3-7
Congratulations!
Recognition from officials.

24
Where they will go
College map.

38
The History of Samohi
Since 1891.

SPECIAL EDITION
06.10.23 - 06.11.23

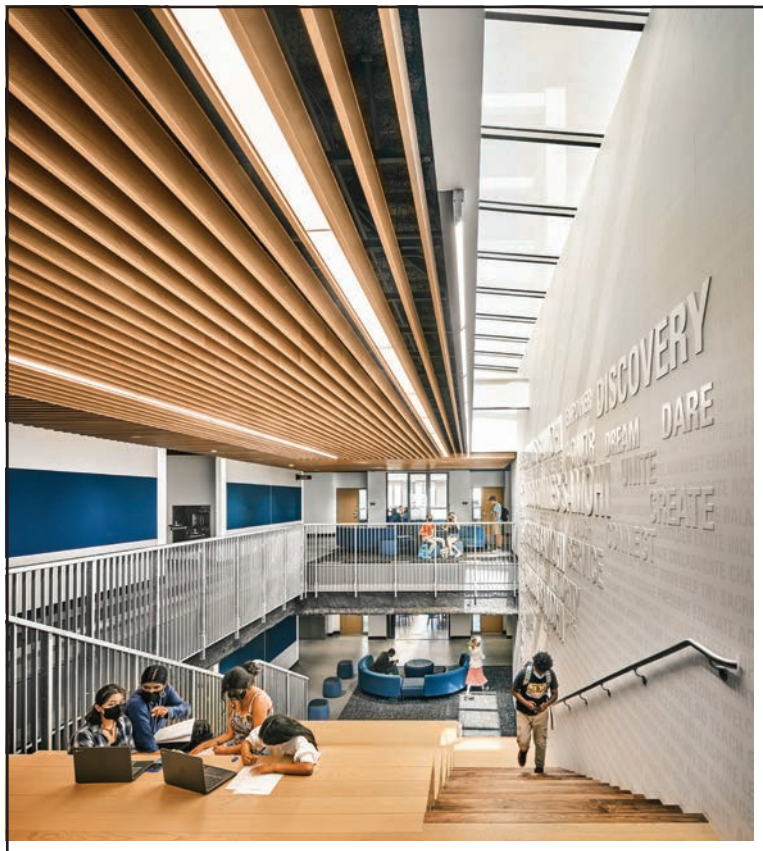
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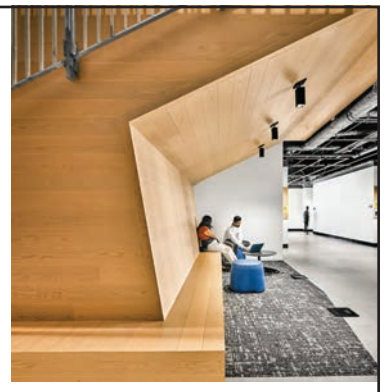
Congratulations, Class of 2023

A special edition of SMDP recognizing the 169th class to graduate from Samohi

Samohi's class of 2023 may have had their introduction to high school disrupted by a global pandemic, but the graduating class persisted through some unprecedented times to emerge triumphant, dedicated and ready to leverage their unique experience to change the world.











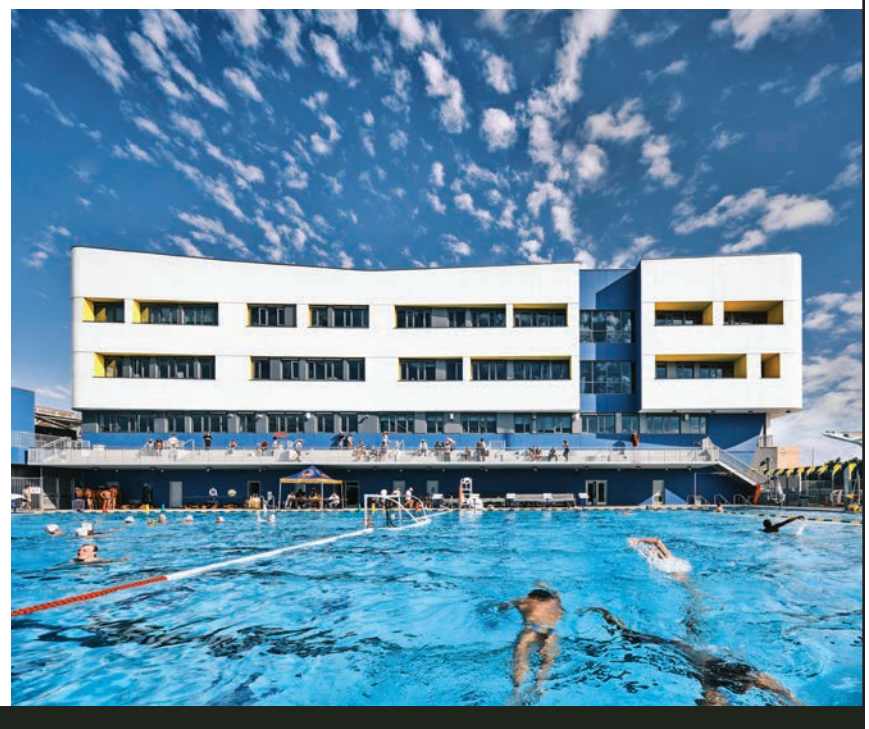












CONGRATULATIONS
SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023!

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION: A MESSAGE TO SAMOHI, MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL, OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL, **CLASS OF 2023**

DEAR SMMUSD CLASS OF 2023,

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

You have accepted your diploma and have crossed the threshold from high school to adulthood after many years of hard work and determination. It's an amazing accomplishment and one for which you should feel deep pride. Many of you juggled extracurricular activities, family obligations, volunteer work and part-time jobs, while completing your studies. You faced unprecedented challenges with grace, strength and resilience. You persevered and continued to achieve your goals.

Our seniors' achievements are worthy of praise. Many have received numerous awards for excellence in academics, music and arts, athletics, extracurricular activities and community service. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships have been awarded to our seniors from some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in California, across the country and abroad. Everything you have achieved both inside and outside the classroom is a result of your hard work, dedication, perseverance, and commitment to success.

Graduating from high school is a milestone because it happens only once in life. It is a time for our seniors to be proud of all that they have accomplished to reach the graduation stage. It also is a time to be thankful for the family members, teachers, mentors, classmates, friends, and everyone else who's had a meaningful role in shaping you into the person you are today.

As your interim superintendent and school board, we are incredibly proud of you. We look forward to hearing stories about your future endeavors and successes. Whether you are going on to Santa Monica College, a four-year university, into a certificate program or other postsecondary opportunity, or military, we know the Class of 2023 will make a difference in the world. We need you to make that difference for the good of all.

Work hard always, keep your sights on what you want to do in life, and always dream big. Keep reaching for the stars and know that your time at SMMUSD has prepared you for a bright future.

We wish you all the best in health and success in your future. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Mark O. Kelly, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

Board of Education: Maria Leon-Vazquez, President; Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Vice President; Laurie Lieberman, Jon Kean, Jen Smith, Stacy Rouse and Alicia Mignano.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!! YOU DID IT!

I know it took perseverance and the help of family, friends and community to succeed. It's been an unexpected four years. You've learned to navigate complex and scary challenges — right alongside us adults. We are truly learning together.

Your voice is vital and important! Best wishes in your next chapter of life — whether that's school, work, service, volunteering, helping family, travel, sports — whatever it is for you, may you continue to find community, be a curious learner, and help our world continue to adapt to our new realities.

With much love and hope,

Stacy Rouse

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!

You're on a great journey. Be adventurous, be kind and make an impact. We are so proud of you!

Jen Smith

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations on having completed your K-12 journey under sometimes not the best of circumstances. But you stayed the course, and you crossed the finish line!

Your life really begins now. The decisions you have made up to this point have been with the help of your parents. As you move to the next chapter of your life, you are an adult and can make decisions that matter to you. If you have learned anything at SMMUSD is that you always were loved and supported by your family but also the SMMUSD family. Make your choices wisely while reflecting on the great lessons learned and advice you received. You are never alone and will always have your SMMUSD family to call and help you.

I look forward to your leadership and creating a FUN and HAPPY tomorrow.

Best of luck to ALL!

Maria Leon-Vazquez

DEAR GRADUATES

Just a few bits of advice for you, because I'm sure no one else has tried to give you advice lately:

1) Celebrate all successes...don't worry if they're big or small. Celebrate!

2) Take risks. Big ones. Don't worry that you won't get into college or get a job. You already did! So don't be scared to swing big. And if you fall down, get back up and reset.

3) Come home every now and again. You are part of a family, both by birth, by school, and by community. We are always here for you, so pop in every now and again. Let us know what you're up to.

Now go out there and just be the best you that you can be.

Congrats to the class of 2023!

Jon Kean

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 GRADUATES!

While each of you have followed your own path and will continue to do so, your determination, perseverance and positive attitude have helped you reach this big milestone.

We are so proud of all of you! Look for meaning in what you do, be true to yourselves and be kind to others.

The sky's the limit and we know there are great things ahead for each of you!

I wish you all the best in your journey!

Laurie Lieberman

MY MESSAGE TO GRADUATES

The past few years have been very challenging ones. Through it all, our SMMUSD students have persevered with grace. This is a testament to the strength and resilience of our students, and something you should all be very proud of. Whatever path you choose after high school, I hope you will take that strength with you. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023! Keep shining bright!

Alicia Mignano

Los últimos años han sido muy desafiantes. A través de todo, nuestros estudiantes de SMMUSD han perseverado con gracia. Este es un testimonio de la fuerza y la resiliencia de nuestros estudiantes, y algo de lo que todos deberían estar muy orgullosos. Sea cual sea el camino que elijas después de la escuela secundaria, espero que lleves esa fuerza contigo. ¡Felicitaciones a la clase de graduados del 2023! ¡Siguan brillando!

Alicia Mignano

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates, you have made our community so proud. Know that the entire community celebrates with you and we wish you the very best in the future.

Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Felicidades, Class of 2023! Congratulations! As a proud product of our school district (Samohi Class of 1990) it inspires me to see your resilience. It inspires me to hear your voices calling for justice, equal opportunity and a better world! You all have the power to shape our collective future in ways you can't even imagine. As I sit in the Greek Theatre witnessing your graduation ceremony, I think back to my memories of walking the same stage. I never could imagine back then serving on our School Board or City Council or opening a youth center — much less being a father of two boys, one already an incoming junior at Samohi. There is no way to predict your future, but know that with education you expand your ability to make a positive difference in our world. For this reason, we celebrate your graduation because it represents progress for you, your family, our community and our country. Salute to you, Class of 2023!

OSCAR DE LA TORRE
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

Congratulations on this great accomplishment! You have persevered despite great challenges and now you can look forward to even greater opportunities. You are the future, so make your voice heard! Whatever lies ahead for you, I hope you find fulfillment and joy.

GLEAM DAVIS
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Your class persevered through a time of unforeseen obstacles to reach this milestone accomplishment. Looking ahead to your future, know that your ability to overcome these tumultuous years has prepared you for a bright future. Your families, friends and community are proud of all that you have and will accomplish! As Samohi alumni, I know you each will use your education to go into the world and make it brighter in your own unique ways. I look forward to seeing you bring our Santa Monica values of inclusion and innovation to your next chapter. The city looks forward to following your future adventures and accomplishments!

CAROLINE TOROSIS
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! You did it and I hope you all are very proud of yourself and the work you have put in to get here. Your generation inspires me – compassionate, interconnected, engaged and aware – I could not be more excited to see what your futures hold. All the best to every one of you as you embark on this next chapter of your life.

DAVID WHITE
Santa Monica City Manager

If I were to choose to quote to share with Santa Monica's Class of 2023, it is to go into the world and do what you love! There is no doubt that many in your class 10 years from now will be lawyers, engineers, medical students, programmers, teachers and working in professions that don't even exist yet and, no doubt, you will be great at those jobs. But that is not "who" you will be. "You" will be known for being Jason, Maria, Brian, Diego, and that is who and what you will be and that is enough.

