

# The Lariat

CHINO HIGH SCHOOL

## Seniors of 2025 Fly Gold Standard for Prom Night

By Samantha Sandoval

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, this year's prom was held at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside. The theme was based on the Riverside location and was "Now Boarding: First Class."

When entering the venue, prom attendees walked in with a look of historical artifacts of plane history scattered around the setting, even being presented with a

military plane in the middle of the room. It was a sight to see, as students were able to explore and learn about the museum firsthand.

Throughout the night, students danced and enjoyed the provided dessert and drinks provided by staff.

One of the most memorable moments of the night that was especially nerve-wracking for some was the announcement of prom King and Queen that was presented in the middle of the dance. The court for prom King was Xiovany Ochoa, Christian Gibson, Diego Medina, and Jaden Elizalde, and the court for prom Queen was Emma Sandoval, Carissa Ornelas, Ciara Granados, and Aubrey Morales.

The class of 2025 prom King and Queen was Christian Gibson and Ciara Granados. "It feels really good to win prom Queen and I'm happy knowing that I am the 2025 prom Queen of Chino High!" said Granados. When talking about the moment of winners being announced, she also said, "I was both excited and nervous, I really didn't know what to expect and I am just happy with the outcome of me winning!"



The 2025 Prom King and Queen Christian Gibson and Ciara Granados announced at prom.

# Teachers Show Appreciation for Student Scholars

By Sarah Olguin

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, teachers had the opportunity to honor their best students based on academics, positive attitude and improvement. All students from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> received awards based on the teachers pick.

"I'm very thankful that my teacher Mrs Kim nominated me for this award. I wasn't expecting it," said Aaron Tovar, a freshman and BST student.

These awards promote and encourage students to exceed expectations on academics and behavior in return for a few of a kind award from their teachers.

Aaron Tovar said, "Ms Kim said she nominated me for my award because of my work ethic and short pencils."



Aaron Tovar accepts his silver spur award.

# FFCLA Students Give Back to the Community

By Nikayli Watts



Students enjoying the day at Seal Beach to help the community with cleaning the beach.

In a recent interview, Junior Anthony Martinez Sanchez shared insights into a meaningful community service initiative led by members of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America).

Focused on giving back, the project aligns with FCCLA's core mission of supporting the community through acts of service.

FCCLA's focus for the beach cleanup is about the community. FCCLA wishes to make the community a better place by helping volunteers clean up trash from their local beach.

"We do it for the community," Sanchez said, emphasizing the heart of the initiative. The activity allows students to take part in something bigger than themselves while also enjoying a fun and relaxing environment.

According to Sanchez, students are not expected to take on responsibilities after the main service activity. Instead, they are encouraged to enjoy their time at the beach, behave responsibly, and build memories with their peers.

"They gain satisfaction from helping the community, experiencing the beach, and being there with friends while enjoying their time," Sanchez added.

This initiative highlights the importance of community service while fostering camaraderie among students—proving that giving back can be both impactful and enjoyable.

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The *Lariat* is the source for news, entertainment, and sports for Chino High School. All opinions are those of the author unless stated explicitly. For back issues, please contact peter\_ottman@chino.k12.ca.us.

## Secretary of Defense Sends War Plans to *The Atlantic* Journalist

By Emilia Morbitzer

Unusual mornings can consist of random incidents on the road, a celebrity breakup, but for journalist Jeffrey Goldberg, his unusual morning consisted of the Trump Administration, more specifically the Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, adding him into a group chat where he was sent war plans. The plans Goldberg was introduced to was the plans to bomb Yemen later that day, which was at 11 A.M PST.

Though, these bombings weren't exactly for no reason, but rather to bomb an Iranian terrorist organization known as Houthis. To give some context, Houthis had backed Hamas during their Israel invasion back in October of 2023, Israel being one of America's top allies. Well, one of Trump and his administration's promises was to provide a harsher punishment to the terrorist organizations against Israel.

But again, there's still more to this story, information was released shortly after the bombings, that the fatalities from this occurrence consisted of primarily women and children, some including

infants. The Health Ministry of Yemen and their spokesperson, Anis al-Abashi, found that 53 were killed, 31 being Yemeni citizens, and it was well over 100 people that were injured by the bombings. Yemenis have stated the targets of the bombs were forms of barbaric aggression before they were acts of justice.

