

Pathfinder

SEPTEMBER 2025



SHOUT OUT TO OUTSTANDING GW FRESHMEN!

Well done **Jose Jimenez**! Ms. Fitzgerald said, "Jose is an excellent student. He has the rare quality of being an active listener. Jose is also friendly and helpful with his classmates." Ms. Travous said Jose "is a collaborative member of the AVID freshmen class and a good role model to his peers and those that follow in his footsteps."

Mr. Elsharkawy wants to recognize these fabulous chemistry freshmen: **Leilani Hiraoka, Nayeli Esquivel, Miles Campbell, Landen Holguin, Miriam Nelson, Elisa Seitz, Joel Stidman, Carlos Hernandez, Vincent Holguin, Colton Jones, and Parker Macdonald**

Mr. Wood recognizes **Zoeigh Roscoe** as "an excellent student who always attempts each problem even if she isn't sure how to do it. She asks questions and has a strong desire to understand and learn."

Breanne Robles is an awesome freshman photography student. Ms. Empleo said Breanne stands out, "because of the hard work she puts in each day and the excitement she has to work with a professional Canon camera."

Hats off to **Zane Borum**. Mr. Anders said, "Zane came to our drama program from Sundale. He is always willing and eager to try new things in our performances. He has a great work ethic."

Ms. Lozano would like to recognize **Judah Davis**. She said, "Judah always comes to class with a smile and greets his teachers. He has shown empathy in the classroom with peers and always comes prepared and ready to learn."

Wood Shop teacher Mr. Villalobos said, "**Austin Macumber** is an athlete that does not let early outs hold him back! Always ready to learn, eager to answer questions, and willing to demonstrate in front of his peers. Austin brings an energy to the classroom that makes those 6th period days go better!"

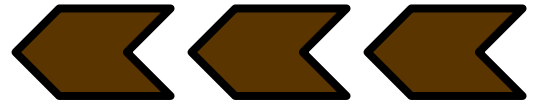
GW Agriculture teachers recognize **Korbin Orozco**. Mrs. Campbell said, "Korbin has been a leader on our Goat Show Team. He works hard to practice with his animal to ensure it is well prepared for the Tulare County Fair. He is also an exemplary student in class. Korbin gets his work done and works well with others."



Class of 
2029

Link Crew members gather before Freshman Orientation (left), Back to School Rally on August 14 (bottom left and middle), freshmen get to know each other at Freshman Orientation (bottom right)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Japan: A new backpack

The first day of school in Japan, many students receive a new “randoseru”, a stiff leather backpack. Traditionally girls receive red ones and boys receive black ones. Typically students will use this same bag for their first six years of school.

Germany: A cone of treats

The German “Schultüte” is a colorful paper cone that parents give their children on the first day of school. They are decorated and filled with school supplies, candy, and toys.

India: Admission day gifts

“Pravesanolsavam” or “admission day” is a celebration of learning in India. Kids receive gifts and treats at school. A special tradition is giving umbrellas as an admission day gift.

Ukraine: Flowers for the teacher

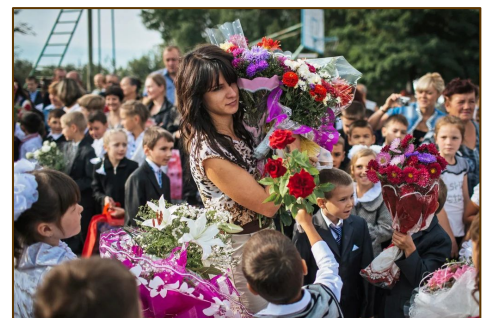
September 1st is traditionally the first day of school in Ukraine and is known as Knowledge Day. One lucky first grader gets to ring a bell to represent the start of a life full of learning. Students also bring their teachers flowers on the first day of school.

Saudi Arabia: Days of celebration

Many schools in Saudi Arabia don't start instruction on the first day of school, but have three days of celebrations. Students develop new friendships and get to know each other.

South Korea: The family feast

In traditional Korean families, they gather together to have a “baekban” meal and students are encouraged to eat a lot to prepare them for the academic challenges of the new school year.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15. It is a time when the history, culture, and contributions of Americans with Hispanic backgrounds are celebrated. Hispanic describes Americans whose families come from Spain, Mexico, and Spanish speaking countries in the Caribbean and Central and South America. In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson declared a Hispanic Heritage Week. Twenty years later, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the week to a 30 day period. September 15 is important because it is Independence Day for many Spanish speaking countries. Mexican Independence Day is on September 16, and Chile has its Independence Day on September 18. Columbus Day (Día de la Raza), which is October 12, also falls within this 30 day period. During Hispanic Heritage Month, there are many community celebrations in the central valley to recognize the valuable influence Hispanics have on American culture and history. César Chávez and Dolores Huerta are two influential Hispanic Americans with roots in California's central valley. Chávez and Huerta were advocates for social change, union contracts, and improved conditions for agricultural laborers. The motto “¡Si se puede!” (Yes, we can!) was coined by Huerta and is still proudly used today.