CHRISTINE PARRA
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

As you become Santa Monica High School Alumni, I sincerely congratulate you on your milestone accomplishment of walking into adulthood through this most exciting of times. You have repeated the experience of Samohi graduates since 1891 as you step forward into your personal future. You have transcended the tragedy of a worldwide pandemic through hope and the promise of a brighter tomorrow as you burst through the virtual Memorial Greek Theatre into the world that eagerly awaits you.
All of you will change our world just as fabled Samohi graduates have before you. I, too, am a Samohi graduate — the Class of 1971, President of the Samohi Alumni Association, and a City Councilmember. We are incredibly proud of our fellow alumni, including two astronauts, a Nobel Prize winner, award-winning actors, prominent politicians, heralded athletes, beloved local businesspeople, service people, police and fire personnel, plumbers, electricians, and pioneers of the advancements that will come in your century. Each Viking has contributed to making our world brighter. It's your turn. Look fondly upon your years at Samohi as you go forth from the "Queen of the setting sun." Go Vikings!

PHIL BROCK
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

Congratulations Class of 2023! As a SAMO Alum, I am proud to watch you cross the stage and go off into your bright future ahead! I hope each of you know that our community is behind you every step of the way. My wish for you is that you explore the world, dream big and find your passion. Whether you stay in Santa Monica or travel outside our city lines, may you take with you all the love your community has for you! Be bold, be courageous and be your best!

LANA NEGRETE
City of Santa Monica Councilmember

Congratulations Vikings class of 2023 on your important achievement! I remember my graduation from Samohi very clearly; this is an important milestone in your life that you will think back upon throughout your life. It's a big milestone and your lives are about to change in all sorts of ways predictable and unpredictable. Take a moment over the next few days to reflect and have some pride in your accomplishments. Despite the challenges of growing up during a historically challenging time, you have overcome all sorts of obstacles to make it to where you are today. Success in life is not about avoiding difficulties, it is about figuring out how to face, navigate, and supersede them. From here, you will each carry on in your own new direction, and I wish each of you the best of luck on your many paths! Do not forget the teachers, mentors, counselors, family and friends who have helped bring you to this day. I know you have already made them proud and I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish going forward! Our larger Samohi community loves you and we are proud of you. Go make your mark on the world!

Ben Allen
State Senator



Dear Graduates, Congratulations! As the Assemblymember representing your district, it is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you on your graduation from Santa Monica High School. This is a momentous occasion that marks the culmination of a journey that has required you to overcome challenges and demonstrate strength and resilience and a commitment to your future. I also would like to thank your parents and guardians, your teachers, your school staff, and members of the Santa Monica community who have made sacrifices and contributions to your success. When we succeed, we never do it alone. I encourage you to take a moment to express your gratitude to these individuals in your life who have played such a significant role in your journey. I recognize that your high school experience presented unique challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting impact of school closures during your high school years. I commend you for your persistence and tenacity in completing your high school education, and overcoming isolation and separation from your friends and colleagues. Thank you for the support that you gave each other, your teachers and other members of the community during those extraordinary times. Remember, there will be challenges ahead of you. But as long as you are true to your authentic selves, you come together with members of your community to achieve your goals and solve problems together, and you bring your best to the journey that awaits you, I have confidence that you can overcome obstacles and look forward to a bright future. Embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity, confidence and an open mind. Pursue your passions relentlessly and never be afraid to take risks, for it is in moments of uncertainty that we often find our strengths. Once again, congratulations to the Santa Monica High School Graduating Class of 2023! May your journey be filled with endless opportunities, remarkable achievements and happiness. I am excited to see the incredible contributions you will make to your families and our community.



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
Assemblymember, Fifty-First District

Assembly
California Legislature
RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

DEAR SAMOHI CLASS OF 2023

This is an exciting time for you and your family. I want to congratulate you on a job well done. You have endured so much during your high school career. As your former principal, I personally saw the impact of COVID-19 on our school community and your class. Your unwavering determination to make things as normal as possible, in an impossible situation, is proof that your class does things that will positively influence all involved.

I believe you are a resilient group, that has an ability to withstand the difficulties that are placed before you. It is important that you use what you have learned during your time of adversity, to build a strong vision for your life. When outlining who and what you will become, consider how you will positively impact those around you. Think of ways in which you can support a society that is inclusive of others and their perspectives.

As you embark on this journey called life, stay true to yourself, your beliefs, and demonstrate empathy to those around you. As you are well aware, we are given only one life and it is important to live it to the fullest with our eyes wide open. Jump into it with an open mind and an open heart and the return will certainly be fulfilling.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your principal for three years. Please know that I will be your biggest cheerleader and that I believe in your potential to change the world in a way that others have yet to see. Take care and until next time, GO VIKINGS!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Antonio M. Shelton

SMMUSD Superintendent





It's my pleasure to congratulate the Class of 2023 at Santa Monica High School and all those who guided you along the way to this important milestone. Through hard work and perseverance, you have developed the tools, skills, and knowledge to make your mark on the world. Know that you have made your families and communities proud. We wish you the best and look forward to all that you'll accomplish in the years ahead.

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California



CONGRATULATIONS
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!
CLASS OF 2023

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PBL: THE FUTURE OF LEARNING?

Samohi has been graduating students for more than a century, but every year brings something new to the tradition and the class of 2023 includes the first cadre of Samohi Project Based Learning students.

While PBL students are part of Samohi and will graduate with the entire class, their instruction differs from a traditional Samohi education in both substance and location.

According to the website, it's a student-driven learning experience that focuses on preparing students for their future careers by allowing them to learn through their interests and build relationships with community experts.

A fifth of a PBL student's week (usually every Wednesday) is spent exploring their interests through individual projects which involve internships, interviews, and shadow days. The idea is that students are learning what they're passionate about.

In addition to their working internships, the students had to complete a senior thesis that included professional contacts through internships / mentoring and in a five minute, TED-style talk. The project also includes a research paper and the seniors undertaking their thesis projects also mentored freshman students.

As PBL's co-administrator Nicole Nicodemus put it, "Students learn through experiences."

The differences between PBL and a traditional education extend into all elements of student's education. Teachers use projects as a method of teaching in every class. Core subjects are taught through projects such as "We Are America", where ninth grade English students write nonfiction stories about their identities as Americans, which are then published in a collection by the end of the year.

PBL is a program within the larger Samohi; however, it's not located on the same campus. In its first three years of existence, PBL was located on the Michelle and Barack Obama Center for Inquiry and Exploration; most call it the Obama Center. But just in the last year, PBL was relocated to Santa Monica College's campus.

Nevertheless, PBL students do spend time on the Samohi campus. PBL students spend two periods per day there and take Samohi classes. While PBL students take their core subjects at PBL, Samohi electives and extracurriculars are available to them. Many are part of Samohi clubs and athletics.

"You get the same content that you would at a traditional school, except you're going to have a different experience of learning," says Nicodemus. "The PBL philosophy is that students learn better by doing. Teachers at PBL want to know if students can demonstrate their learning in a more authentic way than just taking tests."

The experience provides students with a radically different take on high school.

"I've been going out… to basically fly drones," said Owen Purcell, a current senior at PBL and part of the inaugural class. He spends his Wednesdays meeting with photographers, filmmakers and SWAT teams — anyone who uses drones.

"I trained with Oceanside SWAT Department. I've done work with documentary filmmakers like John Rutland… I worked with National Geographic and Disney+ to shoot a TV show called 'The Biggest Little Farm'," Purcell said.

Purcell is only 18 and is already procuring jobs where he gets credit and paid for the skills he has learned and developed because he is able to integrate them into his education.

PBL's other co-administrator Jessica Rishe said Purcell's experience isn't unique as all students in the program gain real-world experience.

"The kinds of learning through interest in internships? Gosh, it ranges from working with the pilots and accumulating hours towards the pilot's license to being in a Michelin star restaurant and being like a sous chef and learning how to be a chef. There's a student who was at Lions Gate Entertainment, learning about script coverage and film development. A student is working side by side with an occupational therapist, because that's her interest. There is someone who's working with law enforcement, who has been interested in ultimately being with the police department," she said.

While the students in the program have met with great success (43% of PBL students were recognized at Samohi's awards night and four of the 100 prestigious Centennial Medallions went to PBL students), the program's launch was a long, challenging process.

It took almost 20 years to get PBL off the ground and when it finally launched in 2019, it ran headfirst into the Covid-education era.

"The world shut down…" said Nicodemus. "It was like, 'How do you do an experiential hands-on program in the real world when we're not allowed to even interact with one another?' I mean, it really delayed development of the program."

The inability to go out into the world and interact with people heavily affected PBL students' ability to get real-world experience. Like all students, they adapted to the virtual learning environment and many professionals were willing to conduct online learning workshops during that time.

Rishe said they exemplified a kind of pioneering spirit.

"They chose to embark on a unique educational journey and they immersed themselves in an experiential learning environment," she said. "They launched a new pathway for the district. So they're innovators and we're thrilled to call them pioneering. They've shown themselves to be our mission statement which was to nurture, kind hearted, autonomous scholars, scholarly advocates, as well as creative and persistent problem solvers. And like they've lived up to that. So I think that's notable

She said the students came from all kinds of backgrounds but bonded in the new program.

"What's so wonderful about the demographics is that in terms of language, race, prior academic performance, before high school, in terms of what they're interested in doing in college or career, there are no commonalities," she said. "They're really diverse. And it's beautiful to see a cohort, support each other, learn from each other and grow with so many differences."







PBL

OLYMPIC STUDENTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS



Olympic High School and the Off Campus Learning Center recognized the hard work of 17 students who completed the program this year.

Graduates:



Gunner Campbell
Fatima Encino
Mahatru Flores
Victoria Fox
Juliet Harrington
Dershaun Jones
Jackie Pena
Kevin Ramirez
Anthony Rosales
Viviana Sandoval
Madisyn Schweers
Jimmy Solorzano Villasenor
Marcel Tambago
Joshua Taylor
Destiny Warren
Hannah White-Clayton
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Congratulations to the Class of 2023

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CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2023!

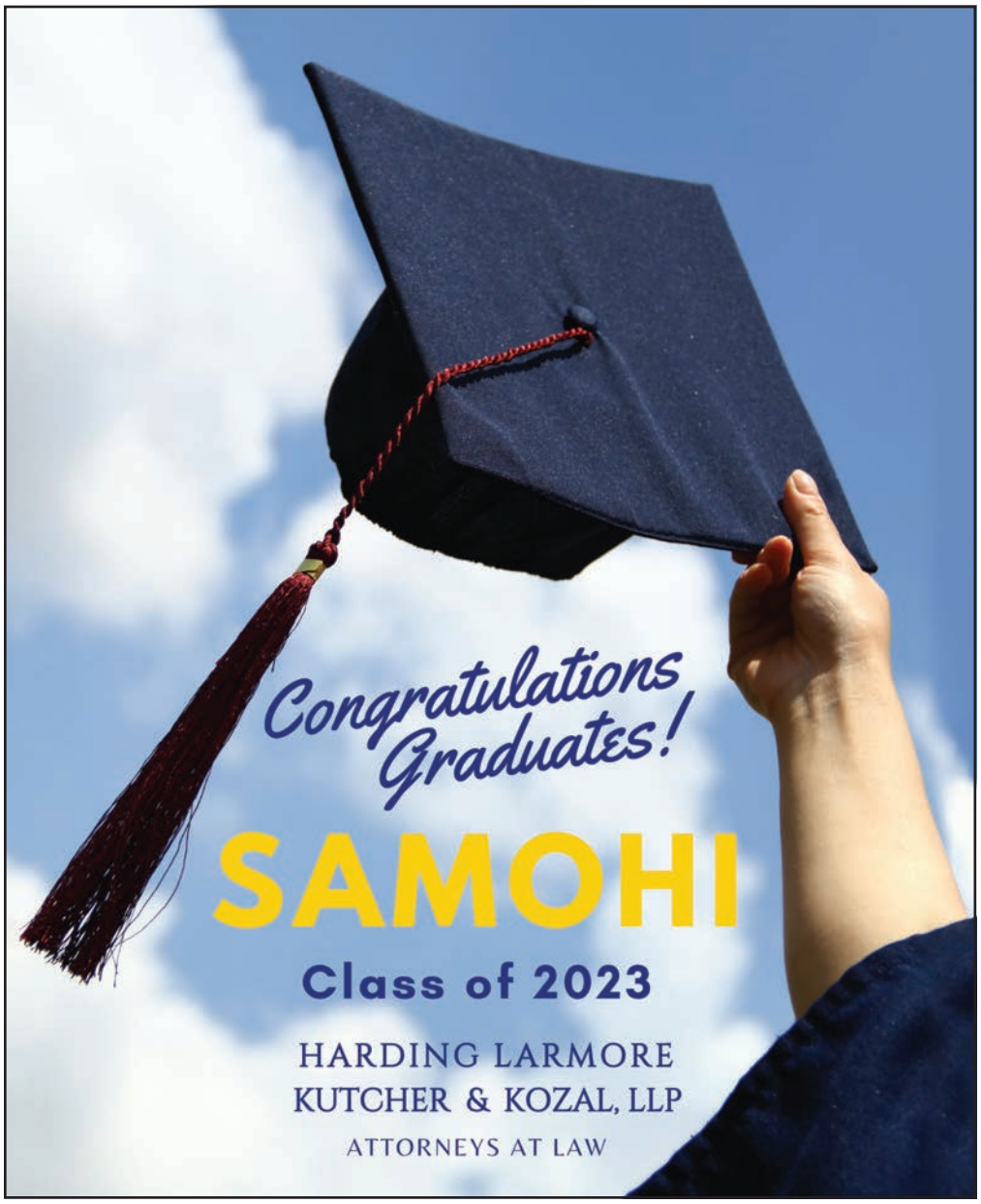
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SAMOHI 2023







