge of a rigorous course load in Social Studies. She has excelled in Honors World and U.S. History, We the People, AP Economics, Honors Constitutional Law, and Psychology, pushing herself to be successful in each of these content areas. Rather than simply enrolling in academically challenging classes, Ta'Nyah has shown a genuine interest to learn the content by consistently engaging with her teachers and her peers. From her freshman year, she worked hard in all her social studies classes, which prepared her for We the People and Honors Constitutional Law, both very time consuming classes during her senior year. Not only did she excel in her classwork, she was also working an average of 30 hours a week at McDonald's. She never missed a beat in her assignments and had no patience for her teammates that did. In addition, she participated in extracurricular activities, like Student Council. As one of her teachers wrote, "She worked her tail off." During class, her insight helps to propel discussions within the class, offering insightful, educated and well thought out opinions. She is an incredible young woman who was a foundational piece to the We the People team this year. Ta'Nyah has proven herself to be not only academically successful, but also has shown kindness to those around her. She has helped to foster positive classroom camaraderie, making it truly a pleasure to work with her. As the staff saw how she grew as a student from year to year, she seems more prepared to take on the world than most of her peers because she has learned responsibility, accountability, hard work and perseverance. On top of all that, she's a genuinely kind individual.

### Javier Borboa—Educational Services

When Javier entered Marcos de Niza as a freshman, he demonstrated consistent growth both academically and socially each year. Javier has become an intrinsically motivated individual who completes each task with integrity. Socially, Javier has emerged as a true leader among his peers. In one example, Javier mentored a sophomore whom he saw to be making the same mistakes he once made as a freshman, demonstrating Javier's leadership on a daily basis by modeling the behavior and also by offering some friendly advice. In addition, Javier is known within our department for his artistic abilities, good sense of humor, work ethic, leadership, helpfulness, and politeness. Javier is known to help peers within the classroom setting when they are struggling and to assist faculty members when they think he is the man for the job. Moreover, Javier is proud to be a Padre, representing number 99 on the football field this year and playing an incredible season in memory of his step-dad, who passed away in 2019. Javier has developed a high level of leadership and a strong personal code to live by. Upon graduation, Javier hopes to become a tattoo artist, and the Education Services are excited to see what is in store for him in his next leg of the journey.



### Ilzik Deike—Military Science (JROTC)

Izik is a dedicated cadet leader in the JROTC program in his role as the executive officer. His dedication and hard work was evident in the success of the staff and the battalion as a whole. He volunteered for numerous JROTC events to support the local community during his four years in the program. He always set the example of his professionalism, appearance, and hard work every day.



## Students of the Year

### Brach Drew—Fine & Performing Arts

Brach Drew is the "total package." He is an extremely dedicated and versatile musician, actor, and dancer. He has served the choir program in various leadership roles as choir president and section leader in multiple ensembles. He is a very skilled musician, earning a spot in the All-State Jazz Choir, All-State Show Choir, Regional Honor Choir, and All-State Honor Choir for multiple years. He has been a dedicated member of the MDN Choir program all four years and has truly made an impact on the program and the students. Through this year of transition between choir directors, Brach has been the glue that held the choir together. He is an honest and encouraging leader who actively helps the people around him to be successful. Brach has an incredible drive and an unparalleled work ethic. Through his actions and words, he inspires everyone around him to be a better person. He will go on to do incredible things and we can't wait to see everything he continues to accomplish.



### Regan Hatch—Career and Technology Education (CTE)



Regan has been part of the Digital Communications program since her freshman year and has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook for the last two years. Regan's skills and knowledge of the technology used to create the yearbook are a testament to her commitment to being part of the program. Regan has also been instrumental in the recruitment process to ensure that the program will continue to grow and flourish even after she graduates. We will miss Regan tremendously! In addition, Regan has grown so much as scientist while taking Biotechnology these past two years. She can use her problem solving skills to analyze data from an experiment and to determine any errors in the lab. She can confidently use all the equipment in the lab and is a true leader along her classmates. She encourages other students to try harder and not give up when things don't turn out the way they want. She will make the world a better place with everything she has learned in Biotechnology and Digital Communications, fulfilling her passion to help others.