Wrapping back around to the messages of what exact inside scoop Goldberg got before any of this happened, he was originally added in on March 11<sup>th</sup>, where he gained a request from Mike Haltz. Soon after, he was added into the actual group chat named "Houthi PC small group". Guess the small group didn't end up 'small' after all.

To summarize the article by Jeffrey Goldberg, Vance cares about the tightness of the group chat and minimizing risks to the Saudi oil companies. Hegseth and Vance, as well as most likely Stephen Miller, all agree that Europe is being bailed out too often and should respect the United States more. Other members of this group chat included John Ratcliffe and Michael Waltz, to which their only noticeable presence is to congratulate Hegseth for his work of not targeting the Houthi in Yemen.

Flag of Yemen

Photos courtesy of cleanpng.com

## Trump Closes Department of Education

By Ivan Pedraza

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 20 to dismantle the Department of Education, an agency that conservatives have derided as wasteful and seen as plagued of liberal ideology. The department manages federal loans for college, tracks student achievement and supports programs for students with disabilities, created by an act of Congress, meaning the order was given without congressional approval. Such an action has set the stage for battles over government intervention in schools. The order will halt federal student loans with al student claiming that the Department of Education does not have the staff to handle its \$1.6 trillion portfolio, being demanded to shed its financial functions to become an entity entirely equipped to serve the nation's students. This bold move from Trump has shown a clear delineation of power, emphasizing why no president has tried to unilaterally shutter a federal department.

President Trump's administration has cited poor test scores nationally as a key justification for the order. The department has already begun to experience some of the changes through the educational workforce being halved and the



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elimination of \$600 million in student grants, along with the Office for Civil Rights being hit hard with job cuts, the agency that enforces America's guarantee of equal education.

Public school advocates have said that the elimination of the department will leave millions of children in an unequal education system and take away from the less fortunate who depend on federal funding for quality education. Government officials such as Margaret Spellings, who served as education secretary under President George W. Bush, have said that schools have always been run by local and state officials, rejecting the idea that the education department or federal government have been holding back the schools.

As of now, much of the agency's work revolves around managing its extensive student portfolio and range of aid programs, like school lunches and support for students who are homeless, along with overseeing the enforcement of civil rights in educational institutions.

Trump's administration has not yet addressed what will happen to other department operations, such as technical education, adult learning, grants for rural schools, after-school programs, and federal work-study that provides employment to students with financial needs.

Despite school already being in government control, some conservatives have continued to push for federal dollars to be given to states as "block grants" that are to be used at their discretion. As new information continues to come out about this act, the nation is currently divided on what the future of this nation will be, but one thing is certain: the state of education and expression will be forever changed whether for better or for worse.

## The Long Time Coming Forever XII Closure

By Katya Quezada

The decision to close Forever 21 U.S. stores has been announced by F21 OpCo, marking a significant change for the brand. This closure will affect all locations across the country, including those in the Bay Area, Southern California, and New York. The stores were

In addition to competition from online retailers, Forever 21 has also been grappling with rising operational costs. Factors such as supply chain disruptions and increased shipping expenses have put additional strain on the company's finances. These challenges have

# FOREVER 21

Photo courtesy of cleanpng.com

set to close by May 1, 2025, signaling the end of an era for this once-popular retailer.

Forever 21's closure comes in the wake of its second bankruptcy filing in six years, reflecting ongoing struggles within the company. The fast fashion market has become increasingly competitive, with foreign brands like Shein and Temu rapidly gaining popularity among consumers. As a result, Forever 21 has faced mounting pressure to adapt to the changing retail landscape.

The rise of online shopping has further complicated the situation for traditional brick-and-mortar stores like Forever 21. Many shoppers are now opting for the convenience and variety offered by e-commerce platforms. This shift has contributed to declining foot traffic in physical stores, making it difficult for Forever 21 to sustain its business.

compounded the difficulties faced by the brand in maintaining its market position.

The decision to close all U.S. stores reflects a broader trend within the retail industry, where many companies are reevaluating their strategies. As consumer preferences shift towards online shopping, traditional retailers must find innovative ways to adapt. Forever 21 closure serves as a reminder of the harsh realities of an evolving marketplace.

