



THE TALON



By: Mike Hazelwood

A PORTRAIT OF OUR ARTISTS

This last Thursday, April 18th Mission Oak held its annual Art Festival. This event allowed artists from our own school to present their art to parents, peers and teachers. Focusing on local artists such as our own is important because it supports talented students by promoting them and giving them the opportunity to grow. Are you curious about what you might have missed or who these artists are? Read our interviews below!!



"Will you do us the honor of introducing yourself?"

Hi, my name is Ella Dodson, and I'm a Junior!

"How long have you been performing/singing?"

I've been singing basically my whole life, but the first time I really remember performing anything was in first grade.

"Tell us about your performance, how did you prepare?"

So I'm singing Once Upon a December from Anastasia! This was a bit of a spur-of-the-moment decision, but the little preparation I've done has consisted of listening to the song on REPEAT (don't be like me).

"What experience do you believe you gained in participating in MO's Art Festival?"

The opportunity to perform here is really unique, at least to me. Normally, when I'm performing, I'm playing someone else—but here I'll just be playing myself, it's an interesting change and I'm so excited to experience it!

"After your graduation, how will you continue to use your talents? (Dream career/college, hobby)"

I don't think I want to pursue theater or singing as a career any time soon, but I definitely plan to stay active in the community! Rather that means working with my future college's programs or just doing general community theater productions, I can't wait to see what the future holds for me! :)

"Will you do us the honor of introducing yourself?"

I'm Matthew Lechuga, a senior here at Mission Oak and I am in digital design 2!

"How long have you been painting/drawing/etc., and what made you interested in art?"

I've been drawing for as long as I can remember. I still have drawings from when I was in 1st grade. My dad was the one who got me into art. I used to make him have drawing competitions with me when I was younger.

"Tell us about this piece, what inspired you?"

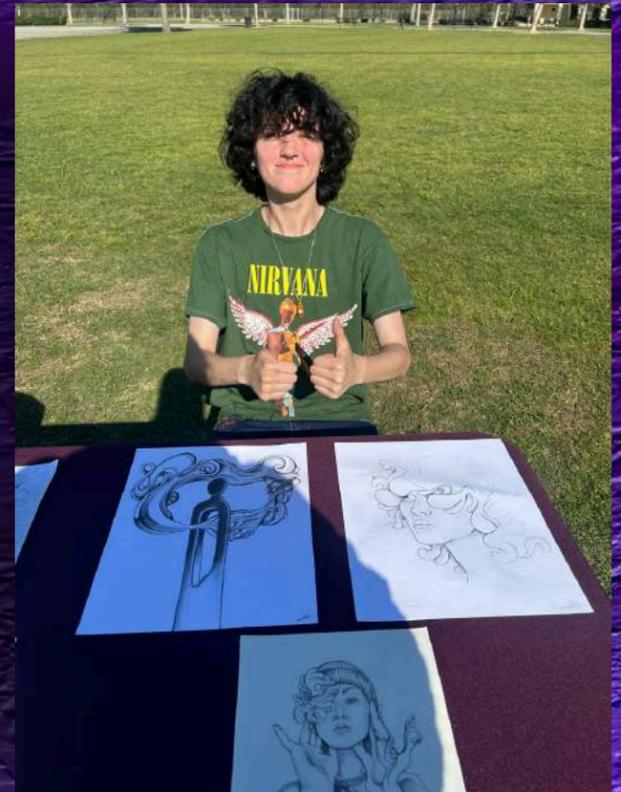
This piece was just a doodle. I didn't intend to turn it into a full drawing but these are some of my favorite drawings, ones where I don't go in without a plan and just draw whatever I want at the moment.

"What experience do you believe you gained in participating in MO's Art Festival?"

I've only been to the MO's Art Festival once so far but it's so cool to see all different kinds of art from people I go to school with and just be able to share creativity and love for art.

"After your graduation, how will you continue to use your talents? (Dream career/college, hobby)"

After graduation I will be continuing with my tattoo apprenticeship and hopefully start to learn animation.



"Will you do us the honor of introducing yourself?"

My name is Cats and I use them. I am a senior at Mission Oak High School, the vice president of Art Club, and I participate in multiple forms of art.

"How long have you been painting/drawing/etc., and what made you interested in art?"

I began my drawing journey around 7 years ago, and really got serious about it 4 years ago. I got into art because of the online community surrounding a book series I loved as a kid.

"Tell us about this piece, what inspired you?"

In the Art Club we have been working on painted pots, and I chose to paint an ocean scene on mine. It had started as a blank blue pot before being handed to me, but I loved the idea of an underwater view with coral plants.

