

# Post Details | Rio Mesa High School

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Spartan Connection Parent Newsletter 11/22/2024

[Caroline Gonella](#) • 17 days ago • Friday, Nov 22 at 4:30 PM • Rio Mesa High School



**Spartan Connection: RMHS Parent Newsletter | 11/22/2024**

## Important Dates

Monday, November 25th-Friday,  
November 29th:

*Thanksgiving Break-No School*

Monday, December 2nd:

Back to School

Tuesday, December 3d:

*School Site Council 4-5 pm*

*Youth Truth Survey*

Wednesday, December 4th:

*PFO Membership Drive & BBQ*

 **Thankful for Our Spartans!** ❤️❤️

**For Our Amazing Staff, Parents, and  
Students**

 *Week of November 27, 2024*

 **Spartan Speedsters  
Headed to CIF!**

Big shoutout to our **Boys Cross  
Country team**, who will be competing in

Event 6:00 pm  
Friday, December 6th:  
Collaboration Schedule

## Principal's Message

### Dear Spartan Family,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to our incredible students, staff, and families who make Rio Mesa High School such a special place. Your hard work, support, and dedication to our school community inspire us every day.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings and connect with those who matter most. I hope this break gives you the opportunity to rest, recharge, and create lasting memories with your loved ones.

I would also like to extend a special message of encouragement to our Cross Country team, who will be competing in the CIF Southern Section Finals during the break. Your commitment, discipline, and Spartan pride are truly commendable. We are cheering for you and wishing you the best of luck!

Thank you for being part of the Rio Mesa family. Have a safe and joyful Thanksgiving break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on campus rested and ready for the exciting weeks ahead. Warm regards,  
Mr. Peterson

the **CIF Championships tomorrow** for the first time in **11 years!** 🎉👏

Your hard work, dedication, and Spartan spirit have brought you this far—let's go make history! 💪🔥 Good luck, runners!



*Coach Ruffinelli honored our Boys Cross Country team today @ Lunch on the Lawn. We are incredibly proud of them!*



## Geo Champs Makes Us Grateful!

This past weekend, our **Rio Mesa Geo Challenge** team competed in the **Ventura County Geography Challenge** at Oxnard College. Out of the many schools, our Spartans shone bright in the "Mapping Around the World" challenge, earning **third place!** With **26 participants**, we proudly represented the largest group in attendance. 🎉👏

Please congratulate these incredible students on their hard work and achievement. Way to make Rio Mesa proud! ✨



## 'Tis the Season for Giving!

Our **Christmas Toy Drive** is officially underway! Help us bring joy to children this holiday season by donating **new or gently used toys**.



Donation Period: **Now – December**

**13**

📍 Drop-Off Locations: **Room P-1** or the **Main Office**

🎀 Join us for a **Toy Wrapping Party** on **Saturday, December 16** from **3:40 PM – 6:00 PM** in the RMHS Library. Let's spread some holiday cheer together! 🌟🌟🌟🎄

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### 🦊 **"I ❤️ Dance" – Winter Dance Show**

Mark your calendars, Spartans! The **Rio Mesa Dance Students** are proud to present their winter show, **"I ❤️ Dance."** This is your chance to see their incredible talent and support the arts at Rio Mesa! 🎭



Date: **Friday, December 13**



Showtimes: **5:30 PM & 7:30 PM**



Tickets on Sale: Starting **December 2**



Where: RMHS Gym



Purchase tickets from **Ms. Gina at the ASB window** or **Ms. Scholler**. These tickets sell fast, so don't wait!

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### 🍔 **Lunch on the Lawn – Today!**

It's was the **last Friday of the month**, and you know what that means: **Lunch on the Lawn!** ☀️ Students brought their **Spartan Bucks** to exchange for prizes and join in the fun.



**Prom Ticket Alert:** Juniors and Seniors, save your Spartan Bucks for March if you want a chance to win **Prom tickets!**



*Remember: Students must be present when your name is called to claim your prize!*

One of our lucky winners enjoying her cute new purse! It takes PRIDE to be a Spartan!



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### 🎓 **Senior Updates**

Hey Seniors! 📢 Be on the lookout for an important **ParentSquare** email from our Activities Director, **Ms. Guizar**, with everything you need to know about the upcoming second semester. Don't miss it!