SAMOHI SURF TEAM SENIORS MAKE WAVES WITH STELLAR PERFORMANCE, SECURE 3RD PLACE TIE IN SOUTH BAY SCHOLASTIC SURFING ASSOCIATION







In an exhilarating culmination of a remarkable season, the Samohi Surf Team seniors have left an indelible mark on the regional surfing community. The team's outstanding performance throughout the year propelled them to an impressive tie for 3rd place in the fiercely competitive South Bay Scholastic Surfing Association (SBSSA). The SBSSA comprises schools from San Pedro to Santa Monica.

What sets this senior team apart is not only their exceptional skill but also their size. With a roster of seven talented individuals, they are officially the largest team in the history of the Samohi surf team. Together, they have carved a path of success and camaraderie, displaying the true essence of team spirit, following a banner 2022 season.

Leading the charge as co-captains are Jacques Barnett and Miles Carlson, who have played an instrumental role in motivating and guiding their fellow teammates throughout the season. Their dedication and leadership have been integral to the team's success. "These boys really held their own, are outstanding surfers and natural leaders. I'm really proud of them" said Marion Clark, who has been coaching for over 24 years and comes from a long line of strong female surf pioneers.

The Samohi Surf team's female athletes trained especially hard to become a dominant factor, competing in both male and female competitions...and winning.

Genevieve Nevius has emerged as a force to be reckoned with, earning the coveted SBSSA titles of Rookie of the Year as a freshman and the prestigious Waterwoman of the Year as a senior, a first for Samohi athletes.

"It was a nice token to acknowledge all of the hard work, training and knowledge I have committed to surfing", said Nevius. Genevieve's natural talent, combined with her fearlessness and relentless work ethic, has propelled her to the forefront of female competitive surfing. Her achievements serve as an inspiration to aspiring surfers, especially young women looking to make their mark in the sport.

Sofia White's dedication and perseverance have been a driving force behind the team's success. She has contributed to the team's impressive standing in both shortboard and longboard disciplines by honing her skills and pushing herself to the limit. White's performance and dedication serves as a standout inspiration to the younger girls on





the team, always scoring well in competitions despite ever-changing conditions.

Among the standout performers is Azi Bendersky, whose unwavering determination and precision in the waves have impressed both teammates and opponents alike. Bendersky's consistency and aggressive technique have earned the admiration of the surfing community.

Oliver Victor's grace and fluidity in the water have caught the attention of seasoned surf enthusiasts. His ocean awareness and unique style have made him a standout performer and a respected competitor among his peers.

Griffin Zund's talent and versatility have made him an invaluable asset to the Samohi Surf Team. Zund's ability to adapt to varying wave conditions and deliver exceptional performances has solidified his position as a key member of the team.

Together, these seven seniors have showcased the true spirit of the Samohi Surf Team, embodying resilience, teamwork, and a passion for the sport. Their exceptional achievements and unwavering dedication have not only made their families and school proud but have also left an enduring legacy for future generations of surfers.

According to Clark, all of the seniors chose their colleges based on the availability of collegiate surf teams and proximity to surfing.

As the season comes to a close, the Samohi Surf Team seniors can look back with immense pride on their extraordinary journey. Their accomplishments serve as a testament to their hard work, talent, and the unyielding support of their coaches, families, and community.

“Marion’s unwavering commitment to us has created a safe space for us to just be ourselves. None of us are in the same friend groups in school, but our common connection to the water and surfing melts away all of the stuff that doesn’t matter, so we can just be ourselves” said Nevius of the surfing program.

Congratulations to the Samohi Surf Team seniors for their outstanding achievements and their memorable contributions to the world of scholastic surfing. We eagerly await their future endeavors and have no doubt that their passion for the sport will continue to inspire and make waves in the surfing world for years to come.

SENIORS ADVOCATE FOR ART



The graduating class of 2023 are the last to have lost a high school year to the pandemic and despite their delayed introduction to Samohi's physical campus, student artists have flourished over their abbreviated high school career.

Reflecting on the highlights of the arts program at Samohi, Ceramics teacher and chair of the visual arts department Laurie Ann Gutierrez said the revival of art shows and opening receptions were a real highlight of the school year.

Samohi's campus boasts an exhibit space that can be used to showcase a diverse range of artistic expressions. This year, the school was able to bring back the much-loved Dia de los Muertos show, as well as two photography exhibits. The district-wide art show was also a splendid display of talent, while the annual senior art show made a triumphant return after its hiatus since 2019. The senior art show not only served as a platform for graduating students to showcase their artistic abilities but also awarded scholarships, adding an extra dose of excitement and motivation.

The graduating class of 2023 has faced its fair share of challenges. The global pandemic disrupted their high school experience, robbing them of the cherished senior traditions. However, their determination to salvage a sense of normalcy has been commendable

"I feel like the class of 2023 was really determined to have 'a normal traditional senior year.' They had so many disruptions in not only the learning but also just kind of the traditions that come with being a senior so I really, I really liked that spark that a lot of the seniors brought with them, they have a lot of energy," she said.

Gutierrez said there was a lot of excitement around the senior art show this year because it was one of those culminating senior activities.

"And I think it really engaged our seniors and a lot of them, they sort of like had that moment of sharing their art with a committee and I think a lot of seniors are leaving knowing that they can be part of an exhibiting art community or at least go to art exhibits. I think they really enjoyed that."

Undoubtedly, the pandemic cast a shadow over the visual arts programs at Samohi. The hands-on nature of the art classes suffered immensely in the era of Zoom school and despite the efforts of creative teachers, such as sending art supply packages home, the experience was not the same. The absence of in-person interactions took a toll on the students' enthusiasm. Moreover, the vital role of visual and performing arts in fostering student engagement, higher attendance rates, and overall well-being became evident during these challenging times. As the transition back to in-person learning unfolded, engagement slowly rekindled, reminding everyone of the invaluable role that art plays in students' lives.

She said the return of in-person learning had it's own challenges as students would be forced to stay home for 10-days at a time if they tested positive. However, she said the students rebounded in a big way once they could remove masks and get back to the tactile enjoyment of art.

The graduating class of 2023, with their indomitable spirit, triumphed over adversity. They reclaimed the senior traditions they hold dear, bringing much-needed light to their high school journey. Gutierrez finds great pride in witnessing their resilience and the genuine care they show for one another. The graduating class's empathy and support for their peers create an environment that fosters creativity and growth.

"We have many wonderful visual arts offerings, there's something from for everyone," she said. "Digital, ceramics, painting, film, but while our programs are valued by the district as in they are supported, they are funded, I believe that the graduating class specifically has really advocated for our classes, and they've really demonstrated how important and how truly beneficial is for students to have opportunities to create."










She said the experience has shown allowed students to exercise different modalities that they will encounter in college and beyond. Moreover, the visual arts program at Samohi has witnessed a surge in student advocacy and activism. Students have advocated for art classes, ensuring that opportunities to create and appreciate art remain an integral part of their education.

As graduation day approaches, many of the seniors have made remarkable decisions to pursue the arts further. Some have gained admission to prestigious art colleges, planning to pursue studio majors. Others have changed their career paths, realizing the transformative power of art and desiring to integrate it into their future endeavors. The dedication and passion exhibited by these students reinforce the importance of fostering artistic expression and creativity in young minds.

"Overall, I'm incredibly proud of the work we do here at Samohi and the resilience and creativity of our students," she said. "The visual arts program continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication and support of the graduating class and the wider community. As we look towards the future, we hope to inspire future generations to embrace their artistic passions and recognize the transformative power of the arts in their lives."

CLASS OF 2023 FORGES NEW PATHS OUT OF THE PANDEMIC



It was the second semester of the class of 2023's freshman year when COVID-19 changed everything. The campus closed, students, teachers and staff had to find ways to continue learning from home and high school hallmarks like pep, rallies, football games and dances were called off.

When the students of this year's graduating class returned to the Samohi campus in 2021 things still weren't the same as they had been. Masks were required, events were scaled down and class schedules were adjusted to minimize contact.

As the pandemic loosened its grip on daily life, these students were able to have a relatively restriction-free senior year and participate in Samohi's lively and colorful graduation ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments – of which Principal Marae Cruce says there are many.

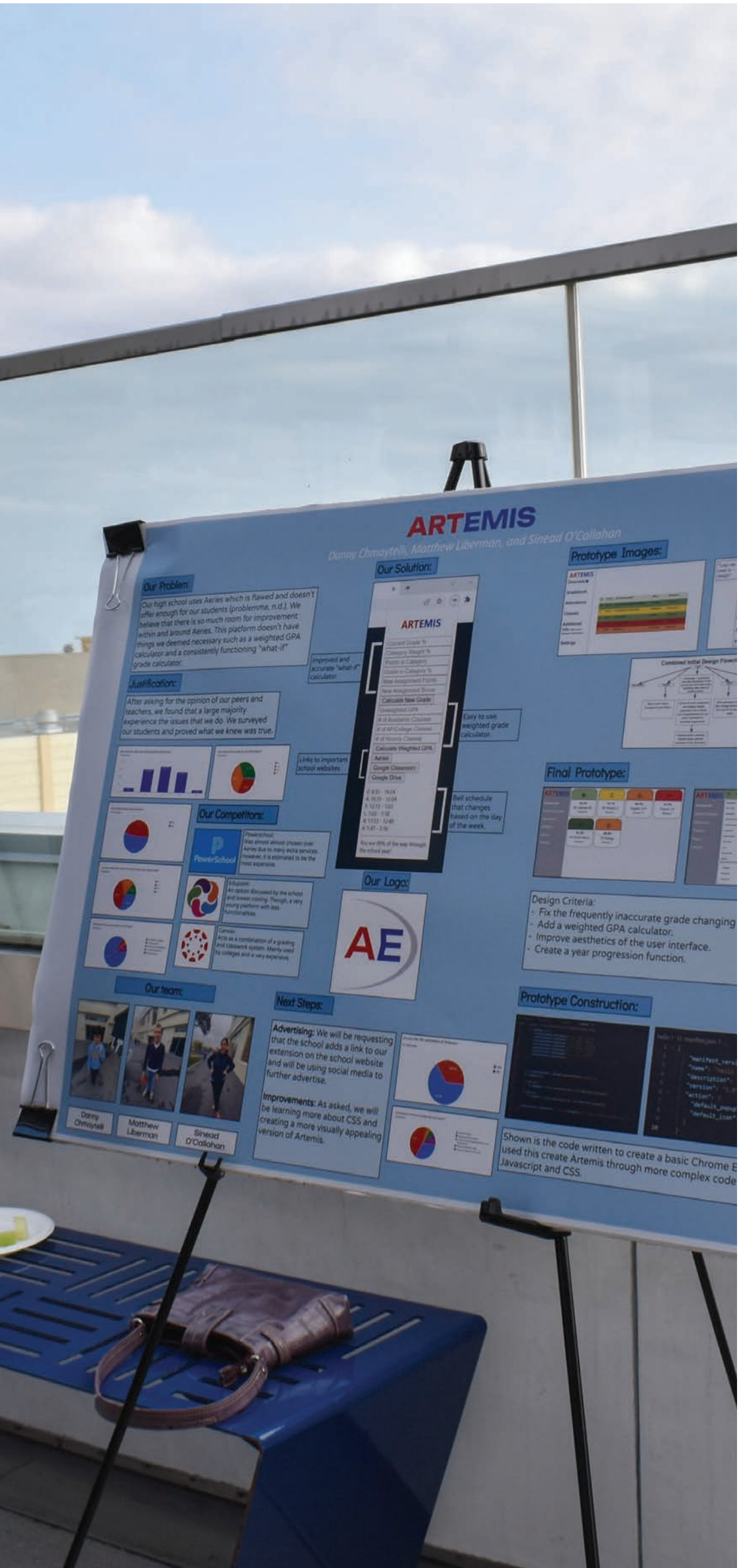
She noted that there are 55 valedictorian candidates this year, multiple National Merit Scholars and listed off several highly regarded schools that the graduates will be attending including Brown University, Harvard and UCLA. However, she said what she is most proud of this class for is the life skills they have developed and displayed over the last four years.