"What experience do you believe you gained in participating in MO's Art Festival?"

Both last year and this year, I have practiced many organizational skills to help set up the event and make sure it runs smoothly. I also practiced leadership alongside the President to guide others in their art as well as for the event.

"After your graduation, how will you continue to use your talents? (Dream career/college, hobby)"

I'll probably continue art as a hobby rather than a profession, since I would like a job that can offer me more stability. Additionally, I find I draw better when I'm not being forced to do art, for money or otherwise.

Written By: Kaitlyn Woodruff



Hawk Highlights

Alexandra Gonzalez

Briseida Rodriguez
I want to shout out (Alexandra Gonzalez) because she's such a sweetheart, a very genuine person, very admirable and overall a wonderful person .

Aaliyah Gonzalez

Valeria Iniquez shouting out Aaliyah Gonzalez-
"Aaliyah is a hard working student and caught up with her work after being out for a long time"

Micheal Duarte

Mrs. Jones "I want to shout out Micheal Duarte; because he always gives me the biggest hugs when he walks in and has the biggest smile on his face when he walks into my class and he has a very high energy even when hes having a Crappy day you would never tell because he always has a smile and energy"

Gavin Baeza

Jacob Manuel - I want to shout out (Gavin Baeza) because he's my day 1. We've been drumming together since middle school.

Leslie Gutierrez

"Leslie Gutierrez because she brings energy to the class and she always does her work and has a positive attitude."
-Nadler

Ms. Cervantes

Dalia Valdivia - "Ms. Cervantes because she actually makes class fun and actually makes me want to go to class"

Haylee Quintero

Jazlene Elizalde shouting out Haylee Quintero "I want to shout out Haylee because she is always working hard whenever I see her and she's always picking up trash on campus and I feel like more people should do what she is doing because she is truly a role model"

Zuleika Ramirez

Abigail ceja - I want to shout out (Zuleika Ramirez) because she's been my bestie since sophomore year and has been here for me when I needed her.



The Talon

REMEMBERING MR. HAZELWOOD

BY: JOURNALISM CLASS OF 2024



Mission Oak staff and alumni are wrapping up their 2023-2024 school year. Many of us have had our ups and downs, but made the best of it to say the least.

Mr. Hazelwood, who with all the love for writing and photography, made Journalism an elective instead of a club, made a huge impact on many lives. This helped create a bond for many, bringing us together for activities such as 'Kids Day' in which the class got together to pass out newspapers. In The Talon, students found a way to channel their creativity and create a family-like environment.

Mr. Hazelwood was not only a great journalism teacher, but he also was a great English, Speech and ELD teacher. He treated every student with care, no matter their background or standing. He never failed to put a smile on someone's face. He never failed to greet students at the door with a rich and vibrant attitude. Whether or not you had known him for a few weeks or even years, everyone that had the privilege of knowing him could say that he was a wholesome person and was always there for whoever.

He was always encouraging students to keep going and always made them realize that they were loved and cared for.

It has definitely been such a hard and stressful year, having to deal with life academically. Hazelwood's absence was a big part in how our year went. The pain is still ever-present, but we are left with the fond and beautiful memories that live within the warmest part of our hearts. This school year was an ode to him and his impact all of these years. Until next time, Mikey.



ISABELLA ZEPEDA FERNANDEZ

Isabella Zepeda Fernandez is a senior this year at Mission Oak who is ready to say her final farewell to the campus she has made plenty of memories in.

She has been involved in many programs and athletics at school, but she found peace and comfort in basketball the most.

Her favorite memories in basketball were spending time with the team and traveling for overnight tournaments which were located in various places including the beach.

Zepeda recounts her finest moment in high school as, “getting to my 1,000 points; I didn't think I would actually get to it because of freshman year and only having 3 years to complete this. I remember talking to my coach and staring at the paper on his wall of all the highest scores and telling him that one day I want to be at the top of the list. And he would tell me ‘Well girl we'll see how that goes,’” Zepeda says.

She also reveals how sad it is knowing how quickly her high school years have gone by, without even realizing it. Leaving behind her team, coaches, and the program is something that will be very difficult for her.

After high school Isabella plans on continuing to play basketball as she has got many coaches reaching out to her. She wants to continue her learning experience at college and eventually become a nurse. Her reason for being a nurse comes from watching the shows Grey's Anatomy and The Good Doctor. Her inspiration from Mission Oak comes from her coaches Dave Caetano and Joel Muller. Zepeda emphasizes that “they pushed me to become a better player and person in general. They are an example for me to look up too. Hearing a different perspective and the way they see my potential impacted me in a good way.”

