MAGRUDER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Magruder Memo

August 28th, 2026

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Dear Mustang Families,

Welcome to the new school year! It has been an absolute joy watching our campus come alive over the past week. Everywhere I look, our students are settling in, building strong friendships, actively engaging in their classrooms, and bringing fantastic energy to our halls. We are off to a wonderful start, and our entire staff is excited for everything this school year has in store for our community.

As we kick off the year, I want to share how this bi-weekly newsletter will serve as our primary home-to-school connection. Every two weeks, you can expect an update from me alongside key campus highlights and reminders. Please make it a habit to review the **Save the Date** section in each issue so your family never misses out on important deadlines or upcoming events.

Speaking of key events, please mark your calendars for **Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 8th**. We will begin at **5:15 PM in the gym** with a joint presentation from our PTSA and administrative team. Following the presentation, classroom visits will begin at **6:00 PM**, giving you the opportunity to walk in your student's footsteps, meet their teachers, and learn about their daily routines. Please note, we will be on late start schedule Tuesday 9/8 and Wednesday 9/9.

Finally, starting with this issue, I am introducing a **Principal's Parent Challenge**—a simple, actionable way for us to partner together in supporting your middle schooler's growth.

This Issue's Challenge: At least one parent or guardian for each student attend Back to School Night

The Reward: Every student who has at least one parent or guardian sign in at Back to School Night will be entered to win an In-n-Out Gift card!

Thank you for your partnership, your enthusiasm, and your commitment to making Magruder a supportive place for all of our students to thrive.

Sincerely,

Keely Hardage
Principal
Magruder Middle School

Save the Date



- Week of Aug 31 - Back to School Spirit Week. See below for details!
- Sept 1 and Sept 3 - Girls Soccer Try Outs 3:30pm
- Aug 31 and Sept 3 - Boys Soccer Try Outs 3:30pm
- Sept 7 - No School, Labor Day
- Sept 8 - Back to School Night. Join us starting at 5:15pm in the gym followed by classroom visits from 6-7:15pm
- Sept 9 - Late Start Schedule
- Sept 11 - Last day for orders for PE Clothes or Spirit Wear!
- Sept 15 - School Site Council 3:30pm on Zoom
- Sept 17 - Soccer @ Hull
- Sept 21 - Non-Instructional Day, no school
- Sept 24 - Soccer vs. Richardson
- Sept 25 - Back to School Dance 4:30-6:30pm

Welcome Back Spirit Week

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 4

MONDAY

Wear your favorite color!
Say "hi" to others with your favorite color!

Tuesday

Pop Culture Connection
Show off your favorite tv show, movie, or character and find other fans!

WEDNESDAY

Celebrate Our Cultures
Wear something that represents your culture!

THURSDAY

Mustang Spirit
Wear blue or Magruder gear.

Friday

Team Up!
Wear a sports shirt or jersey!

YOU CAN DO THIS!

SOCCER TEAM TRYOUTS



BOYS TRYOUT:
August 31st & September 3rd
3:30-5:00

GIRLS TRYOUT:
September 1st & September 3rd
3:30-5:00

MANDATORY INFORMATION MEETING:
August 25th at Lunch in Room 35



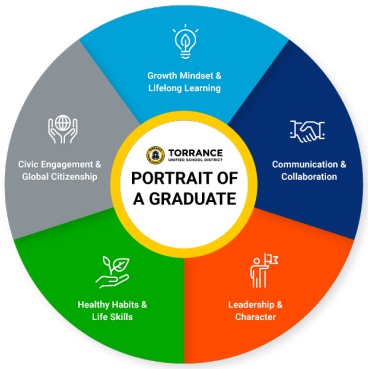
Everyone is welcome to try out.

Results will be posted Friday 9/4/2026

MAGRUDER SOCCER



Portrait of a Magruder Mustang



What is a Portrait of a Graduate? It is the TUSD collective vision that articulates the desired outcomes of all K-12 students in Torrance Unified, including competencies and personal qualities that positions them for success in life and career.

At Magruder, Mustangs embody these skills and characteristics in a variety of ways every day—both inside and outside the classroom.



Growth Mindset and Lifelong Learning

The school year kicked off with incredible energy as students jumped right into interactive, hands-on learning. Rather than just sitting through syllabus reviews, Mustangs were up on their feet, asking questions, and diving into dynamic lessons across all subjects. This immediate enthusiasm for learning reflects our commitment to fostering curiosity and continuous growth.