### Sahil Limbachiya—Science

Sahil has been an outstanding science student all four years of high school. Starting with his freshmen honors science class, Sahil has impressed us with his hard work and dedication. Sahil makes great connections between the science concepts and is able to apply them in many areas. His attention to detail and his drive to fully understand concepts has been a wonderful contribution in our science program. Not only does he do exceptional work, but he also helps others, earning respect from both his teachers and peers. Sahil has been an exceptional science student in our honors science program. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and we know he will be successful.



### Piper Newman—Fine & Visual Arts

Piper has been a positive role model in Art and Design. Her creativity and hard work are evident in all of her projects. She is always willing to try new artistic techniques and experiment with new media. She is an independent worker and learner as well as a good communicator with a positive attitude.



## Students of the Year

### Joel Reyes—Foreign Language

Joel has excelled all four years in the MdN's Spanish program, earning "A's" each semester. He is a spectacular student that brings so much to the Spanish classes with his positive attitude, great sense of humor, personal experiences, and willingness to participate in any type of activity. Joel works well individually as well as collaboratively with his classmates. He is a very motivated, hard-worker, which is evidenced by the fact that he continues to complete all of his classwork for his AP Spanish class even though he already has over 100% for his grade in the class. Joel has a talent for using his Spanish skills in a humorous way, which makes the class more fun for his fellow students and teachers. Based on his performance on the AAPPL test, Joel has qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy. He will truly be missed as he moves on to the next adventure that awaits him.



### Jacob Stewart—Mathematics

Jacob works extremely hard every day, always thinking and processing. While he is quiet individual, he works well with his group and asks insightful questions. One day in class, we solved a problem two different ways and our answers looked different. We ran out of class time and I told them I would work through it so we could see why they looked so different. When I saw Jacob that afternoon, he had worked through the different solutions and proved they were the same. It's this motivation and drive that earned Jacob Stewart as the Math Student of the Year.

### Ethan Storment—English

Ethan is an exemplary student in all aspects, but what sets him apart is his natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge. English lends itself to many levels of interpretation and Ethan has always dug deep beneath the surface of a text to discover layers of meaning. His ability to express those discoveries in his writing is unparalleled. The creativity of thought and voice found within his writing lures the reader in and ultimately leaves one feeling like something new has been taught.



### Micah Willingham—Physical Education

Micah has been a leader in class all year. He is the hardest working student and never takes a day off, usually asking a coach for what else he can do. He is a good leader who holds himself and his classmates accountable to a high standard in everything they do. He brings up other students in the class by supporting, pushing, and challenging them to do more than they typically would. Micah goes above and beyond whatever it asked of him. He always has a good attitude and is respectful to his teachers and coaches as well as his peers.



## Outstanding Students

Sydney Ulm, Brach Drew, Ethan Storment, Nikzza Acuna Salazar and Matt Canada are the **2020 Changemakers Award Recipients**. The City of Tempe's annual YouthFest Changemakers Award celebrates students who are committed to a cause, dedicating themselves to make the world a better place. Whether it's on their school campus or in our community, when they see a problem, they take meaningful action to create positive change. For more about these outstanding students, please visit: [www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza](http://www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza)

**Edilma Perez Matias** is the **Courage Award Recipient**. 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.

The graphic features the text "23rd Annual YOUTH FEST 2020" in a blue ribbon design, with "Changemakers" written below it. Five student portraits are arranged in a grid: Sydney Ulm and Brach Drew in the top row; Ethan Storment and Nikzza Acuna Salazar in the middle row; and Matt Canada in a larger portrait at the bottom center. Logos for MDN, I'M[IN] TEMPE UNION, and the City of Tempe are located in the bottom left corner of the graphic.