"The perseverance aspect of coming back in person and grappling with interactions, grappling with the content again, a different setting, a more traditional setting, learning the study habits, study techniques," she said. "I think, as a result, this class is very resourceful – they had to come back and figure it all out again."

In addition to COVID-related changes, the campus itself has seen significant transformations during the class of 2023's time at Samohi. The new award-winning, multipurpose Discovery Building, which features flexible and adaptable learning spaces, was opened in September 2021 and Cruce said it has enhanced the learning experience the school is able to provide.

"Being able to take the classroom outside of just the four walls, being able to flow into community spaces which allows for some smaller group conversations, collaboration between different teachers and different content, but also collaboration amongst the students," she said.

Cruce said Samohi also launched The Project Lead the Way Engineering Academy in the new space, the first of several planned specialized programs which will focus on specific disciplines and fields. The school district has ramped up efforts in recent years to provide opportunities like this for students and







integrate more hands-on project based learning (PBL) into curriculum.

She said that she thinks one of the strengths of a Samohi education is the diversity of the school's offerings.

"What I appreciate most about this campus and what I think Samohi has is because of its size, there's so many different things that we are allowed to offer," she said. "Every student can find something that they're interested in and they can find somebody to connect with and I think that's the power of our size."

While Cruce has worked at Samohi for over 15 years as a teacher and administrator, this will be her first graduation as the school's principal, which she said makes it a different and special experience.

"I'm not just focusing on their academics, I see more of the students, I've seen them sometimes not at their best, or I've been able to be there when they're breaking down or they need something – it's a different level of support and so it absolutely means something different because a different role is a different relationship."

She said she feels the class of 2023 is well-prepared both academically and personally to take their future thanks to their time at Samohi.

"I hope one of their key takeaways from their last four years is their versatility and their flexibility," she said. "I would tell them to embrace whatever life throws at them, stay positive and optimistic and take each new bump as a challenge, embrace that challenge and keep on going. They've already demonstrated their ability to do that, so keep adapting."

TAKING ON THE COURT, FIELD, PITCH OR POOL

As COVID 19 era restrictions came to an end, this year marked a triumphant return to a full schedule of in person-sports for Samohi athletes.

The girls varsity cross country team made it to the state meet, girls volleyball and soccer reached the CIFSS playoffs – as did girls and boys basketball – boys soccer played in the semifinals, the girls and boys lacrosse teams were names Ocean League Champions and members of the swim, track, wrestling and golf teams won awards and honors as well.

Athletic Director Coleen Vanderport said this year's seniors have played a major role in this success and that she has seen them emerge from the pandemic as strong leaders, not just on the field or court but in other arenas as well.

"They're the captains of their teams, they encourage their teammates, they run the fundraisers, they run practices in terms of like the warm ups and the pregame warm ups, but some of them have just taken on things outside of school to further their leadership, and that's always really impressive to hear about," she said.

Davenport said she finds this especially impressive in light of the turmoil of their time in high school.

"Their sophomore, junior and senior year has been like this roller coaster of up and down and they're finally kind of at the pinnacle, up to the top where things are kind of getting back to normal," she said. "But I do think there were challenges being an athlete during the pandemic and as the pandemic has kind of slowed down and gone away."

Beyond affecting their physical ability to practice their sports she said she saw the pandemic wear on students' mentally as well.

"I think it was also just mentally a challenge for them, not just physically because they were limited on how many kids you could have in a pod, you can only practice on so many days, you had to be outdoors, but I think mentally It was exhausting for them," she said. "I think that was just mentally challenging and exhausting for the kids to not











know, 'when are we going to play again? When is it just going to be back to what it was when I was a kid? I just want to go out and play my sport. I want to compete.'"

In her second year in the position, Davenport said she has enjoyed watching students grow over the last few years as they returned to campus and thinks that athletics has played a role in helping them develop into who they are.

"Athletics for me, and what I see it can do for athletes, is teach so many life skills that are going to be beneficial to them forever," she said. "It teaches responsibility, it teaches time management, it teaches how to prioritize, it teaches collaboration – we live in a world where that's not sometimes the focus but you have to collaborate and work together with people who you might not agree with on everything, but you're all working towards a common goal."

One of the most important lessons she thinks students can learn through sports is how to handle failure.

"In sports, 50% of the time, you're probably going to fail and we, our job as adults, is to let them have that failure and then come behind them and help them learn how to face that failure – What do I do now? How do I get better? How do I face that same fear again? How do I overcome it? And I think athletics is such a great forum to do that," she said.

Davenport said that she also thinks sports bring out joy in people, something she said this year's seniors have demonstrated every time they have played.

"Our kids just do it with such joy, they really just love being a Viking, they want to promote what it means to have Viking spirit and what it means to be a Samohi student," she said. "I think that's our biggest strength, the joy that they have in competing."

She said she hopes that the model the class of 2023 has set will help shape Samohi's athletics culture for years to come.

"I'm hopeful that the sophomores and the juniors and the freshmen watched it and it just becomes the expectation," she said. "This is what you do when you become a senior, you should be looking for leadership opportunities on and off this campus, you should be stepping up and doing what's right, you should be understanding that your academics come first and that everything else is to help support that academic goal – that's what I would say is the most amazing thing about the senior class."

She also hopes that they will carry their Samohi athletic's experience with them into the next chapters of their lives.

"I think they're going to be able to draw some strength and some knowledge about how to face things that are hard and challenging later, and so I hope that's what they remember, that you had the highest of highs when you won all these wonderful awards, but you also learned this significant skill about resilience and COVID taught you guys how to be resilient and that is going to take you so far," she said. "These kids, this graduating class – it's an amazing group of young men and women who really are resilient, strong minded, very academically smart. They're just a great group of kids."



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FIREFIGHTERS

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Samohi Class of 2023

on a job well done.

From challenging times emerge emboldened leaders.



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SAMOHI STUDENTS SIGN FOR COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Samohi's student athletes often choose to continue their sports journey's post-high school with opportunities both academic and professional.

Several Seniors celebrated their pursuit of collegiate competition at National Signing Day this year.

Brielle Minor chose to continue her basketball endeavors at Cal State Fullerton, Aaron Smollins will play baseball at Rollins College, and Jamie Browning will play volleyball at Springfield College.

Traditionally occurring on the first Wednesday of February, National Signing Day is the day of choice for student athletes to sign National Letters of Intents (NLIs), legally binding the student to their college's athletic program. Starting in the 1960s, the NLI was developed by college athletic conferences to simplify the signing process. Then, the signing process was much messier, with colleges handing out offers to students well into their senior year, without anything concrete. Now, National Signing Day marks the end of the recruitment process, as well as providing the student with a scholarship for the first year of college. After the first year, the college must let the student know if they will be renewing the scholarship.

"I'm excited to compete at the highest level. It has always been my dream to play D1 and now that it is actually happening I'm extremely excited for what's to come," said Minor. "For me, it just provided an opportunity to be excited for my accomplishments and my future alongside all of my friends and family."

The recruitment process can be long and grueling, with multiple steps over a long period of time and there are many deciding factors to consider when choosing a college. Student-athletes can struggle with this decision during the recruitment process, but sports and majors can help narrow down one's choices.

For some students, they are able to go straight to a professional league.

As a kid, Maggie Lena remembers trying all kinds of sports – tennis, gymnastics, swimming, baseball – but soccer was the one that stuck. She played for multiple local clubs throughout her childhood in Santa Monica, then in high school and college and now, professionally.

The Samohi grad recently joined F.C. Kiryat Gat, a professional team in Israel that competes in the Israeli First League as well as the Israeli Women's cup.

"It's funny how the world works," she said, reflecting on her journey and the opportunities and connections that led to this point.

After graduating from Samohi in 2017, Lena signed with Marquette University in Milwaukee to play for their Division I soccer team while majoring in biomedical sciences. She then played two years at West Chester University in Pennsylvania where she earned a Masters in Public Health.

In the summer of 2022, Lena was part of the team representing the US in soccer at the Maccabiah Games, an Olympic-style international sporting competition between Jewish athletes that takes place in Israel every four years. It was there that she met Israeli coaches and players that eventually resulted in her being offered a spot on F.C. Kiryat Gat.

She said she valued the strong sense of community surrounding sports in Santa Monica and also treasured her time as a member of Samohi's girl's soccer team.

"The joy I had with soccer was playing also at Samo and being on that team for four years," she said. "It was very special growing up and continuing my passion but in a more like fun high school environment."



where do we go now?

international

- ABERSWYTH UNIVERSITY (WALES)
- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MONTREAL (CANADA)
- DUKE KUNSHAN UNIVERSITY (CHINA)
- ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL
- GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY (ENGLAND)
- IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON (ENGLAND)
- JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY (ITALY)
- KINGS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (CANADA)
- LEEDS COLLEGE OF ART (ENGLAND)
- MCGILL UNIVERSITY (CANADA)
- MCMASTER UNIVERSITY (CANADA)
- MET FILM SCHOOL (ENGLAND)
- SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY- MADRID (SPAIN)
- SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY (CANADA)
- THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS (FRAN
- TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (IRELAND) (2)
- UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE (SCOTLAND)
- UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS (ENGLAND)

washington

- SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
- SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND
- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (4)

oregon

- OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
- REED COLLEGE (2)
- SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF OREGON (3)

california

- AMDA COLLEGE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS
- BIOLA UNIVERSITY
- CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS (2)
- CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA (8)
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MARITIME ACADMY
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON (9)
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH (8)
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY (3)
- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE (15)
- CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO (13)
- CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY (2)
- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
- EL CAMINO COLLEGE (2)
- EMERSON COLLEGE
- HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE
- LOS ANGELES TRADE AND TECHNICAL (2)
- LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY (10)
- MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY (7)
- OTIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
- PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY (2)
- POMONA COLLEGE
- SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY (3)
- SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY (3)
- SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE
- SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
- SANTA MONICA COLLEGE (77)
- SCRIPPS COLLEGE
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE
- STANFORD UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (18)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS (9)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE (5)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (15)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED (2)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE (7)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO (6)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA (18)
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ (22)
- UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (12)
- WESTMONT COLLEGE

nevada

- UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

utah

- UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

colorado

- COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
- COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS
- UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER (4)

arizona

- ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA (3)

texas

- SOUTHERN METHO

hawai'i

- HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, MANOA

CE)

other
- POST-GRAD YEAR
- UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

minnesota
- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES

illinois
- DEPAUL UNIVERSITY (2)
- ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE
- UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

new hampshire
- DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

wisconsin
- UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON (4)

michigan
- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR(2)

vermont
- MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

massachusetts
- BOSTON COLLEGE
- BOSTON UNIVERSITY (3)
- CLARK UNIVERSITY
- ENDICOTT COLLEGE
- HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE
- HARVARD UNIVERSITY
- NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY (4)
- SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST
- UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON
- WELLESLEY COLLEGE
- WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

pennsylvania
- LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
- MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
- PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA(2)

indiana
- INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON
- PURDUE UNIVERSITY

ohio
- CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

rhode island
- BROWN UNIVERSITY
- JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY
- RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

connecticut
- WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

new york
- BARNARD COLLEGE
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- CORNELL UNIVERSITY
- FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (2)
- NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (6)
- PACE UNIVERSITY
- SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE
- SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
- THE NEW SCHOOL (3)
- VASSAR COLLEGE

north carolina
- DUKE UNIVERSITY (3)

tennessee
- VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY (5)

washington d.c.
- HOWARD UNIVERSITY
- GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
- GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ODIST UNIVERSITY

florida
- ROLLINS COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

INFO COMPILED BY
COLLEGE CENTER
416 RESPONSES
STUDENT SELF REPORTED
COLLECTED ON JUNE 25

a map of senior destinations for fall 2023

Santa Monica High School 2023 Graduating Class

Violet Mackenzie Rist
Abigail Leilani Robles
Rafael Lucas Munoz Acker ●
Mattin El Natan Aframian ●■◆
Gabriel Florentino Aguiar
Abel Aiden Aguirre
Benjamin I. Akhavan ■✣❖
Nayeli Alarcon ✣
Mabel Sarah Alcock ●
Brooklyn Denise Alexander ●
Henry Pulling Allen
Jadon Elijah Alvarado
Luis Angel Alvarez ●✣
Sakura Miah Amano ●◆✣
Santino Amata
Gaspar Bulcsu Antal
Erick Jesus Antonio
Clyde S. Applegate ■✣
Jesse Aquino ✣⌘
Isabel Arias