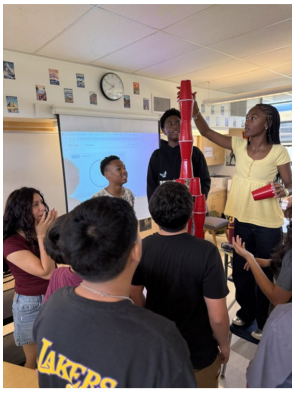


Communication and Collaboration



From day one, classrooms across campus focused on building essential teamwork skills. Students tackled collaborative challenges—such as stacking cups without using their hands, completing classroom scavenger hunts, and solving complex math puzzles in groups. These hands-on activities required students to actively listen, communicate ideas clearly, and work together toward a shared goal.







Leadership and Character

Our 8th grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders stepped up in a big way to welcome our newest Mustangs to campus. Working in small groups, these student leaders guided our 6th graders through team-building activities, campus tours, and helpful advice to ease the transition into middle school. Seeing our older students serve as positive role models models the high standard of character we strive for at Magruder.









Civic Engagement and Global Citizenship



Building a strong, supportive school community starts with creating an inclusive environment where every family feels welcome. Our 6th Grade Family Ice Cream Social brought students, parents, and staff together to connect, share smiles, and kick off the middle school journey as a united Mustang family. Active community involvement like this reinforces the value of civic connection for our students.







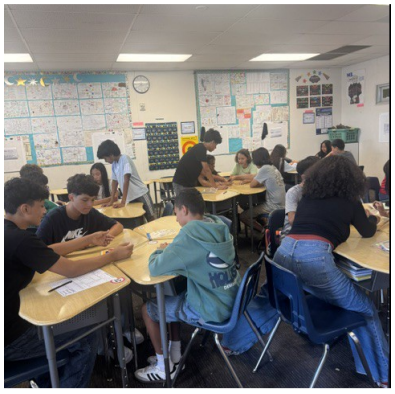




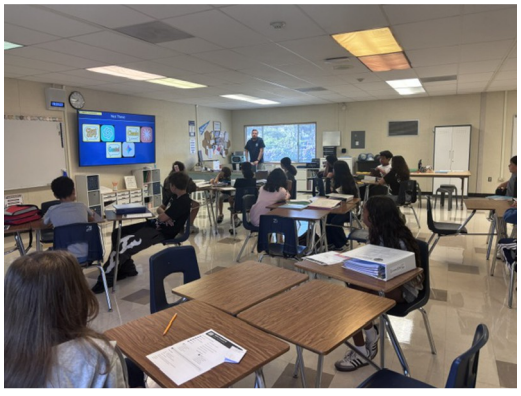


Healthy Habits and Life Skills

During Mustang Day, our entire staff dedicated time to helping students understand what it takes to be successful at Magruder. Each department took on key topics to teach not only core academic concepts, but also essential life skills, such as organization, time management, and positive hallway expectations. Equipping our students with these foundational routines sets them up for long-term personal and academic wellness.









Magruder Announcements & School Reminders

Join Our School Site Council – 3 Parent Positions Open!

We are looking for **3 parent representatives** to join our School Site Council (SSC) for the upcoming school year! The SSC is a collaborative team of parents, teachers, and school staff that

helps guide school goals, review academic programs, and advise on budget decisions. No prior experience is necessary, just a passion for supporting our students and school community.