At home her mom is her inspiration. She explains how her mom impacts her and shares that, “She's very hard working and I admire the way she manages her work life with her family life. She's able to take care of me and my three brothers regardless of the amount of work she has. I'm thankful for her everyday, she is my number one supporter.”

When thinking about her high school years coming to an end she expresses her love for her basketball team. Zepeda states that, “They have been with me since my freshman year and we became really close. They have supported me through all of my basketball accomplishments, and we have become very good friends.”

Although she will miss Mission Oak and basketball, she looks forward to the next chapter of her life and being able to support herself financially and live on her own.



MILO MENDOZA

Milo Mendoza, who is a jack of all trades, here at Mission Oak, is appreciative of high school career but is ready to pursue a fresh start.

Coming into high school, Milo was very enthusiastic and looking forward to all that Mission Oak had to offer. Hearing stories from his father, Mr. Mendoza, about how high school is a sum of so many memories and opportunities.

Milo couldn't wait. However, Covid-19 stole the spotlight freshman year, sending the nation into a pandemic and giving Milo a freshman year that was nowhere near what he'd expected.



Sports is something that Milo truly values, and yet another aspect of high school he was looking forward to. Milo shared with us that at the beginning of freshman year he was unable to pursue this passion on the water playing field due to this epidemic.

Despite this small obstacle Milo did not look at this as a setback, rather he used it as motivation to push himself every season afterwards. This led him towards many accomplishments within his high school career.

Milo speaks of his accomplishments as he has three school records, the best being scoring the most points. He states that gaining this title, "was the pinnacle of my time playing water polo...it was the moment I knew that I evolved to a more aggressive player."

As high school reaches its end, we all have that pondering question; what's next? For Milo that is attending a 4 year University to study. He looks forward to this new beginning with eagerness stating, "I'm just excited to start a new chapter of my life."

Looking back, Mission Oak played a big factor in who Milo has become and the achievements he's reached. Throughout his years in highschool Milo has grown to become a more sociable, outgoing, and confident individual, with the help ASB which Milo was largely involved in as well as the many other things that are now to be left behind for the next generations' success.