Julius Uriah Arias
Joseph Humberto Arriaga ✣⌘
Mariangela Arroyo
Santiago Arteaga Selvas ✣
Nicholas Willam Asad ●
Roland Knowlton Asch ❇
Ryan Conrad Robedillo Atienza ●✣
Giselle M. Avila-Hengsathorn ❖
Gerardo Ayala Jr.
Ava Lynn Ball
Brian Joaquin Barba
Arnoldo Barba Jr. ✣⌘
Niko Urabe Bardacke ✣⌘
Jacques Winn Barnett
Elsie Jaeline Bartsch-Magallanes
Angie Arlett Basilio
Miles M. Bayley ■◆
Joseph D. Becerra
Brian Becerril
Sofi a Valeria Becker

Valentina Bejarano ✣
Benjamin Assefa Bekele
Julian Oliver Bender
Azen Bendersky
Kazimer John Kelley Bernota
David Joseph Bevan ■❖
Noah Yonatan Beyene
Dylan James Bieber
Genevieve F. Blaney
Emily Viviana Blustajn
Ilona Bodor
Elijah R. Boktor ■❖
Veronica Coco Borchardt
Emma Sofia Borgese
Nico Max Boucher
Sean Matthew Bowker
Olivia Kate Boyajan
Katell Marie Brady ●■❖
Emelia Marie Brandenberg
Jillian Faith Brander ●

● Centennial Recognition Medallion ■ Potential National Honor Society ◆ Sealbearer ❖ Biliteracy State Seal

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Nick, Olivia, and Peyton!
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Blanche Jeanne Zwelihle Brethes-Vacchiani-Marcuzzo
Kira Sara Bretsky ✣
Luke Kennedy Brock
Dashiell Julian Brooks ■❖
Jessica Eden Brown ●■◆
Morgan C. Brown
James River Browning ●
Emma Rees Brownrigg ■❖
Jamie T. Bruce ●
Maximus V. Bruozis
Chaitan Butte ●
Anastasia N. Buznikova
Diego R. Cabrera
Alaysia Calhoun
Estelle M. Candela ●■◆
Sophia B. Canny
Andrew Remi Cardenas ◆
Dorys Paola Cardenas ◆✣
Angelina Marie Cardiel

Miles Andrew Carlson
Layla Romana Carreon
Citli Jaleik Carrera Arenas ●■◆✣⌘
Rigoberto Carrillo ◂
Fernanda Francesca Casas ●■✣❖
Emanuele Cascione
Nathan Logan Castanaza ●■✣❖
Damian Danny Chacon
Margarita Abril Chairez
Kevin Drew Mitchell Chambers
Leila Jade Chammaa
Tali Butterfi eld Chase
Kevin Alberto Chavez Ortiz
Michelle Chen
Ronit Ashish Chhibber
Danny Super Chmaytelli
Yuna Jewel Choe ■❖
Tyler Dylan Christensen
Sophie Blaire Christmas
Danica Carter Chumley ●

Alyssa Ann Cirelli ✣
Kaydee Shasta Cobos
Elizabeth Lee Coffey ●
Ava Caitlin Cohrs
Lily N. Collias
Ryan W. Collura
Rylee Miranda Cooper
Alexis A. Corpuz
Paula Cortes Hernandez ●✣
Ethan Cortez
Paul J. Corvino
Sienna Rose Cosko
Indigo Jade Craane ✣❖
Ella Mariam Crandall
Mykel Cruse
Ameyali Cruz-Martínez
Jacqueline Cruz Martinez ✣⌘
Angel G. Cruz Rivera
Sophia Linn Cueva
Donald Troy Cunningham

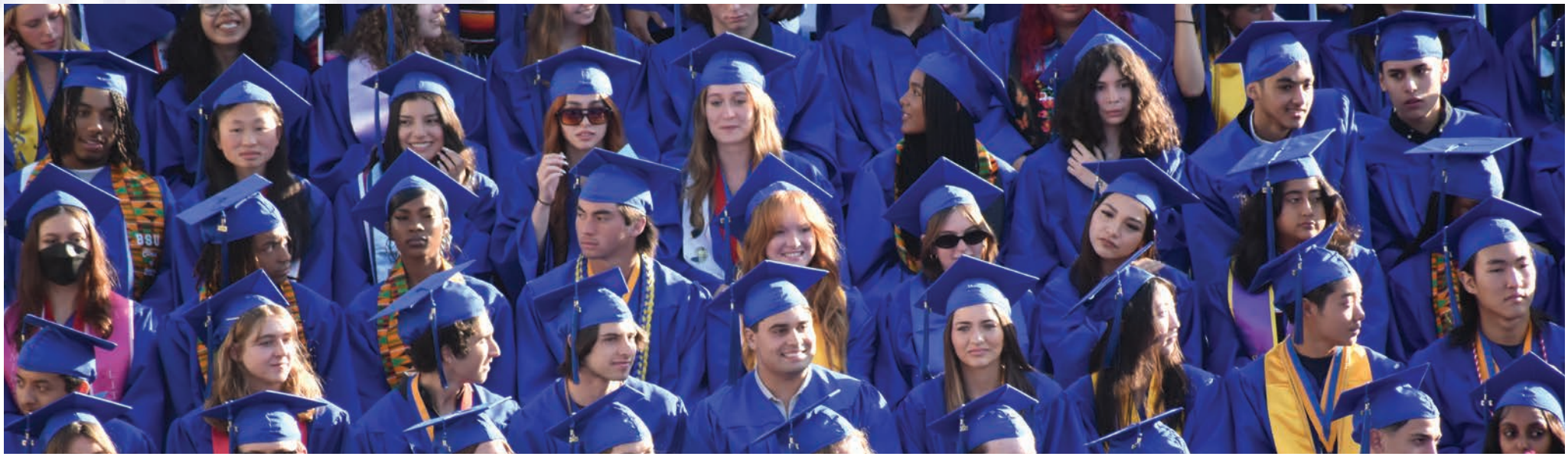
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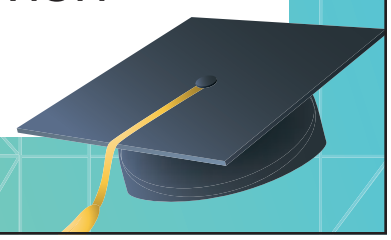
Interim Superintendent **Dr. Mark Kelly** and
the Board of Education

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THE 2023 GRADUATING CLASS OF

Santa Monica High School, Malibu High School and Olympic High School

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Santa Monica High School 2023 Graduating Class

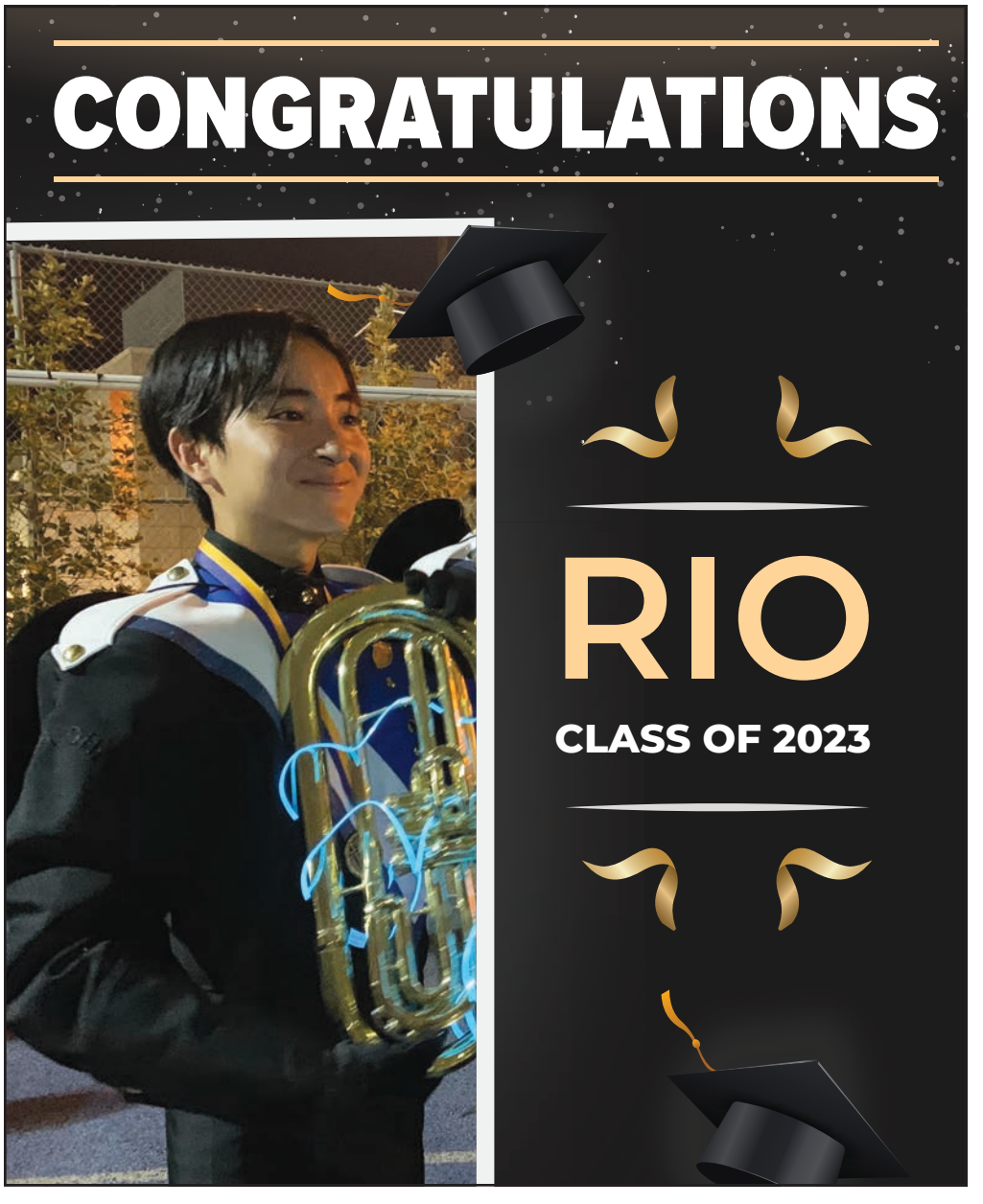
Osvaldo Curiel ●
Malia A. Dale
Franklin Miles Daley
Paikea Davila ■◆✣
Kelsey M. Davis
Andrés René de la Cerda III
Joseph Alexander De La Cruz
Hailey Ocean De La Garza
Luca S. De Lorenzo ●
Chase J. Deago
Dashiell Chase Decker
Sydney G. DeFranco ✣
Rodrigo A. Del Castillo ●
Diego G. Demacena
Jeff rey James Denker ❇
Nickolaus Jacob Dennis
Samajé Austin Derrick
Lorelei Yun Lui Deutsch ●✣❖
Anjali Devgan ◆
Alexa Diaz
Andrew Diaz
Hector Joel Diaz III
Kylie Isabella Diaz
Ricardo Diaz
Lindsay Rubi Diaz Rodriguez
Thomas Steven DiGaetano
Benjamin Ryan DiStefano
Quillen G. Domingue ❇
Abdelmasseh M. Dous
Evgeniya A. Dubik
Alexa Victoria Duffy ●■◆
Bree K. Duncans
Elsa Nord Eastwood ●❖
Jeanna Edwards ●
Leah Norma Ehrlich
Mikayla Ellis
Reyna E. Escobedo
Celeste Denise Espinoza-Velasquez
Keilyn Eileen Esquivel
Eva Loren Vogel Estes
Fernando Estevez
Stella Femke Faas
Lilah G. Fienberg ✣
Samantha Maria Flores ✣
Grace Christine Flynn ■◆
Taj Renny Ford
Lauren Elizabeth Forsyth ✣❖
Sydney A. Forsyth ✣❖
Makhi Franklin
Ellenor Eyre Fredlund-Brandt ✣❖
Adin Freedman✣⌘
Patrick Brian Freire
Max Ethan Marckx Friedman ●
Jazmin Noemi Fuentes
Desmond Rodolfo Gabreski
Natalia S. Galperin ■◆✣
Raul Gabriel Gamez Guzman
Amanda Amudarila Gantugs ●
Sofia Gabriela Garban ✣⌘
Olivia S. Garbutt