Sydney Ulm

Brach Drew

Ethan Storment

Nikzza Acuna Salazar

Matt Canada

## Outstanding Students

Each year high school students are invited to enter Valley Metro's Design a Transit Wrap Contest. The students are asked to promote the benefits of public transportation from their unique perspective. The contest provides a forum to showcase artistic talent, instills a sense of pride and ownership of the system and helps develop a new generation of passengers, according to Valley Metro. Students from all across the Valley entered the 2020 Design a Transit Wrap Contest.

Sydney Stormont won 2nd place in the 20th annual Valley Metro Bus Wrap Contest in April. Sydney, who designed "Ride Out of This World" is a student in Ms. Reagan Guzman's art classes at Marcos de Niza. Sydney also was awarded a cash prize for her work. Sydney is the fourth top place winner of this contest in the past four years from the Marcos de Niza Art Department.



The Tempe Diablos provide numerous scholarships each year to students to attend Arizona State University or a Maricopa County Community College.

Thank you for supporting our students!

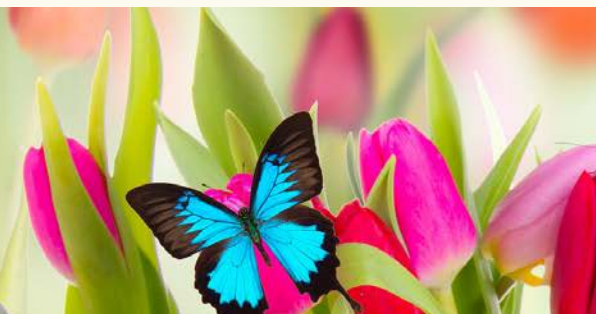
*Congratulations, Padres!*

CLASS OF 2020

TEMPE DIABLOS  
2020 SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS

Tyler Marquez  
Emily Morhet  
Laura Sepulveda  
Michelle Valdez







## Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Department presented their production of *Seussical the Musical* in March.



# ASU Gammage High School Musical Theatre Awards

*All students listed are semi-finalists, and the finalists are noted with a single asterisk next to their name.*

**Best Male Lead**  
Brach Drew\*

**Best Sound**  
JJ Johnson\*

**Best Female Lead**  
Marianna Adams

**Best Set/Prop**  
Presley Symington\*

**Best Supporting Male**  
Kyrian Sowards\*

**Best Costume**  
Dorian Williams\*

**Best Supporting Female**  
MaKayla Johnson

**Best Hair & Make Up**  
Dakota Estrella\*

**Best Vocalist**  
Brach Drew\*

**Best Dance Ensemble**  
Chasing the Whos  
Dance Ensemble



Marcos De Niza High School – *Seussical*

Patrick McChesney



The ASU Gammage High School Musical Theatre Awards recognizes and celebrates Valley high school students and faculty that produce musical theatre programs. Schools compete in 14 different categories. The Virtual Ceremony was held on May 23rd.





## 2020 DECA State Competition

Our business students participated in the State DECA Competition at the Arizona Grand Resort this year.

They presented their business plans and competed with over 2,000 students from around the state.

**Izik Deike** earned a top 10% test medal for Entrepreneurship

The following students placed in the top 4 overall:

**Joseph Candelaria**—4th place in Professional Selling

**Nick Kenehan and Noah Perez**—4th place team in the Service Marketing Plan

**Sara Hambleton**—2nd place in in Hospitality Professional Selling

**Juliet Farr and Nina Marshall**—2nd place team for their community service project for ThreadZ and the Compadre Closet

**Alex Denham and Tom Reisslein**— 1st place team for their Event Marketing Plan: Rock the Cause.



**Heather Hunt Castanon** was recognized at the DECA State Competition for her 20 years as an Advisor and as a State DECA Board member.