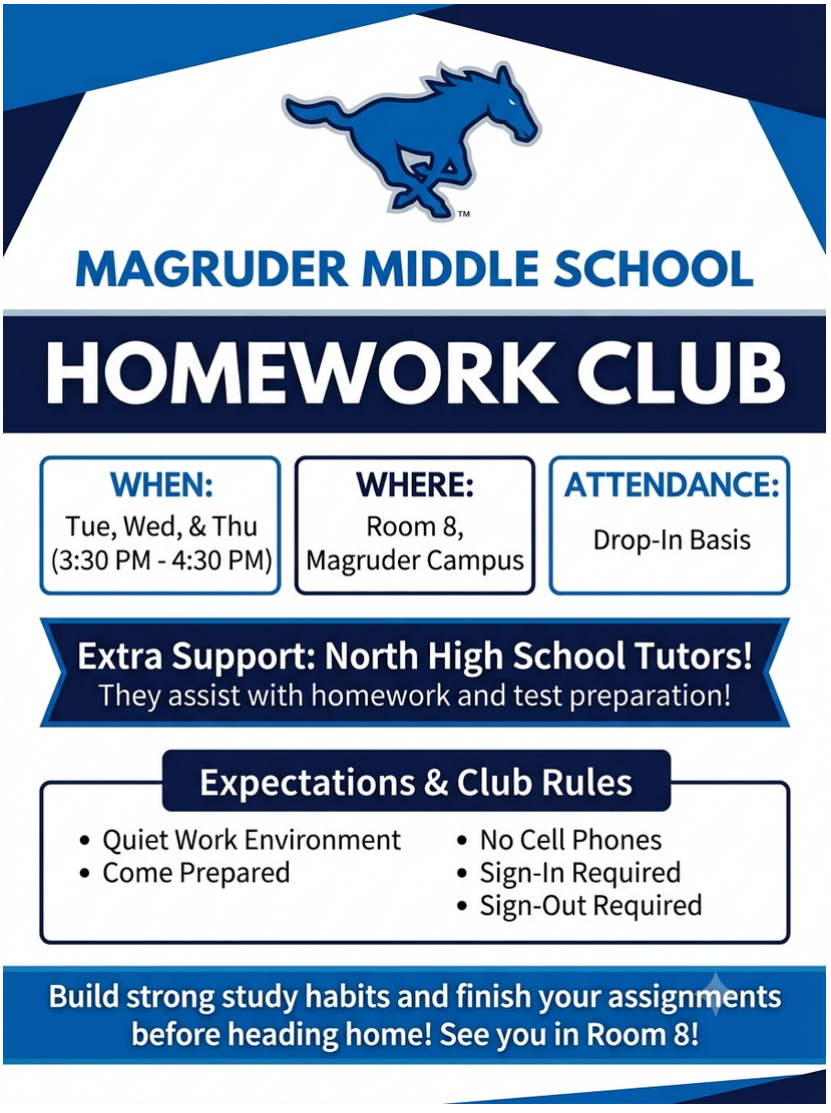


Meetings are held September 15th, October 26th, January 19th, April 19th, and June 1st. All meetings start at 3:30pm and are held on zoom.

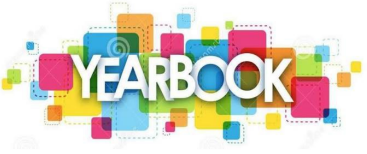
If you are interested in running or would like more information, please contact hardage.keely@tusd.org. All names must be received by Tuesday September 8th.

Homework Club starts next week

Attention all Mustangs! If you are looking for a quiet place to do homework after school, stop by room 8 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 3:30-4:30. Any questions ask Mr. Bermudez



Order your 26-27 Yearbook now!



It's time to start thinking about the **2026–2027 Yearbook!** Every year we sell out and you do not want your student to miss this opportunity.

[Click here to purchase your yearbook]

8TH GRADE PARENTS ONLY!
We are now accepting **baby photos** for our 8th grade section! Please email a baby photo of your student to **Ms. Perez** at perez.melanie@tusd.org **by December 18th.**