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### 🕵️ **Holiday Scavenger Hunt!**

Today's **Holiday Scavenger Hunt** kicks off at the end of 2nd period! 🌲 Check out the **ASB Instagram** for details on the item you need to find. Bring your discovered item to the front office to claim a **sweet treat**.

### **RMHS CTE Baking Class Wins Big at Vanilla Competition!** 🍰🎉

Congratulations to Rio Mesa's CTE Baking & Pastry class for their sweet success at the LATTC Vanilla Competition! 🍰 Competing against top schools, our talented Spartans wowed

judges with creative vanilla-inspired desserts, drinks, and pastries, taking home over **\$1,900 in cash prizes!** 💰 ✨  
From stunning pastries to beautifully plated creations, the team's hard work and passion paid off in a big way. 🙌  
"I'm so proud of their dedication and creativity," said Mr. Jimenez, our Assistant Principal who graciously gave up his time to go watch the competition. Big shout out to our amazing CTE Baking & Pastry Teacher, Ms. Allen, for leading such an amazing program. This win highlights the incredible talent in our CTE programs. Way to go, Spartans! 🥳🍰 Keep shining! 🌟



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### 🍂 **Happy Thanksgiving, Spartans!**

We wish all our Spartan families a **fun and safe Thanksgiving Break!** 🦃  
When we return, it's time to dive into our **12 Days Before Break Spirit Days and Activities!**

🎓 Finals are coming fast—rest up and finish strong! Let's make the final stretch of the semester amazing. 💪

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**Go Spartans!** ❤️🖤

## Getting Ready for Youth Truth!

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Rio Mesa High School is committed to creating a positive and inclusive environment for all students, staff, and families. The **Youth Truth Survey** is your opportunity to share valuable feedback about your experiences at our school. Your input will help guide important decisions and improve programs and services that matter most to our community.

The survey is **anonymous** and takes only a few minutes to complete. Keep an eye out for survey details and make your voice heard! Together, we can make Rio Mesa even better.

 **Spartans Supporting Spartans!**

A huge thank you to our amazing **Spartan Staff** for always uplifting and recognizing one another! Whether it's a kind word, a shoutout, or lending a helping hand, your teamwork and encouragement make Rio Mesa a special place to work and learn. 🌟👜  
Let's keep the gratitude going—don't forget to celebrate your colleagues this week! ❤️❤️ Here are some extra special shout-outs to share (in their words):

Ben Todd (Teacher): Ben has been teaching tutorial studies so far this year and he is going above and beyond to help these students pass classes and make up credits, even when they often times don't want this help. It is a frustrating and difficult job to do but he does it relentlessly and I know this will be the extra motivation to help these students reach their goals  
Gabe Roman (IT): always ready and quick to fix any and all I.T. problems  
Gonzolo Rodriguez (Teacher/Coach): Has positive interactions with students when I see him during passing periods. Puts a lot of work into the girls soccer team and organizing the snack bar.  
Sylvia Gomez (Counselor): She works so hard and diligently serves our families and supports other staff as well. She is a ray of sunshine on our campus.

### **Support RMHS's Caring Closet & AVID Program with a Shoe Donation!**

Rio Mesa High School's Caring Closet has teamed up with the AVID program for a shoe drive, and we need your help! We're collecting gently used shoes – from kids' sneakers to high heels and everything in between – to raise funds for these essential student support programs. Shoes should be free from holes or tears and can be any size, style, or type.

The goal? Collect **60 bags** filled with **25 pairs of shoes** each by **December 4th!** Shoes can be dropped off at Ms. Jimenez-Ito's classroom Room **75!**

Help us make a difference – donate your shoes today and give back to our RMHS community! 👟✨

## Tutoring Support!



We're gearing up for the end of the semester and now is a great time to take advantage of academic support. Tutoring is a powerful tool that helps students overcome academic challenges, build confidence, and become better prepared for college and career success. Here's how RMHS supports our Spartan scholars:



**TutorMe**  
Free Online  
Tutoring

### 24/7 online tutoring

How to Access  
Log in to



Connect with a live, highly-qualified tutor in less than a minute - get help when you need it!



Upload assignments and worksheets for tutoring and for the writing lab



Interactive lesson space with audio, video, screen-share and chat. As close to in-person as you can get!

<https://bit.ly/ouhsdclever>

# TutorMe

Tutoría en línea  
gratis



## 24/7 tutoría en línea

Inscríbete para  
iniciar sesión en



Conéctate con un tutor  
altamente calificado en  
vivo en menos de un  
minuto: ¡obtiene ayuda  
cuando la necesites!