The impending closure of Forever 21 U.S. stores marks a significant moment in the fast fashion industry. The brand, once a go-to destination for trendy apparel, will no longer be a staple in American shopping centers. As the retail landscape continues to change, companies must learn from Forever 21's experience and navigate the challenges ahead.

## Seniors Embark on Their Next Adventure

By Jose Meza

Senior signing day was a day for seniors to make a big difference in their lives by joining a college or if that's not their style, trade school, or the military located in the gym on April 25.

Some students are shy or think they cannot participate because they aren't attending a university, but this day helped seniors no matter what they decide to be. "We are highlighting the seniors no matter what they decided to do right after high school," said Eloisa Castillo.

Many senior students plan to go to college or university, places like UCLA, Stanford University, and Pomona College. Some people like

Benjamin Cooper chose Calvin Knights University for its environmental science program. "I plan on becoming a game warden and department of fish and wildlife in Montana," said Cooper.

But some students can't go straight to college or chose not to and then they end up going to the military. Many go to the military for their benefit or don't have any other plans but not Angela Talavera. "I plan to gather jobs like skills like managing and I plan to study aerospace engineering," said Talavera.

These seniors have planned for their future just like other seniors who signed up for this event.

Let this be an example for those who could not attend, as a reminder that there are many other ways to plan for their future just like these two seniors.



Seniors being presented at Senior Signing Day by Mr. Miller and Mr. Cervantez with support of friends and family.

## Yearbook Captures More Than Just Memories

By Alyssa Santiago

El Chasqui, Chino High's yearbook, has been included in *The 2025 Jostens' Look Book*. Yearbooks



Yearbook student Janelle Escobar presenting her design used in *The 2025 Jostens' Look Book* principal Mr. Miller.

included in the publication are considered the best year books from the previous school year. In addition, the yearbook program has been recognized nationally.

"We create the yearbook online through their website, and they handle the printing for us," said Briana Lerma, yearbook advisor. *The 2025 Jostens Look Book* is the publisher's premier publication, showcasing the best yearbook in the industry from the 2024 school year.

Lerma explained that a panel of judges from reviews more than 1,000 yearbooks from around the world to find the best to include in the *Look Book*. Around 400 yearbooks are featured in the publication.

Lerma said, "Our 2024 yearbook was chosen for its 'unique ideas, elements, and use of graph-

ic lines.' Sophomore Janelle Escobar created the spread included in the *Look Book*.

The yearbook program has earned Silver Level recognition as a 2025 National yearbook Program of Excellence.

Lerma said, "To achieve this recognition, our yearbook students increased sales from last year, created a strong social media presence, and met every deadline throughout the year. El Chasqui stood out this year because all students worked well together, created a healthy and fun environment, and maintained organization.



Photo courtesy of Cleanpng.com

## The Gift of Blood: An Easy Way to be Helpful

By Jasmine Garavito

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the school hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive of the year to close out the 2024-2025 school year. The school partners with LifeStream to raise awareness and collect blood from Chino High students and teachers who are eligible to donate.

Freshman Tori Navares was working the blood drive as an ASB student. She and her classmates were there to make the donation process easier for the people that are donating. The ASB class offered snacks and drinks, while also constantly checking up on the students to make sure they are as comfortable as possible. Navares admires the blood drive even though she wasn't able to donate this year. She said, "I think that the blood drive is very

beneficial to other that need it." The ASB students were happy to report that the school reached its goal of 90 donations.

Senior Vanessa Rios donated for the first time; she was very happy that she could do it before she graduated. Rios said, "I was nervous", her nervous behavior was understandable because it was

her first time donating. In the end she was happy to help those that needed it.

The Blood Drive offers a great opportunity and an easy way to help others and do something kind. The school makes it easy for those that want to donate, making the experience fast and easy.



## Theatre Kicks Off Their Opening Night For Mary Poppins Jr.

By Bellissima Becerra

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Chino High Theatre Company had their official opening night for their anticipated show, *Mary Poppins Jr.*



Aaron Tovar (Bert) Cassandra Barron (Mary Poppins) performing "Jolly Hoilday."

