



Mendez Minutes

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School

Edition 7 Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Quote of the Month

By: Yolanda Elmore

Ms. Elmore offers you this quote for the month of **August**.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."-- Nelson Mandela

Meet the Journalism Staff:



Ms. Yolanda Elmore, ELA Teacher & Editor



Mrs. Yvette Cortes, Library Media Technician & Copy Editor

Our Journalism Scholars for 2025 - 2026 academic year will be featured in the September 2025 edition of Mendez Minutes.



Feature Article

"Welcome Back, Mustangs!"

By: Principal Gabriel Moreno

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I hope you had a relaxing and fun summer break. Our teachers and staff have been working hard to get everything ready for your return—including painting, deep cleaning, and making sure classrooms shine.

We're excited to welcome many new Mustangs to our team this year, including new teachers, counselors, and staff who are ready to support you. This year, we'll focus on building strong reading skills, preparing for college and careers, and making sure every student—including our English Learners and students with IEPs—gets the support they need to succeed.

Whether you're just starting 6th grade or returning as a seasoned Mustang, we're so glad you're here. Let's make this year one full of learning, growth, and Mustang pride!

GO MUSTANGS!



Principal Gabriel Moreno

"Mendez Turns 25!!"

By: Sandra Rubio

Did you know that this is a very special year in Mendez' history? 2025-2026 is our Silver Anniversary!!! 25 years ago, Mendez welcomed the first group of students ever. We still have teachers who started in August 2000. Did you know that Mendez had 5th graders? To say that a lot has happened is an understatement.

Stay tuned for special activities to help us celebrate our Silver Anniversary. Don't forget to buy our special edition yearbook. It will be extra packed with memorable moments. Yearbooks are the time machines that take us to our past.

We are proud to be part of this exciting anniversary. 2025-2026 will be as special as that first day when Mendez opened its doors. Thank you for being part of this event!



Ms. Sandra Rubio, ELA Teacher

"Summer Reading Success and Library Goals!"

By: Mrs. Yvette Cortes

Welcome Back to School! I would like to give a warm welcome to our returning and incoming students and staff, as I look forward to meeting each of you at the Library very soon. This Summer, I had the joy of supporting hundreds of Mendez and Santiago K-8 students during our Summer library program. We shared many stories, crafts, games, activities and students earned many prizes for participation! Summer learning and library was a success as we collaborated on daily activities and reading. Students and Staff used Beanstack to log reading minutes as we dominated in our District-wide Summer reading competition! **Readers are Leaders!**

Our Library goal this year is to enjoy reading many good books while participating in the District's monthly reading challenges. Mendez students will continue to have the opportunity to win cool prizes at the end of each month with Beanstack. We have new prizes such as Squishmallows, Uno games, keychains...and more! **Together we can achieve more!**

Students may continue to use Library resources such as SORA, Britannica, SAPL/Overdrive, Destiny eBooks, ProQuest and more... If you have any questions, please visit Mendez Library in person and/or online for current information and resources. ❤️📖 **Happy Reading!**



"An Unforgettable Adventure!"

By: Mrs. Hellen Gavarete

This summer I was invited to join my brother and his family to visit Tokyo, Japan. I was excited to join them and have an adventure in a country where we did not know the language. I enjoyed every minute exploring different places and eating interesting food. We decided to use the train to get to our destinations and that was an interesting and crazy experience. We used Google translate very often! We visited Disney Tokyo, Disney Sea Japan. We also visited Sanrio Puroland where the park is based on all the Sanrio characters such as Hello Kitty! I've never seen so many cute characters' merchandise in my life both at Disney and Sanrio Puroland. We were able to experience an interactive art museum! We visited Shibuya, which was my favorite place because it had so many shopping centers and restaurants!! A city girl's dream!! Tokyo also has beautiful temples, and we were able to visit Meiji Jingu. That was a very beautiful experience to be somewhere so serene and ancient, it felt as if we were in another time. Overall, my experience in Japan was positive and fun. I would definitely advise everyone to put Japan on their places to visit bucket list.



