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Modesto High School

Spring 2022



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A New Change is Coming to School

Modesto High's agriculture department is in the process of getting a new building currently being constructed in proximity to the existing agriculture building and the tennis courts - the latest update to the school campus, since the math building's construction in the early 2000s.

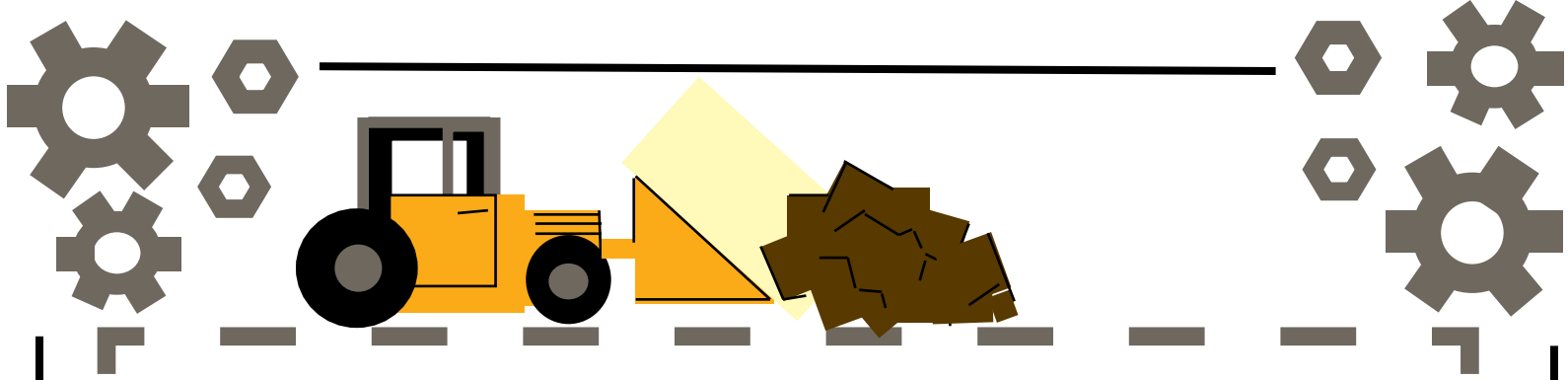
The project's main focus is to improve and expand upon what is pre-existing. "I think this is really going to give our students the ability to utilize newer technology," said Mr. Layne, Modesto High ag teacher. Currently, the agriculture program only has a 50 year-old portable classroom and a small greenhouse to work with. The expansion project is ambitious — constructing two new classrooms, a new greenhouse, raised flower beds, a parking lot, a walk-in cooler, and an eventual nursery.

In late March, Mr. Gabino, a Harris Builders construction worker for the project, said that they had

begun "working on the dirt that has to be processed to get search compaction." The next step, following that, was to apply the concrete layer. Since then, the future facilities have begun to be constructed, foundations laid for what has been an ambitious construction project. At the moment, there have been no issues in the construction process.

"The new facilities will give our students a much more realistic idea of industry standards, and the updates will help us to provide more students with a hands-on experience to prepare them for college, the workforce, or wherever their path may lead," said Ms. Schellhase, organic horticulture teacher. The buildings will give students more opportunities to delve deeper into agriculture as a practice and form of academia.

When it came to getting the project approved, the teachers both reiterated that it took some time.



“This blueprint had been in the works for about four years,” said Layne. The program tried to get a grant to fund the project for two years, without luck — until the third year, when the program received a CTE grant - a Career Tech-Ed grant meant exactly for projects like this, stretching a school’s capacity to teach students with greater resources. Besides the grant, the district is also funding the project.

After receiving enough funding, the agriculture department’s two teachers worked with architects to design the new facilities and classrooms, taking a critical role in the planning portion of the project.

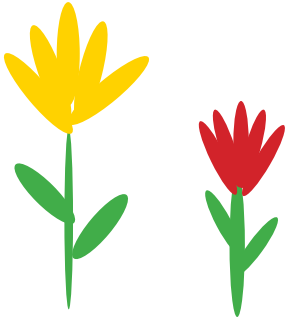
In addition to expanding opportunities for agriculture classes, the facilities will benefit the FFA program at the school as well. Already, the FFA program at Modesto High has achieved great success. The state of California has over 75,000 FFA members, the school’s

chapter having been around since 1923. The school’s FFA program has advanced from regional competitions for many years, and this construction project will only elevate the success of Modesto High’s FFA program.