The performance had two hours long, featuring a wide-spread range of humorous, intriguing and bubbly characters such as Bert, Jane Banks, Micheal Banks, and Mary Poppins herself. It was a fun, cheerful, and entertaining show that had the audience hooked with its characters and tunes sung by the cast. The tech booth also did some amazing projections during the show for a little bit of extra flare during the performance.

Frank Smouse had announced at the end of the show that this was their last show of the year before the current seniors had left, opening new doors with a wide range of new and exciting opportunities for both the returning and upcoming students in the

theatre company. The seniors had worked very hard to get up to this point, putting lots of effort, skill, and emotion into their roles during their final moments working for the Theatre Company.

Junior Angeline Penaloza, who played Jane Banks and Robertson Ay during the show said, "This was one of my first lead roles!" showing how *Mary Poppins Jr.* Opened new and exciting opportunities to all cast and crew members. Angeline had also stated that she and all the rest of the crew and cast had been practicing since January. The theatre company has been working very hard to be able to perform in their show, and the audience loved it. Opening night was a very big success for the Chino Theatre Company.

# After Strong Career, Senior Athletes Inspire Younger Classes

By Carissa Mendoza

As senior athletes reflect on their athletic careers, they share valuable advice and memories that highlight the opportunity of playing a sport in high school, teamwork and passion.

Recognizing fall sports; Cross Country, Volleyball, Boys' Water Polo, Girls Tennis, Football and Flag



**Senior Angela Talavera winning a match in her wrestling career.**

Football. Senior in Cross Country, Payton Montes, has done Cross Country for 4 years, she states her group of people pushed her to continue cross country, and those who do so are positive and friendly which is what makes it enjoyable to do. Her advice to her teammates and younger athletes is, "To always try to find something positive out of the practice and just try to make the most of it."

Football player Aaron Jimenez, #44, claims his most memorable moment throughout high school was win his team beat Covina on his senior night to clench the league title. His advice to teammates and younger football players is, "To play

your hardest now, before you won't even have the option to play at all." He doesn't plan on playing football in college as he plans on attending a trade school.

Athlete Rey Martinez was fortunate to play in the first Flag Football season and says her most memorable moment was the hype she would always receive from her fellow teammates after every flag she'd pulled or did a good play. "My advice that I would give would be to keep having fun and play loose, don't get so stressed out it's all just muscle memory so trust your abilities."

Volleyball player, Angela Talavera has also played volleyball for 4 years. "A memorable moment in my volleyball career was my most recent season, playing our summer tournament at Walnut which allowed my team to become closer as the school year started". She expresses who her teammates were the reason she continued to play all 4 years. She doesn't plan on playing in college, but does plan on enlisting into the Air Force before she attends college.

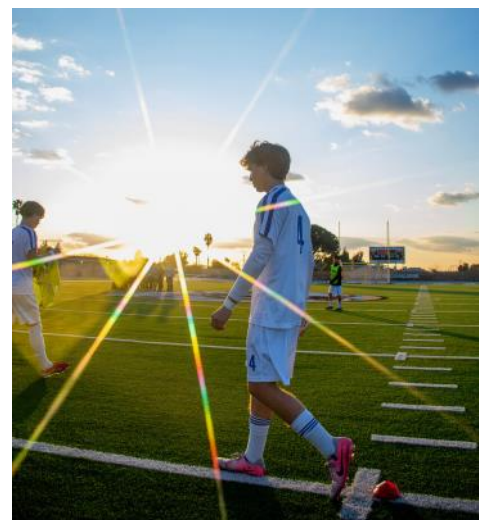
Recognizing winter sports; Girls Water Polo, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball, Girls Wrestling, Boys Soccer, Boys Basketball and Boys Wrestling. Varsity soccer player, Camryn Layton #10, says the reason she stuck with soccer throughout high school was to keep goals in mind and always work towards something. "My achievement or milestone I'm most proud of is scoring in nationals."

Charisma Cano has played basketball for 4 years, what she is most proud of is the resilience she has shown over the past 4 years.

Even in the face of step backs, she preserved, which led to her being recognized with Mt. Baldy League Honorable Mention. "My advice is to focus on your own growth rather than measuring yourself against your teammates."