Mrs. Hellen Gavarete, Licensed Vocational Nurse

"A Mighty Mustang Family!"

By: Ms. Yolanda Elmore

Woo-hoo!! Our Mustang Family has new staff and faculty members who are all smiles and thrilled to join Mendez Fundamental Intermediate for the 2025-2026 academic year.



From left to right: Mr. Kirby Suniga, PE; Ms. Zulema Baquedano, History; Ms. Brooke Ivanis, History; Ms. Elena Fuentes, Counselor; Mr. Diego Rocha, Math; and Mr. Donovan Bean, Psychologist.

And we are absolutely ecstatic to welcome back our four fantastic Mustang teachers. . .



From left to right (above): Ms. Ashley Reyes, ELA & Ms. Janet Soto, Math



From left to right (above): Mr. Diego Reyes & Ms. Jenyffer Bustos, SPED

“Do your best on the upcoming tests!”

By: Yolanda Elmore

Our first test of the 2025-2026 academic year is the MAP Test.

The **MATH MAP Test** is from **Monday, 18 August 2025 to Friday, 22 August 2025.**

The **ELA MAP Test** is from **Monday, 25 August 2025 to Friday, 29 August 2025.**

Make-ups for MATH and ELA MAP Tests will be from **Tuesday, 2 September 2025 - Friday, 5 September 2025.**

Don't stress!!!!

Just remember these **four tips**:

Get good sleep 😴 – Running on empty won't help you focus.

Eat a solid breakfast 🍳 – A hungry brain is a distracted brain.

Stay positive 😊 – No negative self-talk! Believe in yourself!

Take deep breaths 🧘 – Feeling nervous? Pause for a second, breathe in, breathe out, and remind yourself you're prepared.

Please feel free to click on the links below which will tell you about the MAP test and its purpose (just in case you may have forgotten).

What is MAP?

Why do I have to take the MAP Test?



“Tutoring begins next month!”

By: Yolanda Elmore

Tutoring begins on Tuesday 2 September 2025.

If you need help in one, two, or all of your classes, please go to the library to get help with daily homework assignments, essay writing, short-or-long-term projects, speaking applications, and organizational skills.

Take a look at the flyer below for the days and times for tutoring in the Mendez Library.

In addition, many of our Mendez teachers offer tutoring before and/or after school during the week.

You can find your teacher's tutoring hours on the **Mendez Fundamental Intermediate** website and/or on their **CANVAS** or **Google Classroom** page.

Talk with your teacher or send your teacher an email to schedule a time for tutoring. Remember to be an advocate for yourself!



Mendez Scholars Are...

Respectful

Responsible

Ready



SPED Instructor, Ms. Brenda Flores, is Mendez's ASB Advisor for 2025-2026. She's excited to announce that ASB Elections will take place this month. Please see the flyer below. You must be enrolled in the ASB elective class in order to run for a position.



Mendez Mustangs ASB Elections: Vote for Your Leaders!

What is ASB?

ASB stands for Associated Student Body, it's Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School's student government, dedicated to representing your needs and making our school a better place for everyone. ASB plans fun activities like dances and rallies, manages student mds, and helps ensure your voice is heard by teachers and administration.

Meet Your Potential Leaders:

Here's a glimpse into the roles you'll be voting g for:

ASB President: The primary student representative for Mendez Intermediate, leading meetings, coordinating student activities, and serving as the main voice for the student body.

Secretary: Assists the President in their duties, serves as secondary student representative, and takes on the President's responsibilities when they are absent.

Commissioner of Commerce Manages ASB finances, including tracking expenditures, organizing fundraisers, and ensuring the responsible use of student funds.

6th Grade Representative: Represents the interests and concerns of the 6th-grade class within the ASB, ensuring their voices are heard and advocating for their needs and ideas.

Important Dates:

Campaigning Period:
August 21st– 27th
Voting Day:
August 29th

Important Dates:

Campaigning Period: August 21–27th
Voting Day: August 27th
Results Announced: August 29th

Remember, your vote matters! Choose the leaders who will best represent your interests and help make Mendez Fundamental the best it can be.