This project has opened up greater opportunities for the program. “We’re trying to acquire a school farm,” shared Mr. Layne. He has hope to also be able to install a portable shadehouse, drinking fountains, and improve the schools Organic Horticulture (OH) facility.

At the moment, the project is proceeding on-schedule, slated to be finished as early as next August. Teachers expressed excitement about being able to use these facilities — it’s not often that the school’s layout changes. This is a big step for both future and current Modesto High students and staff.





An artist rendering of the final project



construction site



Story and Photos by Cassandra Delgado and Gieselle Martinez

SPRING SPORTS

Spring has brought about many returning sports to Modesto High School. These include swim, boys tennis, baseball, boys golf, track and field, and softball. They are currently ongoing and they each have their own challenges and successes.

Track and Field is a spring sport that has various meets that revolve around the activities of running, jumping, and throwing. Track is open to all, but it requires a lot of commitment. Track requires a lot of mental commitment as well. Emiliano Contreras, a junior who does the 32 hundred, talked about “how the mental part where you have to stay consistent” is the most challenging part about track. Many students dedicate themselves to this sport and enjoy its benefits. Montaña Barron, a junior who participates in the discus and the shot for throwing events, discussed how track helps him better himself. He said that he joined track because “it was a good opportunity for self improvement on both a physical and mental level.” He also discussed how it helps him succeed as both an individual, as well as on a team.

Coach Delira talked about how the current season is going very well, the Varsity girls have placed 3rd overall in the whole county. Coach Delira is very passionate about track and he decided to coach track because “in high school it was what changed my life’s trajectory for the better. It taught me how to set goals for myself and motivated me to be the best I can be on the track, classroom, and in life.” He encourages more people to join track.

Swimming is a sport that many of the students here enjoy. It allows them to succeed individually as well as in a team environment. Justin Dumars, a junior, said that the best part of swimming competitively was the races, because the team can “hang out and have a good time while getting a rush of excitement from each race.” He also discussed that the most challenging part about swimming is “trying to continuously get better and not becoming complacent.” The coach, Sam Abid, discussed how “doing swim is a life lesson. Here in the Central Valley we have many lakes, pools and rivers and if I can save one life teaching a kid to swim it is worth it.”

By Tejaswi Poudel



PHOTO BY SCOTT MITCHELL

While Modesto High does have a tennis team this year, it lacks a full team and this has caused a lot of difficulties. Coach Pierson shared that, ultimately, he wants his team to enjoy themselves. Pranau Vijaykumar, a junior, talked about how tennis is more of a game of adaptation than anything else. "In order to win," Vijaykumar said, "you must adapt to the way that each opponent plays." The Tennis team this year focused on improving themselves and enjoying themselves.

The softball girls are working hard this year, and they've come a long way from where they were at the start of their season. The varsity softball team is currently number one in the league. Although the JV team has only won one game this season, they are working hard. Jason Groll, the JV softball coach, said his main goal for this season is to focus on having the players get better every day.

Lola Evans, a sophomore, talked about how she loves softball and how competitive the sport is, sharing, "I think the best part about softball is the feeling of getting somebody out, and then the process of getting that person out." Groll encourages the students to keep trying; he likes to tell his students to "Improve every day" and to "Focus on the little victories."

The baseball team is doing well this season, and they have been practicing hard. They practice for about two to three hours per day. Drew Arbuckle, a freshman, who has played baseball for 4 years, talked about how he goes home and practices whenever he can. He said the hardest part about baseball is communication because "everyone has to be doing their part at all times or everything will go bad." Vinnie Cordoni, a sophomore, said the part about baseball that he enjoys most is being with his friends and the part he struggles with the most is staying engaged.

Boy's golf is an individual and team sport that many of the students here enjoy. The golf team has fewer players than most teams. Much of the team has just started to play, and so they are new to the game and golf takes a while to get good at. Dilshan Pandher, a freshman, said that what he enjoys most about playing golf is "playing with friends and forgetting about everything else." Henry Kinzier, a freshman, discussed how the entire sport of golf is mental. He said that "if you start getting frustrated at your mistakes, you start making more mistakes. If you become upset, there's no chance of doing good." Golf is a sport in which you have to keep yourself calm and collected.



PHOTO BY SCOTT MITCHELL

Science



Olympiad

By Zada Sam

Science Olympiad is a nationwide competition for students that is devoted to improving the quality of science education. It is designed to increase a student's interest in STEM fields and provide achievements in team events. The Science Olympiad tournaments are hosted as rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of individual and team events. These competitions are balanced between various scientific disciplines, such as, biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers, and technology.