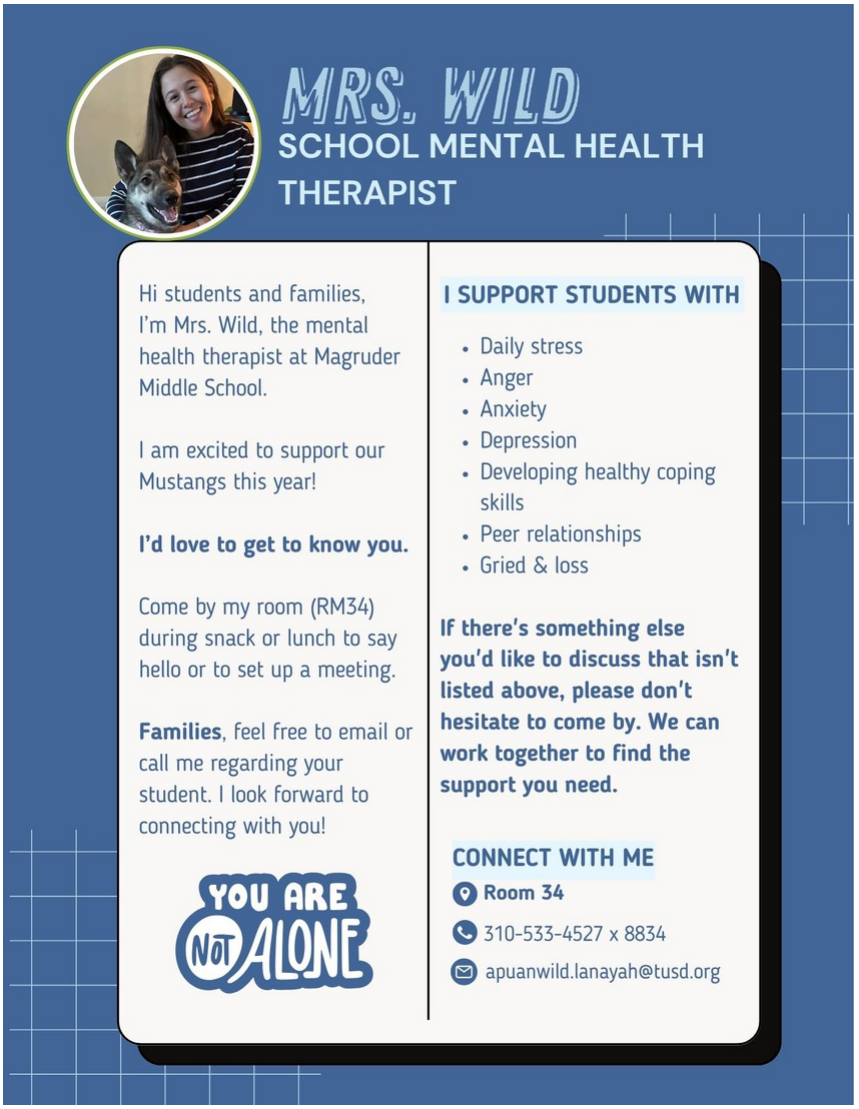
8TH GRADE DEDICATIONS
Want to celebrate your 8th grader with a special dedication in the yearbook? Space is **limited**, so don't wait! **Purchase a dedication space here.**
Thank you for helping us make this year's yearbook extra special!

Meet Mrs. Wild!

Hi Mustangs!

This is Mrs. Wild, your Magruder Middle School Mental Health Therapist, and I am very excited to support you this year! I am here to help students address issues related to daily stress, anxiety, depression, healthy coping skills, peer relationships, grief and loss, and more. Come by my room (RM34) during snack or lunch, and we can set up a meeting.

Families, feel free to email or call me regarding your student. apuanwild.lanayah@tusd.org



Attendance Reminders



As we begin this school year, we look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic and personal success. You play a vital role in your child's life both in and outside of school, and excellent attendance is one of the most effective ways to pave the way for achievement. This year, we want every student to be a **HERO**: **H**ere, **E**veryday, **R**eady, **O**n Time

To support this goal and ensure our daily operations run safely and efficiently, please keep these attendance procedures and daily habits in mind:

- **Reporting Absences:** All student absences must be submitted through our **Online Absence Notification Portal**.
- **Early Pick-Up:** If you need to pick up your child early, please call the main office or submit an online notification in advance. Giving us a heads-up helps us prepare your child and guarantees a much smoother, quicker checkout process.

Tips for Building Strong Attendance Habits

- **Set Up Consistent Routines:** Create structured morning and evening routines. Monitor and limit screen time, especially at night, to ensure your child gets enough rest and starts the day with a nutritious breakfast.
- **Keep School Time Sacred:** Schedule medical appointments after school, on weekends, or during school holidays whenever possible. Please plan family vacations exclusively during scheduled school breaks.
- **Stay Organized & Connected:** Post school calendars and schedules in a visible place at home.

We are always available to offer guidance, resources, and support to ensure your child attends school regularly and thrives. Thank you for your continued partnership!

PTSA®

Join the PTSA for free admission to the Back to School Dance!

Don't forget the back to school dance is quickly approaching on September 25th and all students who are PTSA members will get in free to the dance. Tickets will go on sale in a few weeks so skip the line and join the PTSA today! Remember students must be in good academic standing to attend.

Be on the lookout for more information about the Skecher's walk coming soon!

TUSD Announcements and Reminders

South Bay readers ranked Torrance Unified School District #1 BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

We are thrilled to share that South Bay readers have once again voted Torrance Unified School District as the #1 Best School District for the sixth consecutive year, while also recognizing our District as a Best Workplace! Magruder Middle School was also named as a **South Bay Favorite** middle school for the 3rd year in a row.

Thanks to the incredible dedication of our teachers, staff, administrators, students, and families, Torrance Unified earned an astounding **32 total awards** in this year's *Daily Breeze* Readers' Choice Awards.
This remarkable achievement reflects the strength of our entire school community and our collective commitment to educational excellence. Thank you to everyone who voted and continues to support our schools every day!