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Eli Arturo Garcia ❖
Irving E. Garcia ✣
Joseph Garcia
Juan Pablo Garcia
Karen Sinai Garcia ●
Luis H. Garcia ❇
Teagan Sawyer Garcia-Langley ✣
Ashly Garcia Santiago
Shanta Renee Gardner
Jeremiah Wade Garnett
Natalie Lynn Gazzana ✣⌘
Wongiel Melesse Gebeyehu
Lydia M. Gebremichael
Benjamin Aaron Geller
Mohammadparsa Ghasemi
Parisa Shania Ghassemi ■◆✣
Nazaneen Akram Ghorbanali ●✣
Austin M. Gohring
David Angel Gomez ✣⌘
Omar Gabriel Gomez ✣⌘
Aaron T. Gondo
Adrian Emmanuel Gonzalez
Daniel Olas Gonzalez
Jacob G. Gonzalez ◆✣⌘
Jasmine I. Gonzalez ■◆✣⌘
Matthew Xavier Gonzalez ❇
Xochitl Yadira Gonzalez-Alfaro ⌘
Matthew I. Gonzalez-Valenzuela
Julian James Gordon
Hudson Sean Griffin
Braxton T. Guillory
Odin Roland Gunn
Emily B. Gutierrez ✣⌘
Jasmine Susana Gutierrez ●■❇
Brandon Anthony Gutierrez Olvera
Alejandra Nicole Guzman
Grace E. Gyepes ●
Amelia Jo Hagen ■◆
Mae Eva Halperin ●■◆✣
Dylan James Hanvey
Tanyon Jagger Harber
Aviel Haroonian
Juliet S. Harrington
Trinity L. Harrington
Tahir Mykel Harvey
Dawson Gage Hawthorn
Rosemary K. Haygood ❖
Joshua Evan Hecht ●◆
Jacob Robert Tivol Hedges ■✣⌘
Nathaniel Keith Heidemann
Friedrich Harry Heinzle
Luke Thomas Helmacy ●
Jordan Hendriks
Dylan Sebastian Heredia ●✣⌘
Aidan Alec Hernandez
Alondra Itzel Hernandez ✣◂
Carlos Omar Hernandez
Denise P. Hernandez ✣

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CONGRATULATIONS

Avery on Graduation from SAMOHI.



We are so proud of you! Your growth in the past few years has been absolutely incredible and we are so excited to see where you go from here! Knock 'em dead!

Love, Mom, Jonathan, Mist and your entire family

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Jaret Hernandez Sernas ✣
Matias Fernando Herrera ✣
Jazmin Beverly Hilgendorf Tadayon
Kiera Elizabeth Howard
Riley M. Howard
Kalaya Jolie Hudson
Vanessa Y. Huerta ●
Aika Belle Hughes ■◆✣
Lincoln R. Hughes
Gisselle Huizar
Sofi a Spence Harris Hume
William M. Humphreys
Basai Hundessa-Wade ●
Lara M. Hunter
Phoebe Groener Huss ■❖
Rio Imasaki ✣
Harlow Ray Irvin
Olivia Jade Israel-Lyman
Ezra J. Jackson

Haley Mikayla Jackson
Skye R. Jacobson ❇
Lincoln G. Jarvis
Vaughn T. Jelks
Fionnula J. Johannsen
Joy Johnson
Kai Daniel Johnston
Colin P. Jones ●
Aaron Joachim Joseph
Ella McMurtrie Joyce ◆
Cristofer Juarez
Nathaly Dahianna Juarez Meza ✣❖⌘
Malia H. Kabwe
Spencer E. Kagan ✣⌘
Alani M. Kanan ❖
Hudson Kaneko ❇
Arin Kang
Iliyan R.A. Kanji ●
Danielle M. Karni ■
Maya Rachel Karni

Hayley Madison Kaufman
Yanis Kellou
Erin Louise Kennedy ■◆✣
Riya S. Khatod ●■◆
Kaela N. Khorsand Mashhadi ■
Erik B. Kim
Isaac E. Kim ●■
Kyle Jiwon Kim ●■◆
Joshua Young Bin Kim-Pearson
Katerina Adelaida King
Ruby Myfanwy Kingscote
Maya Lynn Knauf ●■◆
Alice Ruby Knystautas ●■
Nayeong Ko ■◆✣
Claire Elizabeth Kovac ●◆✣
Catharina L. Kozak
Ryan Anand Kriegel
Andrew Krieger
Noa Rae Krop ■✣❖
Mateo Luis Kuri

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Congratulations
to all of the
Awesome
2023 Graduates!

Best wishes for a bright future!

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Ida Jane Kelty Landecker
Barney O. Lanning
Kelly N. Larios González ●
Liam G. Larwood
Deon Malcom Lastrapes
Luka Marlon Lau
Duc Nguyen Le
Aiden Joseph Lee
Rony Elton Leppanen
Jackson Shawn Lerner ✣⌘
Michael J. Levin
Charles D. Lewis
Matthew William Lewis ●■❖
Tarik Lewis-De Paula Lima
Matthew Jacob Liberman ■◆
Jet Ryden Lipman
Samuel A. Lipshy
Summer A. Liu
Shy Ty Livni

Jaxson David Lockwood
Ellanora Anna LoGreco Lööf-Pichardo ■✣❖
Elva K. Loomis
Alena Marie Lopez ●
Alexis Nicole Lopez
Julie Olivia Lopez
Michelle Lopez
Richard Lopez
Janelly Alejandra Lopez Garnica ✣
Marisol López-López ●
Sadie Ann Lovett ●■◆✣
Vivienne Belle Loving
Ava Elizabeth Lowe
DesToni Precious Lowe-Barbee ■
Alexandra Summer Lundberg
Quinn Gerard MacMahon
Hinano Nitta Mann
Josie X. Marasco ■✣❖
Alexandra Brooke Marcus
Vicente Alfredo Martin ●■✣⌘

Angel Isaac Martinez
Braulio C. Martinez ●✣
Kacey Del Angel Martinez
Kendra M. Martinez ✣
Amaina Sofia Martinez Caballero ✣
Francisco Martínez Devis ⌘
Joaquín Martinez Devis ⌘
Ella Carolina Mastrippolito ■
Halie Crystal Matsui ●❖
Ruby Lee McAfee
Matthew James McAuliffe ❖
Elijah Ali McCorley ●
Brendan John McCormick ❖
Colin Robert McCormick ❖
Donavan R. McCoy
Giuliana Andrea McCreary ✣
Cole McMahon
Adriana Medina
Alexandra Medina
Daniela Medina

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Nicholas Alfredo Mejia
Lydia R. Melaku
Ava Memarzadeh ✣
Noor Memarzadeh ● ✣
Emilio Mendez
Semaria Girma Mengistu
Cienna Q'Anne Menville ●
Max Kareem Merel ● ❇
Borna Y. Mesri ●
Erin Ashraf Metry
Colton Christopher Metz
Oliver J. Mewton
Finley C. Meyer
Tatum Claire Meyer
Eli J. Meyuhas
Scarlett Louise Mickel ■
Yohannes Mulugeta Mihret
Kayla Breon Miller ❇
Jonah Christian Miller Maxwell
Camilo Francisco Miller-Vergara ✣ ⌘
Quinn M. Mindes
Brielle Dorine Minor ●
Soren Cole Mirsky
Deborah G. Misfen
Salma Celeste Montoya
Cristian E. Morales
Elizabeth Morales Cruz ◆ ✣
Mattias Vincent Moretti ●
Sienna M. Morgan
Zachery Hunter Moss
Ariana Mousavi ✣
Hayley Estelle Mullane
Daniela P. Munoz
Eduardo G. Munoz
Isabella Munoz
Edward Joseph Nagle
Bar Naiberg ✣ ✣
Kian Naini ● ■ ✣
Advaita Kamal Nair ■
Julian Najera
Dean Harley Narramore
Joaquin Martella Nava ●
Robert Rey Navarro
London Alexander Neal
Kai Michael Necci ● ■ ◆
Alessandro C. Nelson
Grace Sherry Neumann
Dylan Keane Neumeyer ✣
Thomas P. Nevell ■
Genevieve R. Nevius
Karolina Caulfield Newall
Caitlyn Morgan Ng
Jagger R. Nicholls ✣
Kelli J. Nichols
Fridha C. Nicolas ✣
Joseph Jay Nicolas
Katha H. Nielson
Kayvon Nili-Esfahani ❇

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Congratulates all the graduates and wishes them all the best for the next steps in their lives! Your futures look bright with a quality education from SMMUSD behind you.

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CEPS

Is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of public schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. For two decades CEPS has successfully campaigned for increased local funding, generating $35 million annually in extra operational revenues for SMMUSD. We have also advocated for bond measures to build the facilities required for 21st century instructional needs.



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Litzy Ocampo Hernandez ✣
Anna E. Oeser ■
Mio Okagaki
Finn Carlito Ong ✣
Cooper Alexander Ott ●❇
Samara Mercedez Padilla
Lucas H. Pak
Aurelio Paltera ■
Anthony Palula ✣⌘
Carl Baghdik Papazian
Koosha Paridehpour
Neve Marie Patel
Liam Baxter Paterson ●
Justin J. Pemberton
Jacqueline Theresa Pena
Kahlea Peoples ●
Cesar S. Perez ✣
Gerardo Perez

Jack R. Perez ◆
Isis Sacbe Perez Figueroa
Dylan Armin Peterson
Tristan Earle Philip-Guide
Seila Ashley Phipps ●
Jonathan R. Pierce ❇
Griffinn Charles Pine
Luna Angelina Pineda ✣
Anahi Berta Pinn
Emma Isabela Pinn
Kincade William Pittard
Peyton G. Polito ✣
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Skyler Loren Powell
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Jonathan William Proft ✣⌘
Diego Isaias Puga ✣⌘

Owen Kai Purcell ●❇
Sebastian Michael Krishna Purdy
Kieran Francis Quinn
Elleanor Hayden Quist
Samantha Ramirez ✣
Sebastian Francis Ramirez
Crystal Leilani Ramos ✣⌘
Kate Alessandra Ramos
Rebekah Kim Raphling ●
Christopher P. Ravare
Christian R. Recendez
Isabel Grace Carla Reid ✣
Victoria Rose Rendón-Santiago
Avery Max Resnick ●
Angel Alexander Rexicker
Diego Elijah Reyes
Angus Kent Reyman ●
Frances Anna Reynolds ●■✣
Louisa Marie Reynolds
Francesca Maxine Ribeiro