In the regional competition, Modesto High's Crimson Team placed 2nd with a total of 15 event medals and Modesto High's Black Team placed 8th winning 6 event medals. Only one team will be taken into the state competition in April.

Junior Maya Salvador mentioned that she had 4 study events on team Crimson. Even after participating in Science Olympiad for a few years, she said that the examinations are always nerve-racking; considering that some tests

have 100+ questions and a strict time limit. It was stressful, but the examinations tested on what she's learned in the past years.

Another junior student, Kelvin Sokk, said that his partner had built a project called a "Gravity Vehicle." They constructed a ramp and had the car go down to a specified distance and reach the point as close as it can. Sokk said that this year's examination had less pressure because it took place in their classrooms and was self-proctored.

At the state competition in

April, Neena Naidu and Jackson Perry placed 4th in trajectory. Neena and Jaya Naidu placed 6th in the ping pong parachute contest.



Photos by Aimee Matlock

Band and Orchestra Concert



MoHi's band and orchestra held a concert in the auditorium on Mar 10, 2022 at 6:30pm. Their efforts paid off very well in the end. All the musicians were very elegant as they followed along the notes for the music pieces. The conductor, Mr. Cover, professionally led the orchestra and band with ease.

Modesto High's orchestra performed four songs to start out the evening. One of the performer's, junior Aylin Navarro, who plays the violin said, "I think we all did great and put our best effort into our performance". Junior Julio Barraza is another orchestra student who plays the violin said, "This last orchestra concert according to those sitting in the audience was neat. The musicians, and all who worked behind the scenes, put their all into this concert. I'm glad to have been a part of the orchestra this long and hope the concert next year will only get better."

Following the orchestra a group of trombones, saxophones and a singular percussionist played. Playing the trombone involves inhaling air into the lungs and exhaling out in a specific way to master the instrument. Nonetheless, each group member did an excellent job. Mr, Cover explained that the song 'Balladair' was very smooth and exquisite.

Mohi's Winter Drumline performed a four minute piece called "Street Grooves". The song starts off very gentle and then progressively gets louder. All of the members were working on their own piece at their own pace, all falling together beautifully on the night of the concert.

Mohi's band performed four pieces and closed off the show. Mr. Cover, the conductor, briefly explained the efforts that were made for the song "Fanfare and Hymn of Celebration". He stated that he was very proud of the band for working hard on this piece. Ultimately, it was an entertaining evening of wonderful music and performance.



MODESTO HIGH, UN- MASKED: ON THE MASK MANDATE'S LIFTING IN SCHOOL

Following an order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, beginning March 12, the mask mandate was lifted across many public schools in California.

State officials elaborated on the logistics behind the order: although masks are no longer mandatory in the classroom, Newsom emphasized still recommending masks, nevertheless. Additionally, he shared that school districts could override — or opt to postpone — the masking rules lifted by the state order.

Modesto City Schools (MCS) district decided to follow the procedure outlined by the state and lifted the mandate in schools on March 12. “We believed it was important to be consistent with following the Health and Safety Guidelines the State of California outlined,” said Superintendent Sara Noguchi. That Monday, March 14, students returned to school — some wearing masks, others not.

Among students, there seems to be two frames of thought regarding the mask mandate's lifting: relief over no longer having to wear a mask after two years, or distrust and the belief that the mandate could negatively impact COVID-19 cases across the state. Speaking to his experience with students, math teacher Mr. Pierson said that he had not seen many students complaining about the mask mandate being lifted - rather, he had noticed excitement and students asking their peers “if they would keep wearing masks, or take them off.”

Junior Ximena Martinez-Nunez said that she was unsure about the mask mandate due to worry that “masks no longer being required would lead to an increase in COVID-19 across the county again.” Junior Braden Meloni said that he was “over” the masks, after the mandate was lifted; while junior Armaan Rai shared that he no longer wore his mask, since there is no one with “high-risk” of contracting COVID-19 in his household so he feels safe removing it.

COVID-19 rates have been on a steady decline this season, the lowest it has been for months. Superintendent Noguchi underlined the importance of listening to state protocol though: “We are uncertain of the impact of any new variant,” she said, “and will continue to follow local guidance from CDPH and our Public Health.”

Kassandra Delgado

Bell Schedule Change

California's governor, Gavin Newsom, signed a bill, placing restrictions on what time schools can start. This bill, known as Senate Bill 328, does not allow high schools to start before 8:30 am. With this bill in place now, schools have until July 1, 2022 to obey and apply the new schedule.