TPD eBike and Traffic Safety Reminders

With the start of school please make sure to review the following information from Torrance Police Department regarding eBike and Traffic Safety reminders. Together we can continue to create a safe community for our students.



TPD eBike Safety Flyer
TPD Traffic Safety Notice

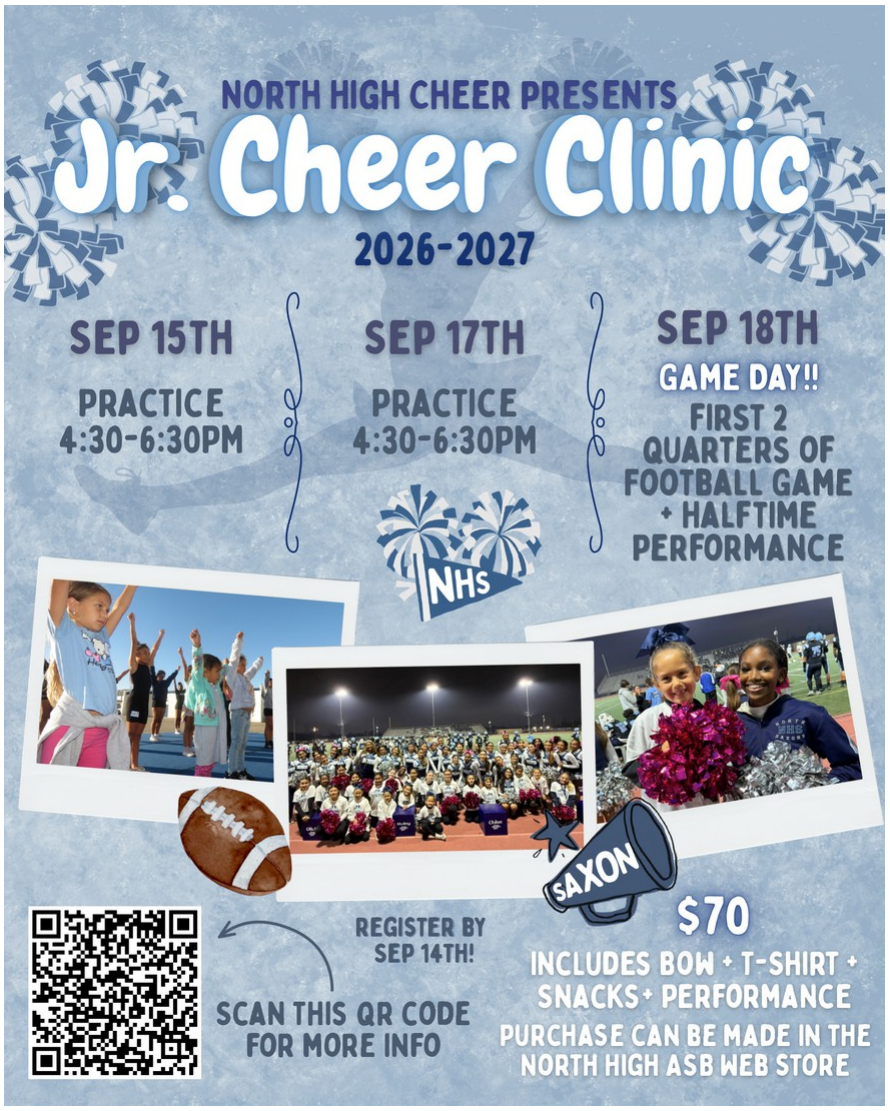
North High Jr. Cheer Clinic

We are excited to invite the students of your school to participate in our North High School **Jr. Cheer Clinic** for the upcoming football season.

Participants will enjoy two clinic days, receive a bow and T-shirt, cheer alongside our team during the first and second quarters, and perform with us during halftime. The game will take place on **September 18, 2026**, with clinic dates scheduled for **September 15 and 17 from 4:30–6:30 PM** at North High.

Registration is **$70** and is due by **September 14, 2026**. Please see the attached flyer or use this link for full details. We would love for you to share this opportunity with your students and their families.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact fulton.aria@tusd.org.



Follow Us!

stay connected

To keep up to date on events and activities at our school, please follow us on Instagram and Facebook or visit our school website here.

Find Past Magruder Memos here.

Keely Hardage, Principal
Magruder Middle School, Torrance Unified School District

Contact Subscribe