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Unique C. Richard
Christian I. Riggs
Kylie Mara Gallagher Riggs
Lauren Carole Gallagher Riggs
Micah Aaron Rishe ❇
Giacomo Ciano Rivers Altieri ●
Isaac K. Rockwell
Christopher A. Rodas Mendoza
Alexis Rodriguez ●
Ava M. Rodriguez
Steve Rodriguez
Tomas Camilo Rodriguez
Victoria Cruz Roman
Naomi Romero ✣⌘
Adam E. Rosenblum
Quintin Adam Ross
Alexander Lorenzo Rossant
Kailani Rossi
Theodore Samuel Rotgin ■❖
Nicholas Joseph Rovetto
Balmore Miguel Ruano-Gonsalez ⌘
Ken Matthew Rugprayoon
Nelson Ruiz
James Robert Rusler
Isana L. Ryan
Lilly A. Ryf
Silvia G. Said ❇
Taira R. Sakamoto ●
Sedra N. Sakkour
Alex Salamati
Emmanuel Salazar-Vazquez
Anthony G. Salgado
Stella Grace Salhus ●✣
Janice Brigit Samayoa
Tehut B. Samuel
Jeremy M. San Buenaventura
Adrian Robert Sanchez
Alaysia Nalaya Sanchez ❇
Joshua Sandoval ●
Kyara Brianne Sanford
Lola Victoria Satinover ✣
Kaley Tristen Saucedo
Riley Jay Sauer
Roman Savino
Nathaniel Glenn Schrobilgen
Kaya Bella Schwartz
Julien Schweighofer ✣
Lucas Schweighofer
Sydney Elyse Seifer ✣
Dalan Seklawi
Michael Alexander Sergeev
Skylar Rayne Serrano
Clairty Bellarose Seymour
Chloe Sarah Shapiro
Camila Yael Sigbaum
Isaac Gabriel Silva
Caleb Harry Silver
Jacob Adam Silverman ❇
Wynter Moon Sirof
Elizabeth Caitlin Skarsten

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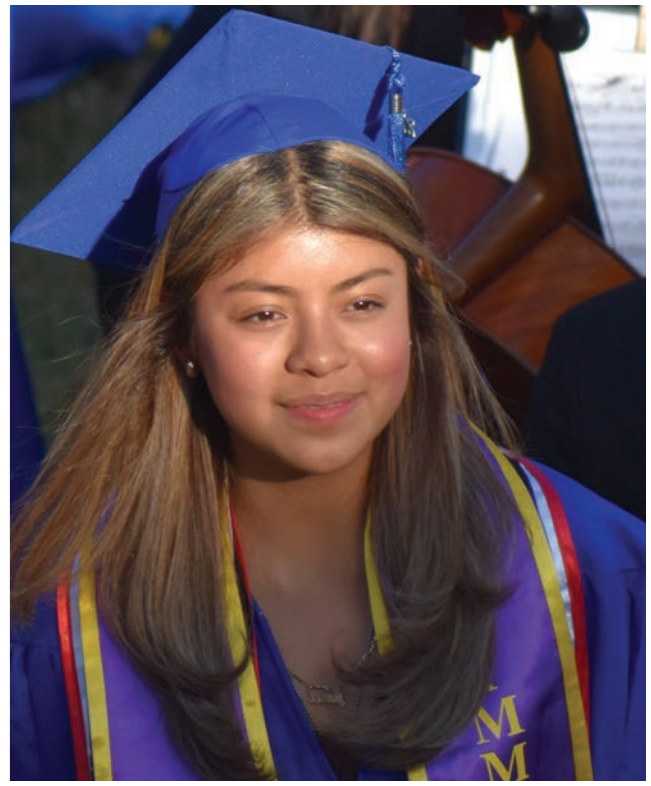
CONGRATULATIONS
to the SAMOHI Class of 2023!

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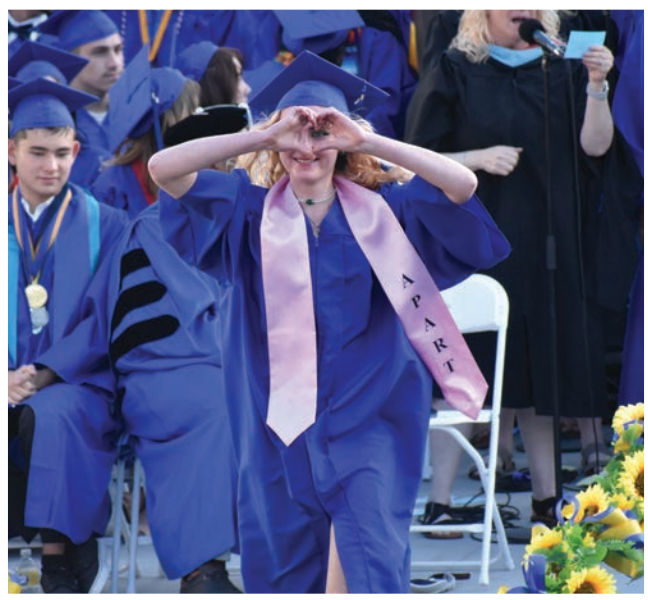
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Class of 2023


APART




Congratulations

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Ryan Martel Sly
Mykhailo Smaliuk
Marzhan Aviya Smiley
Ava M. Smith
Avery Edison Smith ● ■ ❖
Dasan Jamil Smith
Lantana Rayne Smith ✣
Noah Jeremiah Smith
Aaron Matthew Smollins
Charlie Frances Snyder ■ ✣
Hyaren Carla Soares
Griffin C. Soelberg
Sebastian William Soja ■
Mattea R. Sokolow
Jacy R. Sorri-Battaroff
Dylan Elizabeth Spanier ✣
Matilda Pearl Spenelli
Hagan Tyler Stahl
Luke Vincent Stewart ●
Michael Paul Strauss
Jake M. Strijdveen
Malek Stutson ●
Mia Summer Subin
Anthony Sugars ✣ ⌘
Beatty Swett
Colin Daniel Swimmer ✣
Juliet S. Swimmer ✣
Daniel Obersovszky Szeghy
Eleni Samaar Tadross Marks
Mehmet Ali Takalak
Adrian Tapia
Noémie Evangeline Jade Tatiboit
Nick A. Tavaf
Amilia Tejada ● ✣
Karla Guadalupe Tejeda ✣
Yonathan Dereje Tesfaye
Kieran Royal Thai-Sandoval
Kayla Saydee Thomas ✣
Mia Nyla Thomas ● ✣
Jett Anthony Tieri-Lepore
Amarri Te'shaun Tipton
Theodore William Tobel ● ■ ◆ ✣
Lillian Thandiwe Topp ●
Julisa Torres
Samantha Esmeralda Torres
Alexander Jose Tostado Lopez
Jasmine Tinca Traill
Simona Christa Trentchev ◆
Luca Paolo Trevellin ● ◆
Scarlett Tropea-Lester ■ ◆ ✣
Marina E. Tscharner ◆
Skylar M. Tuckett ◆
Sophia Francine Turgasen
Valentina Túrmina Maronezi ✣
Apre Turner ✣ ⌘
Emma Leona Tuttle
Ethan Ugarteche ✣
Julian Dino Vaguelsy ❇
Cyrus I. Valenza
Violet E. Varner ■ ❖
Raeva Mohanty Vasisht ● ✣
Shelsie Vasquez ◆ ✣
Valentina Vela ✣
Alexandra G. Velazquez
Oliver S. Victor
Bianca Celeste Villanueva
Gizelle Tatyana Villanueva
Natalie Elizabeth Villanueva
Adrian Gitano Villasenor ● ✣ ❖
Adalberto M. Vital ●
Ty Diego Vallejo Vudmaska ❖
Egan Zeleke Waktole ● ✣
Robenus Z. Waktole
Mira Lakshmi Wali ● ■ ❖
Dylan Adam Walker
Evan James Watson
Billie Allyson Waxler ● ✣ ⌘
Teddie Gayle Waxler ✣ ⌘
Madeleine Lily Webb
Violet Sunlai Wells
Nicholas Weng
Sam Wessling
Keira Rose Wetherell
Nikolas P. Wheeler-Quintanilla ⌘
Sofi a Margaret White ◆ ✣
Francesca J. Whited ❖
Amarna Charlize Windross ● ❖
Ornella Noelle Wolf ❇
Mussie Wondwossen
William Henry Wray
Alex Wu
Keira M. Yanez ● ✣ ⌘
Kerry Yang ✣ ❖
Sierra Joe Yee ● ✣ ❖
Caterina Irma Claudia Young ● ✣
Lucas S. Yun
Gian Luca Zamora
Kaine Austin Zeoli ● ■
Roberto Alejandro Zepeda Jr.
Colette Zighelboim ●
Catrina Nichole Zolkin
Noah Henry Zucker
Griffin Liam Zund

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CONGRATULATIONS

Tatum, Cienna, Katya, Scarlett & Wynter



Your families are so proud of you all and can't wait to see where your next adventures take you!





HISTORY OF SAMOHI

Santa Monica High School began as the Sixth Street School in 1891 with the addition of upper level curriculum to complete a four year high school program. The first class, called "The Immortal Five," graduated in 1894.

From Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, the high school was moved to Eleventh Street and Arizona Avenue. The building, called Lincoln High School, was finished in 1898 and dedicated at the graduation exercise of that year. In 1910, bonds were voted for a new high school on Prospect (or Indian) Hill.

The cornerstone of the current school was dedicated on April 11, 1912, at the corner of Sixth Street and Pico Boulevard. Three buildings were originally erected. In 1913, the gymnasiums were built. In 1921, the Memorial Open Air Theatre was added and dedicated to the memory of Samohi boys who were in World War I. In 1924, the Library Building, now the English Building, was added.

Buildings sustained damage in an earthquake in 1933; in 1934, an extensive remodeling and modernization job began which required students to attend classes in tents for several years. The renovation was completed in 1938 along with the construction of a 1400-seat auditorium, which has served both Samohi and the community well. In 1944, the auditorium was named for W.F. Barnum, Principal from 1914 to 1943.

In 1952, when Santa Monica City College left the location adjacent to the high school, Samohi acquired its campus. Additional land was purchased, and today the campus covers 26 acres. The Science and Technology Buildings were built on the SMCC site.

In 1969, two construction projects were completed, an Olympic-sized natatorium and enlargement of the Greek Theatre to a seating capacity of 3558. The fall of 1971 saw the completion of the Language Building.

In 1993, Samohi saw major construction as $20 million in Proposition ES funding came to Samohi. Funding went to meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act by making buildings accessible to all. The majority of the construction was dedicated to building new science labs, renovating the Technology building and enlarging English classrooms. The first phase of the restoration of Barnum Hall, a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project, was completed and focused on the stage and rigging.

In 2001, construction began again with $20 million from Proposition X. The focus of this funding was to complete Prop ES projects and expand the Language and Music buildings. The final components of the restoration of Barnum Hall were completed with new seats, acoustical improvements, restrooms, and landscaping. In addition the Getty Museum awarded an art restoration grant to clean and restore the Stanton McDonald Wright fire curtain. New

locker room floors and sound systems were installed in both gyms and the pool area. The student cafeteria received updated floors, lights, walls and display cases. The Science Quad was updated with landscaping.

In 2007, the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu voted to approve a school bond measure (BB) to help prepare Samohi for the next century. A synthetic football and soccer field was built and Sealy Field underwent renovation.

The 68,000 square-foot Innovation Building, containing 21 classrooms and 15 science labs featuring state-of-the-art equipment, opened in the summer of 2015.

In 2012, Measure ES, a $385 million bond, was passed of which $180 million has been allocated to Samohi in support of a 25 year facilities master plan. The Discovery Building opened in August 2021 and includes 42

classrooms housing language, English, science, mathematics, and life skills, an outdoor rooftop classroom, student cafeteria, textbook room, distribution center, a subterranean parking structure, Olympic-sized swimming pool with locker rooms, and our new Freedom Walk with the Peace and Justice Plaza.

Groundbreaking on the Exploration building and Gold Gym occurred in January of 2022 which will house the Academies and Visual Arts. Completion is anticipated in Fall 2024.

This powerful collective effort has resulted in a rolling campus uniquely set just four blocks from the Pacific Ocean.



A CLASS THAT OVERCAME OBSTACLES







As the sun literally set on the class of 2023 this week, students were reminded of the challenges they'd overcome and the open possibilities of their future.

Santa Monica High School held its commencement and graduation ceremony on June 8 recognizing the accomplishments of more than 600 students as part of the annual event.

While the pandemic, and its interruption of their freshman year, was front of mind, so was the resiliency of students and a hope they would embrace their forced adaptability in their future endeavors.

Principal Marae Cruce said it is challenges that shape a person.