"My motivation for wrestling really came from my parents and family who always wanted me to keep pushing myself and work as hard as I could." Angela Talavera also has done wrestling for 4 years, a memorable moment her wrestling career was league finals, winning her 3rd consecutive league champion title as well as watching her bestie Ali compete for her spot at CIF.

Logan Dockweiler, #4, states that what motivated him to keep pursuing this sport throughout high school is the thought of knowing that he won't play high school soccer with his friends ever again in



**Senior Logan Dockweiler walking on the field during a soccer game.**

his life, so he should make the most of everything. He doesn't plan on

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playing soccer in college, but has made the most of his high school career.

"My most memorable moment in wrestling must be when we won CIF for the 2nd time." Aaron Jimenez has done wrestling for 4 years, competing in CIF as well as being part of a team that has made history at Chino High School.

Recognizing spring sports; Boys and Girls Swim, Boys and Girls Track, Boys tennis, Boys Golf, Baseball, and Softball. Xiovanny Ochoa, plans on playing baseball in college. What motivates him to keep playing is that he loves overcoming failure. "Since it is a failure-based sport, it helps me overcome problems not just in baseball but in life as well. I'm also motivated by having fun with other people who want to see me succeed as much as I want to see them succeed."

Marissa Quintero, who has played softball since she was little, as well as playing 4 years in high school is going to be playing D2 Softball at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. "Some advice I'd give to my teammates and younger athletes is, don't let a bad game define how you are as an athlete."

Olivia Phillips, track athlete, most memorable moment is making it to league finals for the first time thinking it wasn't possible. "Nobody's going to make you want it, you must push yourself to practice and get there."

Ewrin Gozun, has played golf for 4 years, his favorite memory was when his team won league titles.

Tennis player, Cecil Howell, has played tennis for 9 years, 4 including high school. His motivation throughout high school was to eventually become a professional tennis player. "Advice for my athletes and younger teammates is consistency is key."

## NBA Playoffs Outlook and Rankings

By Marc V Hernandez

On April 19, the NBA playoffs arrived. A certain number of teams had successful seasons and have performed well enough to play some playoff basketball, these teams include the Oklahoma City Thunder, Memphis Grizzlies, Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Clippers, Los Angeles Lakers, Minnesota Timberwolves, Houston Rockets, Golden State Warriors, Cleveland Cavaliers, Miami Heat, Indiana Pacers, Milwaukee Bucks, New York Knicks, Detroit Pistons, Boston Celtics, and Orlando Magic.

Out of 16 teams, only one can be named champions. These 16 teams are put in a playoff bracket based on their division, and their season record.

There can be a champion of each league, one in the West, and one in the East. Teams play to knock out teams in their own division and to make their way to the Western or Eastern Championship

game. After that is when the winners of the Western and Eastern Championship game play against each other for the title of NBA champions.

All games are best of seven, first team to reach 4 wins in the matchups move on to the next game and the loser of the series gets eliminated. Fans all around are expecting an action-filled postseason.

Teams that are favored to make a good run in the Western division are the Denver Nuggets and the Los Angeles Lakers. Favorites for the Eastern division are the Cleveland Cavaliers and the reigning champions of the 2024 NBA championship, the Boston Celtics.

This NBA postseason will definitely not disappoint. Many powerful, and stacked teams test their key players and pieces and all hope to make an amazing run to be named the champions of 2025.

### 2025 NBA Playoffs Bracket (Updated)

#### Eastern Conference

##### First Round:

- (1) Cleveland Cavaliers vs. (8) Orlando Magic
- (4) Indiana Pacers vs. (5) Milwaukee Bucks
- (3) New York Knicks vs. (6) Detroit Pistons
- (2) Boston Celtics vs. (7) Atlanta Hawks

##### Conference Semifinals:

- **Indiana Pacers** lead series 2-0 over **Cleveland Cavaliers**
- **New York Knicks** lead series 1-0 over **Boston Celtics**

#### Western Conference

##### First Round:

- (1) Oklahoma City Thunder vs. (8) Minnesota Timberwolves
- (4) Los Angeles Lakers vs. (5) Houston Rockets
- (3) Denver Nuggets vs. (6) Golden State Warriors
- (2) Memphis Grizzlies vs. (7) LA Clippers

##### Conference Semifinals:

- **Denver Nuggets** lead series 1-0 over **Oklahoma City Thunder**
- **Golden State Warriors** lead series 1-0 over **Minnesota Timberwolves**

## A Fresh Take on a Coming-of-Age Journey in *The Life List*

By Carissa Mendoza

The movie *The Life List* offers a heartwarming take on self-discovery and second chances, blending familiar romantic comedy tropes with a fresh and relatable story. But does it deliver anything beyond that?