## Outstanding Staff

Tempe Diablos 2020 Excellence in Education Awards Finalists



**Kate Roman**—High Impact Award Finalist



**Jamaica Drowne**—Rising Star Award Finalist



**Patrick McChesney**—Lifetime Achievement Award Finalist



**Felissa Dixon**—Teacher of the Year Award Finalist

**Felissa Dixon** is also the recipient of the Tempe Union High School District's **Spring 2020 [IN]spiration Award**. She is the AVID Coordinator at Marcos de Niza High School. She goes above and beyond to support her students in and out of the classroom. She's an advocate for students, teachers and all other faculty at Marcos de Niza. She doesn't know the word "no" and strives to make Marcos the best place for her students and fellow teachers. She's truly an asset of the Padre community.

The [IN]spiration Award is designed to recognize these employees through individual recognition of who they are and of what they accomplish to transform outcomes for students. These employees work every day to put students first, to demonstrate care and respect for their fellow TUHSD employees, to build meaningful partnerships with families and members of our community, value diversity and work to create an inclusive environment, and demonstrate integrity in their words and their actions. Recipients are given a plaque, as well as a goodie bag of prizes donated by the local community.

## Farewell Staff



Rachel Clawson—Social Studies



Lauren De'Reche—Mathematics



Christopher Driving Hawk—Mathematics



Juan Gonzales—Paraprofessional



Patricia Greenough—Mathematics



Coady Phelps—Mathematics



Christopher Rose—Mathematics



Tyler Saeugling—Educational Services



Marianne Webb Kim—English

## Retiring



Ralph Figueroa—Custodian (28 years)



Dave Stark—Physical Education (24 years)  
returning to MDN to teach and coach



Maria Valdez—Paraprofessional (23 years)

## New Staff

Welcome!



Anthony Figueroa —Head Football Coach



Vaughn Popeney—Mathematics



Kathi Ridgeway—Mathematics

## Once a Padres, Always a Padre!

Thank you for your dedication to Marcos, our students,  
our fellow staff members and our community!



**Congratulations, Class of 2020  
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 21st to honor the Class of 2020.*



*Marcos de Niza High School*

## 2020-2021 1st Semester Calendar

### TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT CALENDAR 2020-2021

*Governing Board Approved 09-19-2018*

#### Semester 1

August	3	Students Return
August	17	Early Release/Open House
September	7	Labor Day Holiday
September	16	Staff Dev 1/2 Day
October	2	End of Quarter 1
October	5-12	Fall Break - no classes
October	13	Beginning of Quarter 2
November	11	Veterans' Day Holiday
November	26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	18	End of 2nd Quarter
December	18	Last Day for Students
December	21	Beginning of Winter Break

**Quarter 1**      44 student days  
**Quarter 2**      46 student days  
**Semester 1**     90 student days

## Food & Nutrition

The Board has approved a meal price increase for school meals that will take effect this school year (2020-21).

Breakfast meals have increased from \$1.40 to \$1.75.

Lunch meal have increased from \$3.25 to \$3.50.

This increase was needed to bring equity to our program to meet the increasing costs.



#### TUHSD COVID-19 update page:

<https://www.tempeunion.org/health-safety>



*Have a Great Summer!*

<b>Empact Crisis Hotline</b> Suicide Prevention 490-784-1500	<b>National Suicide Prevention Hotline</b> 800-273-8255 (Talk)
<b>Mercy Maricopa Crisis Hotline</b> Behavioral Health 602-222-9444	<b>City of Tempe Care 7 Crisis Hotline</b> 480-350-8004
<b>Teen Line Lifeline Hotline</b> Mental Health Suicide Prevention 602-248-8336	

#### Resources for social/emotional wellness:

<https://www.tempeunion.org/COVID-19-Social-Emotional-Wellness>

## Follow Marcos De Niza on Social Media!



@MDNpadres



@PadrePride



@MDNAthletics

Silent witness hotline  
Keep Marcos safe

YOU CAN REPORT MISCONDUCT OR CRIMES TO:

**Tel: 480-730-7675**