Sube tareas y hojas de  
trabajo para tutoría y  
para el laboratorio de  
escritura



Hay lecciones interactivas  
con audio, video, pantalla  
compartida y chat. ¡Lo más  
cercano de tener la  
presencia de un tutor en  
persona, ahora lo puedes  
conseguir!

<https://bit.ly/ouhsdclever>

| Rio Mesa HS                             | 2024-2025 Tutoring |         |                                                                                                                                      |       |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Subject                                 | Teacher            | Room    | Days & Times                                                                                                                         | Other |
| Math                                    | Gracom             | 53      | Before School Monday - Thurs 7:45-8:20<br>Lunch                                                                                      |       |
| Math                                    | Jacquez            | 52      | Lunch M-W                                                                                                                            |       |
| Math                                    | Law                | 55      | Before school: Monday: 7:15-8:24am<br>Tuesday - Thursday: 7:45-8:24 am<br>Friday: 7:15-8:00 am<br>During School: Nutrition and Lunch |       |
| Math                                    | Brennan            | T-7     | Lunch Monday-Friday                                                                                                                  |       |
| Math                                    | Hansen             | P-4     | Mon - Thur: 7:15-8:24                                                                                                                |       |
| English 3                               | Houdoud            | 43      | Lunch Monday thru Thursday                                                                                                           |       |
| IB Economics SL                         | Moody              | T-2     | Lunch on Fridays or by appointment                                                                                                   |       |
| Economics                               | Phillips           | 3       | Before School 7:45-8:25am                                                                                                            |       |
| AP Human Geography                      | Moody              | T-2     | Lunch on Fridays or by appointment                                                                                                   |       |
| Science (Chem & Bio/IB<br>Bio & IB ESS) | Ohlrich            | 48      | Lunch Monday-Thursday                                                                                                                |       |
| Health                                  | McKnett            | 46      | Before School 7:45-8:30am or by<br>appointment                                                                                       |       |
| Spanish                                 | Navarro            | 49      | Lunch or by appointment                                                                                                              |       |
| Transportation Tech.                    | Cleveland          | 65      | Lunch Monday-Thursday by appointment                                                                                                 |       |
| History                                 | Holloway           | P-1     | Lunch M-F                                                                                                                            |       |
| English                                 | Stancil            |         | Before school 7:30-8:25                                                                                                              |       |
| English                                 | Severin            | T-4     | Lunch Tuesdays & Thursdays, Make an<br>appointment for Mon, Wed, Fri. lunch or<br>any day after school                               |       |
| All                                     | Olliff             | Library | Before school 8-8:30 (m-Th); Lunchtime                                                                                               |       |

## Upcoming Events!



### Spartan Academy

Join us Saturdays from  
8:00am - 12:15pm

Attending one Spartan Academy makes up  
one absence

**Spartan Academy  
Dates:**

|                    |
|--------------------|
| September 21st     |
| October 5th & 19th |
| November 16th      |
| December 14th      |
| January 25th       |
| February 8th       |
| March 8th & 22nd   |
| April 5th & 26th   |
| May 10th           |

**Spartan Activities  
include:**

- Science Labs
- Credit Recovery
- AP Test Prep
- ACT/SAT Test prep
- Make-Up Work
- Spartan Spirit Activities

Please email attendance at:  
carlicia.castrolopez@oxnardunion.org



### Academia Espartana

Acompáñanos los sábados de  
8:00am - 12:15pm

Asistir a una Academia Espartana te  
recuperará una ausencia

**Academia Espartana  
Fechas:**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| 21 de septiembre  |
| 5 & 19 de octubre |
| 16 de noviembre   |
| 14 de diciembre   |
| 25 de enero       |
| 8 de febrero      |
| 8 & 22 de marzo   |
| 5 & 26 de abril   |
| 10 de mayo        |

**Actividades  
Espartanas  
incluidas:**

- Laboratorios de ciencias
- Recuperación de créditos
- Prueba de preparación AP  
y ACT/SAT
- Recuperar trabajos y tareas
- Actividades de espíritu  
Espartano

Por favor escribenos al correo electrónico de  
asistencia:  
carlicia.castrolopez@oxnardunion.org





***Thank you for reading!***

Spartan Community, we want to hear from you! What exciting topics or helpful info would you love to see in our next newsletter? Drop your ideas in the comments below!

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November.22.2024