We live in a world that constantly makes us believe that we have to figure it all out and have to keep it together. The new and upcoming movie, *The Life List*, offers a refreshing take on the beauty of uncertainty.

This new film, centers on a woman who, during life's unexpected turns, learns that it's okay to not have everything figured out in life. Instead of following the stereotypical trajectory of a rom-com, this

story captures the messy and imperfect moments that bring up the coming-of-age experience, no matter your age. It's a reminder that growth doesn't happen overnight. This movie is able to capture relatable struggles and offers a narrative that encourages you to embrace your flaws and trust the process of becoming.

At the heart of the film, it's the reminder of personal growth isn't a direct path. The protagonist, like many of us, finds herself at a crossroads, facing the weight of expectations. What makes *The Life List* stand out is how it portrays the character's realization that life doesn't always unfold accordingly. She's allowed to stumble, to ques-

tion, and to be uncertain, and so are we. This approach to self-discovery makes the film resonate with anyone who has felt the pressure to have life "figured out" by a certain age.

So as a reminder to Seniors, it's okay to not have everything figured out before graduation, or after high school. Allow yourself to question the unknown, to fail, to be uncertain and to dream. There is still time to figure it all out, or whatever that truly means.

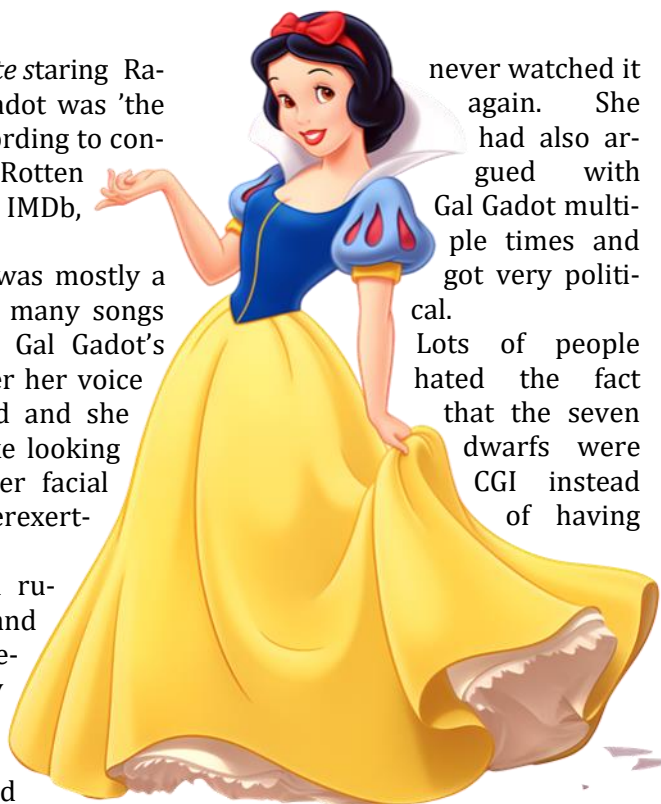
## Live Action Snow White Lacks Disney Magic

By Alyssa Santiago

Disney's *Snow White* starring Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot was 'the worst movie ever' according to consumers. It has 40% on Rotten Tomatoes, 1.6/10 on IMDb, and Metacritic 50%.

The entire movie was mostly a musical with way too many songs that are unnecessary. Gal Gadot's was not the best singer her voice was heavily autotuned and she did a few mistakes like looking at the camera and her facial expressions were overexerted.

Rachel Zegler had ruined her reputation and the movies. She disrespected the movie by calling the original movie weird even going as much to say she'd



never watched it again. She had also argued with Gal Gadot multiple times and got very political.