During a staff meeting that was held in March, teachers and staff discussed the bell schedule changing for the upcoming school year. Usually school starts at 7:55 am, but starting in the upcoming school year, class will begin at 8:30 am. Not only that, classes will have 10 more minutes added to them, meaning students with 8th period will be out around 4:45 pm.

The staff discussed their feelings regarding how they feel on the schedule change. A few have even said they don't want the schedule to change considering there are students who do sports and after school events.

French teacher, Mr. Hijaouy said, "The Covid pandemic has been a watershed moment for all of us. We've had to adapt to so much in so little time. Is this latest round yet another thing to adapt to or will it turn out to be the straw that breaks the camel's back? I don't know. Only time will tell."

History teacher, Mrs. Konner commented on what she thinks of the new schedule change. She said, "Change was required by state law; we didn't decide. They decided on the extra minutes." Regarding whether this change will help students get more sleep, she added, "If you want students to go to bed earlier you'd have to turn off the wifi."

Students weighed in with their opinions on the change as well. Junior, Scarly Vongvivath said, "pros [of the new schedule]: going to school later -extends time to have good sleep. Cons: leaving school late: programs or sessions after school during the late hours."

Destiny Guzman said she doesn't want the change, considering rehearsals, "I really don't want play rehearsals to be late."

Hernan Escalante said, "I think it's pretty wrong, because they [legislators] didn't take into consideration many things like daylight savings for people who walk home after school if they have an 8th period; sometimes they'll be walking in the dark, which can be

dangerous. They also didn't think of other aspects like sports, where they won't get home till around 11, and with ESS too, they would stay at school till 9, possibly. So it just upsets me because it seems like they didn't really care about our opinions and just said welp let's make this a thing."

Jack Miller said, "We won't get more sleep. Students who depend on parents to get to school, like I do, our parents have to work around it and either find a different way or take us to school like how they usually would and that means kids will be at school earlier and just waiting for class to start. That means we won't get more sleep like they want us to. Getting out of school at 3:30, or 4:40 if you have an 8th, is really later into the day and with sports you add 2-3 hours of practice everyday, so that leaves you leaving school around 5:30-7:30. Teachers won't be giving us less of a workload and probably more since we have 10 more minutes in each class now, so now when we're home around 6-8ish we still have a couple hours of homework to do from all our classes plus eating dinner and doing chores or any other activities our family has us do. That means we won't be sleeping earlier to get more sleep, we'd be staying up late stressed to get work done and getting less sleep than before. And the schedule can mess with job scheduling, cause it's getting out so late most kids will now be getting 6pm-10pm shifts compared to others and then working a job on top of all chores and homework. This will put stress onto the students more than before the schedule change."

Many of the students asked expressed disapproval of Senate Bill 328 and the resulting changes to the bell schedule. At this point, the attitude has to be to learn to adjust to the new schedule and give it a chance. Maybe in those extra 10 minutes per class, students will be able to also review work or even take that time to ask teachers to go over something or even ask for help if needed. Students and staff alike will need to leave some space for adjustments or even changes to the law as the practicalities of the lawmakers' decisions play out in the real world.

Story By: Jasmine Gonzales

Multicultural Week 2022



HSU on the quad with students

At the end of March Modesto High hosted its first multicultural week - a week dedicated to expressing and celebrating different cultures around the world through food, music, and presentations.

On Monday March 28, three guest speakers came to Modesto High to share their own personal stories. April Premo, AJ Mitchell, and one other all came to deliver their stories to Modesto High. During both 4th and 5th lunch students came to listen to what they had to say about themselves.

The following day the Hispanic Student Union came together to host their own lunch activities. While they played music and served tamales, students played loteria. The club also sold bracelets and even croc charms.

Senior Melanie Gonzalez expressed, “The process in setting up for multicultural week was pretty difficult to execute. Since there are only three cultural clubs on campus, it was difficult to turn that into a whole week.” There was a large amount of work that was put into multicultural week and many students can agree that

their work paid off.

Freshman Aaliya Alvarado mentioned, “My thoughts on multicultural week is I think it was a wonderful way for people to show their culture by showing their affection in many different ways.” Others including Freshman Aleena Nunez said, “I loved it, everyone was able to get a taste of different cultures.”

The Asian American Student Union hosted events on Wednesday. Many students had gathered at the quad to get a taste of Pakoras, which many students were able to enjoy while listening to music. One of the club members Desi Diaz discussed she would love to do this again, “I would definitely, without a doubt, consider doing this again.” She mentioned, “Our club looked forward to this event all year. A chance to give people a showcase of Asian culture is AASC’s purpose.”