Written By: Allie Sandoval

SURVIVAL GUIDE

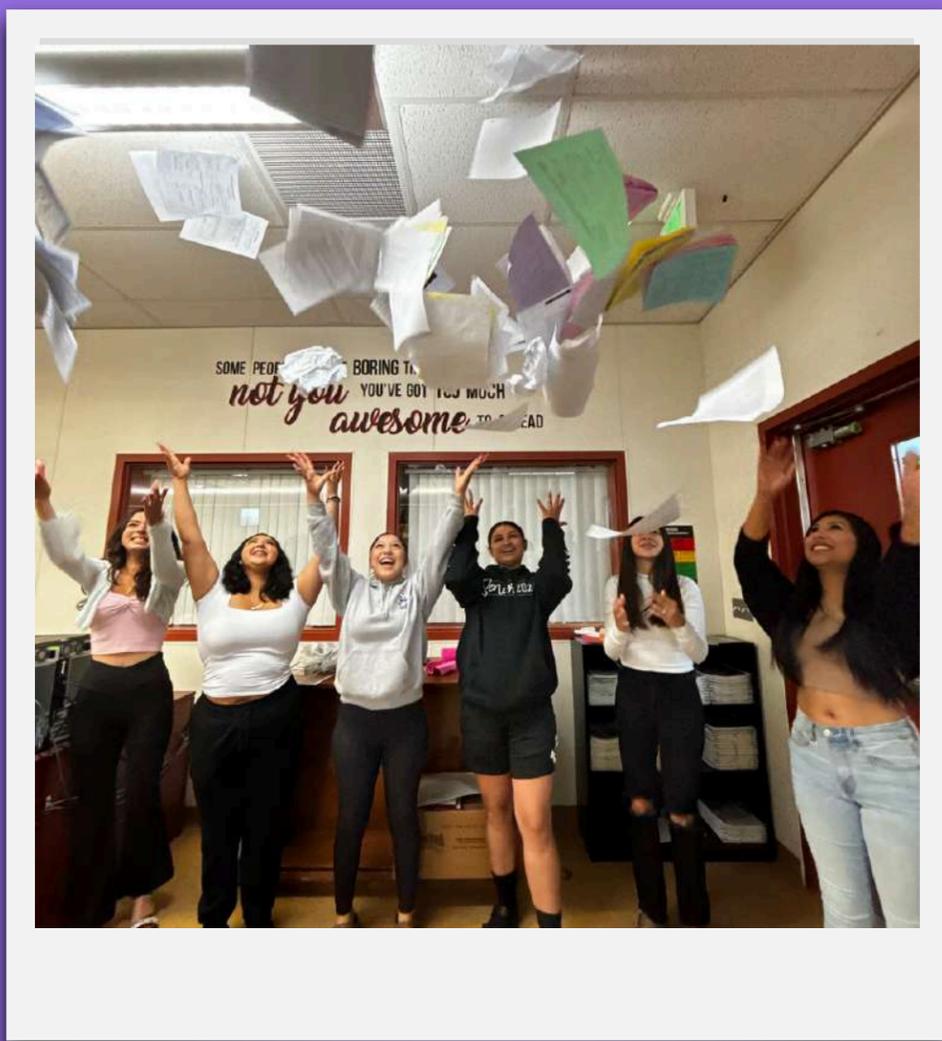
SPRING SEMESTER

The spring semester has taken its course and it isn't looking very stress-free. The idea of finals, grades, big decisions to be made, and the end of the school year approaching as summer rolls in, already haunts us. So for a moment let's forget our responsibilities, like we do on those Saturday evenings, while we provide you a few tips to make sure you make it to the sunnier days.

First up: *procrastination*.

As the cold weather consumes us there is nothing more we crave than cuddling up, binging too many shows, eating too many snacks, and completely forgetting about our textbooks.

I know we've heard this so many times from our parents or our teachers, yet we never seem to listen. However, we really need to quit putting it off. So stop saying 'one more tiktok, just another episode, I'll figure it out this weekend,' because you already know you most definitely aren't.



Now that we have cleared that up.

Next up: grades

Ah yes. What epitomizes us as individuals and students. What will live on with us for the rest of our lives. In 50 years, we will be staring at our transcripts wondering 'what were you thinking?!'

The point is, grades are important now, but they don't make you you. Try your best, stop allowing late assignments, and wish for the best.

Finally: presence

Now that the year has stretched out this far, it is easy to lose motivation to show presence within your classes or even show up in general. I know showing up to your first class, half asleep, still thinking of your warm bed, just doesn't seem fair. However, your attention and your actual presence is a key factor to your success within school.

Basically, stop procrastinating, limit your stress, upkeep your grades, and show up.

Now that's how you survive the rest of your spring semester!

MISSION OAK'S NEWEST TEACHERS



Ms. McConville

Welcoming two new teachers to our school community this year has been an exciting journey filled with anticipation and enthusiasm. Among these esteemed additions is Ms. McConville, who has embraced the role of teaching Freshman Studies with liveliness and dedication. Starting the new year, we welcomed another exceptional addition to our faculty, Mr. Rodriguez, a dynamic science teacher.



Mr. Rodriguez's

Despite this being her inaugural year as an official teacher, Ms. McConville arrives armed with a wealth of experience cultivated during her tenure as a teacher's aide at Union. Her commitment to forging meaningful connections with her students is palpable, as she seeks to establish a classroom environment grounded in trust and rapport.

"I like to make things a lot more fun, engaging and interactive"

By: Mireya

With a teaching philosophy centered on engaging curriculum design and student-centered learning, Ms. McConville's approach is characterized by empathy, accessibility, and innovation. She has garnered praise for her ability to simplify complex topics and make learning enjoyable, setting the stage for a promising journey ahead. Ms. McConville's dedication to her students shines through as she eagerly anticipates the opportunity to build strong relationships within the classroom.

Ms. McConville is committed to ensuring that her students not only excel academically, but also develop essential life skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

Hailing from Clovis, Mr. Rodriguez brings with him a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience gained over his three years of teaching. His passion for education is evident, as he endeavors to make meaningful connections with his students while presenting material in an easily digestible manner.

Mr. Rodriguez's enthusiasm for his new role is evident as he immerses himself in the vibrant atmosphere of our school community. His teaching philosophy, grounded in accessibility and hands-on learning experiences, resonates deeply with our educational ethos.

"Make connections. I think making connections is the first part, and making the information easy to digest and getting students working with materials."

As we look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly have on our students, we extend a warm welcome to Mr. Rodriguez and express our excitement for the journey ahead as he becomes an integral part of our school community. She believes in the importance of connecting with her students and tailoring her approach to meet their needs.

As he settles into his new environment, Mr. Rodriguez is excited to share his expertise and passion for science with his students, inspiring them to explore the wonders of the natural world. With a focus on fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment, enrich our school community and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly have on our student's academic journey.