Lots of people hated the fact that the seven dwarfs were CGI instead of having

actual little people to play them. People also disliked the CGI animals along with almost everything about the movie. However, the movie was disliked before it came out.

The controversy with Rachel Zegler caused theaters to be empty and made Disney lose \$100 Million at the box office. This has caused Disney to put a pause on the live action *Tangled* not wanting to make another bad move right after this one.

Photo courtesy of Cleanpng.com

# The Minecraft Movie Takes Shape Through Cinema

By Deja Hernandez

*Minecraft* has shaped many of our childhoods. Many of us grew up playing the game and enjoying all of the new updates that have come out since the start of it all. This year, we had a major update; *A Minecraft Movie*.

With *Minecraft* being out for 15 years, coming out May 19, 2009,

*A Minecraft Movie* was released April 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States. It features many different original songs

and musical numbers. The movie stars Jack Black, Jason Momoa, Emma Myers, Sebastian Eugene Hanson, and Danielle Brooks.

There were guest appearances from *Minecraft* YouTubers such as DanTDM, LDShadowLady, and Aphmau as well as many references throughout the movie and little easter eggs all over.

Passed on YouTuber Technoblade's skin also made a mini

appearance in the movie where Jack Black's character Steve refers to him as a legend. This touched the hearts of many people as it was very heartwarming to see.

This movie filled audiences all over the world with so much happiness and laughter. Make sure to be on the lookout for the after credits scene!

# Not Everybody Deserves an Education

By Emilia Morbitzer

You thought I was done talking about the president? *Pfft. No Way.* Nobody knows whether the Department of Education is actually beneficial for their kids, they don't know what it even does. However, it doesn't matter now, that as of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, President Donald Trump has signed the executive order to dismantle the Department of Education without the approval of congress.

Some people obviously believe that the D.O.E. was a waste of funding from the government and, if anything, was causing a downfall on the educational wellness of their children. However, the D.O.E. secured access to education, free lunches and after-school meals, proper funding for every student as much as they needed it because they had federal policies that every state had to somewhat abide by. That includes more kids than most people today can even try to feel empathy for.

Another major thing the D.O.E. aided was federal funding, but not just any funding, FASFA is taking a massive hit here, too. Yes, the one

that helps low-income students pay for the ability to pursue post-secondary educations that aid and build the American society, would now be vulnerable to the closure of the D.O.E. and therefore could result in a loss of attendees at colleges because of the loss of funding.

Let nobody forget either, President Trump is signing away secured policies for children to have equal access to school in general, he was one of an academician himself. By that I mean, he 'created', to put it generously, a university that went by the title "Trump University", of course. But it's not a genuine university of course, this went down as a 'fraudulent scheme' as many say, which would be only one of his now multiple failed businesses, some even his parents just handed off to him, and counts of fraud. How... *unsurprising*.

What is the main reason behind all of this? Trump wants to save money on government



Photo courtesy of cleanpng.com

spending and sees the spending on the D.O.E. completely unnecessary all together. Which, while that may seem like a good thing, leaves one to wonder where he is putting the funding now. Obviously, it is not going to public healthcare, since he's pulling funding from that now, too. Even if he was being credible and trying to fund something plausible, dismantling the D.O.E. is against the Constitution, and therefore, against the law as a president.

Either way, Trump is now sacrificing and sabotaging the entire nation's generations through their education. It may seem comical, or so funny it cannot be true, but this is *exactly* what he has planned.

# What Are You Doing After High School?

By Jazmyne Vasquez and  
Marc Hernandez

A few students took part in a survey answering questions asking about what they plan to do after high school. The answer options were college, trade school, military/navy, or go straight into work.



When asked, 57.9% of people said that they were planning on going to college. College offers you the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge in your chosen field and earn a degree that can open job opportunities for you later in life. This seems the path most people are likely to go onto after graduation, but it doesn't mean there aren't other pathways to follow.

10.5% of people that answered said they were going to opt to go to a trade school. Which is the right choice for some people if college isn't for you. With trade schools there are many great benefits that can be offered to you such as more hands-on training in



tional college. There was another 10.5% of people deciding that they were going into the military or navy. The navy/military includes awesome benefits such as gaining valuable skills and training that can be useful in both military life and as a civilian. There's also the ability to travel the world and gain great benefits like the GI Bill to help you pay for college.