Students in the Black Student Union got together to host on Thursday. They sold stickers and key chains, which many students seemed to have an interest in. There were even foods



AASC serving food to students on the quad



Monday’s guest speakers

and drinks in the quad which students from both lunches were able to enjoy. Junior Daijah Briley who is the president of BSU was explaining her favorite part of Multicultural Week, “My favorite part was definitely seeing the names on the whiteboard and the music from different cultures.”

AASC President David Hinh shared the details of the preparations for Multicultural Week, “We first got all presidents of the cultural clubs together to discuss how to execute it and we basically assigned each club a certain day to do whatever they wanted to share their culture. Respect Diversity, and the Community Club got involved as well.” Multicultural Week has proven to be a lot of work and many can agree that it all paid off.

“Based on the feedback we received from students,” Briley said, “they seemed to enjoy themselves just as much as we did.”

Story written by Dylan Starn

Student Art

Nestled near the main quad, the art department at Modesto High fosters student creativity with a variety of programs and opportunities, channeling the imagination and artistic ingenuity of Modesto High students. To begin a student's journey in art at the high school level, art teacher Ms. Drake explained, students must take the beginning Art 1-2 class. "I try to make it easy for the beginning art students, since many of them may have never picked up a paintbrush in their lives," said Ms. Drake. In the beginning class, students learn through step-by-step drawings and delve into linear perspective, color theory, and complete a 3-D art project.

"Once students pass Art 1-2," Ms. Drake said, "They have many options." Among the courses offered, there's Drawing and Painting, photography and video classes, and the IBHL Visual Arts program. Drawing and Painting functions as a continuation of Art 1-2, while the photography courses, taught by Mr. Mitchell, look into more camera-based art and exploring the aesthetics of the world beyond a canvas.

The IBHL Visual Arts class is a two-year course that counts for the IB diploma as an elective subject. In the class, students have to research artists to compare their art on the basis of formal artistic analysis and thematic thread lines. At the same time, stu-



Features

dents have to curate “8 to 11 art pieces from their hard, laborious studies” into an art exhibition – the final facet of their IB Visual Arts experience.

The IB Art exhibition took place on April 1 this year. Based in the school’s auditorium, students and teachers alike walked through rows of student art, the culmination of two years of work. For example, student Blanca Avila put together a photography exhibition exploring her Hispanic heritage. There was a variety of student art – photography inspired by HBO’s Euphoria, cross-stitching, collages, and comic strips, among much more.

Besides the classes on campus, there’s also a variety of student-led activities that foster student creativity in the arts. The art club, for example, supports students in their art journey in a non-academic manner. Another school club supporting student artists is the Modesto High Literary Magazine, formally called Afterglow. Each year, the magazine puts together a collection of student art and writing and is officially published via Kindle Direct Publishing. This year, submissions were quintupled from years past, and the magazine is in the process of creation, scheduled to be published sometime in early-to-mid May.

Ultimately, Ms. Drake expressed gratitude for her position and her chance to mentor young artists as a teacher. “Art is like a language,” she said. “It can take time to learn, and that’s okay.”



I watched Euphoria. I started Mock Trial State Competitions and helped with the Modesto Marathon. - Emma Tran

Our bunnies had babies so many babies...
-Diego Duran

What did you do over spring break?

By Gieselle Martinez

I went on a 2 day trip to visit some colleges. One of them I had never heard of before. I also went to visit my brother @ CSUEB. I finally ran with the Modesto Marathon- Giselle Alba

Over spring break I went to Las Vegas for soccer and spent tons of time with friends.
-Kacey Rodriguez

I went to track on Tuesday and Thursday for throwing then I spent the rest of my week making key chains for BSU for Multicultural week- Angelica Creech

I played pickleball several times. My daughters and I went to Oregon to visit my parents. It was a nice visit. The family met up with our friends at Alpine Climbing adventure fitness --It was amazing. We went hiking at Big trees with the hiking group. We did yardwork and caught up at home.
- Mrs. Coufal

I was moving houses, packing and unpacking, for the most part. I also went prom dress shopping as well - Kendra Jacobs

I attended track practice for distance runners that whole week from 2:30-4:30 . On Tuesday, I went with friends to go watch the new Batman movie and eat grub afterwards. On Thursday, my family and I went to the Sacramento Zoo. I also helped with the Modesto Marathon on Sunday for CAS- Ariel Albanez

I did some volunteer work for a few days and then me and my friend went to SF. I did alot of homework too.
- Agnes Biju

Over spring break I hung out with friends and family
- Audrie Peraza