"Embrace them for they will shape who you become and whoever that person may be, please know that our Samohi community is here to embrace you," she said. "We are very proud of each and every one of you on this stage. Embrace the individual you are and go show the world what it means to be a Samohi Viking."

Senior Christian Riggs told the crowd of his personal challenges overcoming the expectations of doctors who said his autism diagnosis would preclude any normal education experience. He credited SMMUSD with "saving" him from those expectations and helping him graduate on time and with his peers.

Eduardo "Eddie" Munoz titled his speech "From Obstacle to Triumph" as he discussed the way students grew during their time at Samohi.

"Today marks the end of one chapter of our lives in the beginning of another promising chapter. This evening is a time of reflection, gratitude and optimism for what's ahead of us. Let's be honest, it wasn't that easy," he said. "We've had to adapt to so many challenges over the last few years. From remote learning to social distancing, we learned how to navigate the world in an entirely new fashion."

He said while the students had a unique set of obstacles stemming from the pandemic, they were able to forge ahead with some classic high school experiences and memories.

"We've laughed, we've cried, we've grown together," he said. "But as we prepare to take the next step in our journey we carry those experiences with us. We carry the lessons we've learned, the memories we've made and the friendships we've formed."

He also acknowledged the village that comes together around students.

"We didn't do it alone," he said. "We had the guidance and support of our families, the expertise and dedication of our teachers and staff and the encouragement and camaraderie of our classmates and for that we're deeply grateful. Now moving forward lets remember we have the power to shape our own destiny let's embrace the challenges that lie ahead of us with courage and determination. Let's continue to learn and grow and to make a positive impact on the world."

Munoz said he hoped the spirit of collaboration and empathy would remain with graduates.

"Because we can be the change we want to see and we can definitely inspire others to do the same," he said. "Surely it won't be the easiest. There will be obstacles, setbacks and moments of doubt. But we all have the resilience, determination and support for each other to overcome that. To my fellow graduates, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you and invite you to enjoy your moment because you've earned your spot here today. And when you wake up tomorrow, hold your head high and be proud of who you are and who you want to become in the near future. We have all distinguished ourselves beyond imagination."









GRAD NITE

Class of 2023

CONGRATS GRADUATES!

In the final few weeks of the school year, Santa Monica High School students noticed white tents quietly popping up on the tennis courts and while they may have looked inconspicuous from the outside, they masked an elaborate set that volunteers had been busy building up over three weeks in preparation for this year's Grad Nite, a nearly 30-year-old Samohi tradition. The event, which is essentially an all-night-long, on-campus party for graduating seniors, takes place on the night of their commencement ceremony. Graduation nights often prove especially dangerous for teenagers due to increased alcohol and drug use that can result in accidents. Events like Grad Nite serve as a way to allow students to have fun and celebrate their hard work and achievements throughout high school, but do so in a safe environment. A 501-c3 organization was formed in the early years of Samohi's Grad Nite to help fund and organize the event. SMMUSD Board Member and Samohi parent Jennifer Smith and fellow parents Nicole Faries and Diana Oliver have been leading the charge for the last few years. While neither Smith or Faries have children who are seniors this year, they said they think it is important to step up and help make it happen for others. "I know a lot of parents kind of click into things when their kids are in it, but it is very nice if you're kind of going along, helping out and running it and so that when your kid is a senior you can take a step back," Faries said. "It will be your kid before you know it, is often what I say to parents – it happens faster than you realize." While the concept of Grad Nite is not unique to Samohi and many other high schools host similar events, its scale and spirit set it apart. For the first 22 years, Samohi's Grad Nite featured a multi-story replica of a cruise ship complete with a deck, portholes and smokestacks. The event was scuttled due to Covid for a couple of years but thanks to the hard work of more than a hundred volunteers, it has returned, albeit with a slightly scaled down entrance. Organizers said the facade was redesigned and with the help of dedicated volunteers it really still looks like students are getting onto a cruise ship Students were welcomed aboard with their own "boarding passes" handed out by many of the Samohi staff who volunteer their time after graduation to make the event happen. "It's still the cruise ship-themed party, but it had to be modified," Faries said, explaining that the entrance has been reduced to a single large wood panel shaped and painted to look like a cruise ship with a replica of the iconic Santa Monica Pier Sign. However, the inside is just as intricate and features a series of decorated rooms designated for a variety of activities including karaoke, dancing, carnival games with prizes, a bracelet making station, temporary tattoos, plenty of food and more. Smith said the cost of the event, which generally ran around $100,000 prior to the pandemic, has increased in recent years due in large part to inflation. Last year's event cost over $130,000 and was made possible in part by a donation from an anonymous donor. While Smith and Faries said there is enough funding for this year's event, the financial future of Grad Night depends on being able to secure more money going forward and they hope that the community will continue to rally around the tradition. Smith said nearly 50% of their budget comes from community donations and the other 50% is from ticket sales. Participation rates at the event have been high with upwards of 90% of students in attendance and Faries said some students walk to the beach together following the event and watch the sunrise to "cap off" their Samohi experience. To make a donation visit: https://account.venmo.com/u/SMGradnite



Congratulations from the Alumni Association

You may be one of an exceptional group of over 50,000 people throughout the world. If you graduated from Santa Monica High School, the answer is a resounding YES! Whether you just completed your graduation ceremony at Samohi this past June 8th with the Class of 2023, or you are one of our grads from the 1940's who still communicate with us, you are special. Thousands of you are members of the Samohi Alumni Association, and if you are not a member, you should join our ranks, to open that communication with other Samohi grads.

Among Samohi's alumni from classes dating back to the first graduates of 1891, are famous luminaries from many walks of life, including astronauts, award-winning actors, directors and producers, a Nobel Prize winner, a mountain climber, an advisor to President Barack Obama, poets, musicians, artists, heralded athletes, writers, and journalists. Our alumni have also earned praise as beloved local business leaders, teachers, plumbers, electricians, architects, prominent politicians, pioneers of advancements that will profoundly affect your lifetime, and more. Each Viking has contributed to making our world brighter in some way.

The Samohi Alumni Association began in the fall of 1988, with the production of the first edition of the Viking News by co-founders Linda Gray '64 and Rena McKinzie '91. The SAA, incorporated in 1991, serves the alumni and current students through its tax-exempt corporation. The mission of the SAA is to connect our thousands of alumni with our current students and bond past with the present, all leading to great futures. The SAA is committed to the values Samohi represents - Sincerity, Maturity, Honor, and Service (SMHS.) The SAA provides information to alumni and current students through sponsorship of school-related activities, its website www.samohialumni.org, Facebook at www.facebook.com/samohialumni/, and The Viking News, distributed several times a year to members by email and mail. We award scholarships and financial aid to current students at Santa Monica's only public high school, sponsor campus preservation and beautification projects, and honor Samohi Hall of Fame, Distinguished Alumni and Spirit of Samohi awardees. Our Board of Directors is drawn from Samohi's over 50,000 living graduates, and we welcome all alumni interested in serving our school's proud heritage to become members and board members. To join or for more information, email samohialumni@gmail.com.

SAMOHI ALUMNI Class of 2023

Members of the Class of '23 are entitled to a FREE year of membership in the Samohi Alumni Association. Sign up via the website below.

www.SamohiAlumni.org

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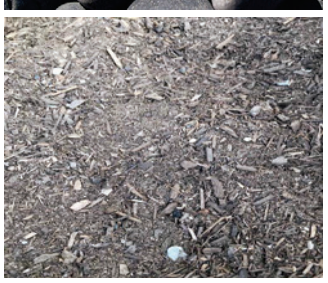


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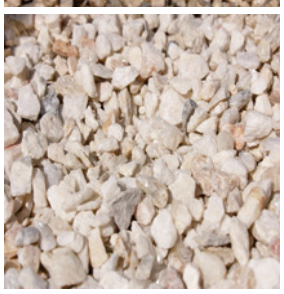
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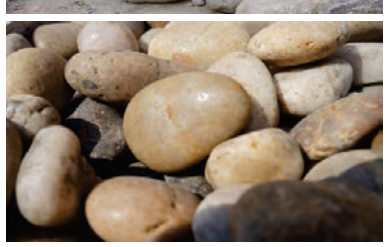
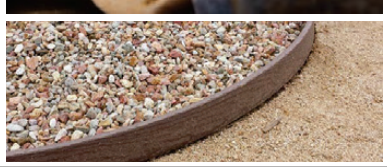
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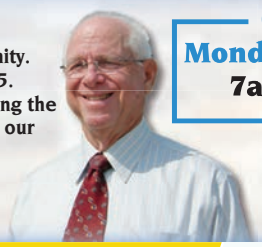
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Proposed FY 2023-25 Biennial Budget;**
Adoption of the Resolution Establishing the City's Gann Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2023-24; and
Adoption of the Master User Fee Resolution

DESCRIPTION

The City Council, Housing Authority, and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2023-25 Biennial Budget on June 27, 2023. At this meeting, the City Council will adopt a resolution determining the City's Gann Appropriations Limit for FY 2023-24. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit can be viewed online at finance.smgov.net/budgets-reports/Gann. The FY 2023-25 Proposed Biennial Budget can be viewed online at finance.smgov.net/budgets-reports/.

At the June 27, 2023, meeting, the public hearing will also include the proposed adoption of new fees and revisions to existing fees charged by the City's Housing and Human Services Department (formerly Community Services Department), Recreation and Arts Department (formerly Community Services Department), Community Development Department, Department of Transportation, Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, and Records and Elections Services (City Clerk).

The proposed fee revisions are intended to more fully recover the City's cost of providing services, processing applications, and cost of living increases (if applicable). The proposed fee schedule and a copy will be available online at https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx/ no later than June 24, 2023. The public hearing will also consider maintaining certain existing fees at current rates for various services.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider this request:

DATE/TIME: **Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Room 250, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: FY 2023-25 Proposed Biennial Budget, FY 2023-24 Gann Appropriations Limit, or FY 2023-24 Fee Revisions, June 27, 2023, City Council Meeting
councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please refer to the Adoption of the FY 2023-24 Biennial Budget and Adoption of the Second Year of the FY 2022-24 Capital Improvement Program Budget staff report for the June 27, 2023, meeting on the City's web site at https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx/. You may contact the City Clerk at (310) 458-8211 for alternate availability of the City Council agenda packet.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8211 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5,7, 9 and 18 serve City Hall.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública sobre, el presupuesto bienal propuesto para los años fiscales 2023-25, para adoptar una resolución para la determinación del límite de asignaciones de Gann para el año fiscal 2023-24, y la propuesta adopción de aumento a los cobros de varios servicios que ofrece la ciudad de Santa Monica Para más información en español, favor de llamar a Yolanda Nunez al número (310) 434-2616.

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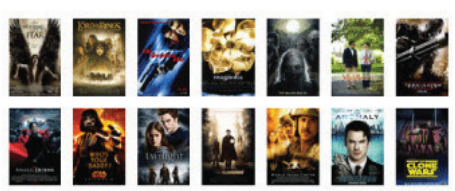
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City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica (the "City") will hold a Public Hearing on June 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Santa Monica Council Chambers Room 250, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, to discuss adopting increases to its solid waste service fees.

Proposed Rate Increases: After a three-year rate freeze in 2020, 2021, and 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in solid waste rates is necessary in order to recover sufficient revenues to operate and maintain the City's solid waste operations. If approved, rate increases would become effective on August 1, 2023, and subsequently each July 1st through 2028. Forsingle-family ratepayers, the proposed rate increase is 11% annually for all five years. For multifamily and commercial ratepayers, the Year One increase on August 1, 2023, is greater than the subsequent years. A rate restructuring is required for these customers in the first year to eliminate the livable unit charges and water meter charges and fold in street sweeping services into one bundled rate to ensure the City's rate structure is consistent among all customer types and align with solid waste industry standards. Year Two through Year Five increases are identical to singlefamily customers at 11%. The rate structure is determined on the basis of the number, size, and collection frequency of the landfill trash containers serviced at a property.

Re: Increasing Solid Waste Service Fees
Santa Monica parcel owners may submit written protests on the proposed solid waste rate increases by mail or in person to the City Clerk at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA, 90401, or at the Public Hearing (June 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.). Any protest submitted via email or other electronic means will not be accepted.

For more information and questions, visit www.santamonica.gov/solid-waste-rates or email swrates@santamonica.gov.

GET IT DAILY...

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