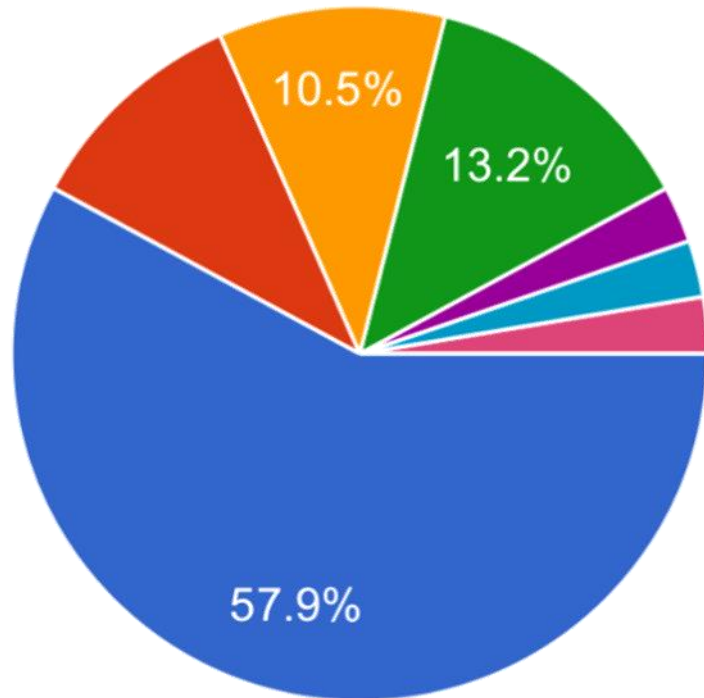
13.2% of people plan on just hoping into work. This can conclude of being a part of family busi-

nesses or part-time/full-time jobs to start making money early and work up to higher work positions. It's a great way to figure out what you enjoy doing.

Most students already have their plans for the future figured out and will have a successful career in whichever path they choose. If you're still confused about what pathway you want to take just yet, don't worry you still have many opportunities that can come to you.



Photos courtesy of cleanpng.com



Pie chart showing the percentages of what each student wants to do with themselves after high school.

## Seniors Give Insight to Juniors for Their Senior Year

By Deja Hernandez



Jordynn Daniels

"Some advice I would give to upcoming seniors is to be present in all of your 'lasts'. This year will be your final year to go to the dances, the football games, etc. Make sure to soak it in, take pictures, enjoy what's happening, and have fun."



Iris Ulloa

"Don't let men or 'friends' influence you to doing bad things in life or to think bad about yourself, to know yourself to be able to understand that you and everyone here deserves to be treated with respect whether in friendships or in relationships. Surround yourself with people who love you, who will not judge you and who will uplift you and help you grow. Love yourself and choose yourself first over anyone."



Jhoanna Espinoza

"Have the most fun with your friends your senior year because it truly does go by quickly. Even if you don't like going out you should still go because you will regret it later on. As for life advice, surround yourself with people who make you feel happy when you're around them. Before my senior year I had left a few friendships and at the beginning I made new ones, and I have never felt more at peace than I do now."

## Teachers Give Their Final Goodbyes to the Class of 2025

By Deja Hernandez and Evelyn Alva



Mrs. Kleppe

"My advice for the senior class would be to live at home for as long as you possibly can until your parents cannot tolerate you anymore, because it's too expensive to live on your own."



Mr. Davila

"My favorite memories this year have been all the great conversations I have had with students. I have had many laughs and great conversations about life with the seniors. Seniors are what make this job fun, so I appreciate their candidness all year-long."



Ms. Mitchell

"Curiosity. Stay curious so you can keep learning. Be thoughtful in your words and your actions—Don't scroll through other people's lives. Make your own moments in life. Just be alive."

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**Mr. Valadez**

"My favorite memory with the class of 25, it will always be for the rest of my career, is that they are the first class I ever get to graduate out of high school as a brand-new teacher."

**Principal Mr. Miller**

"Learn how to find those things in life that are worth putting energy towards; in terms that might be frustrations for you or things that are really happy. Find those things that are important to you and hold onto them dearly. The other things that bring negativity or drama into your life, learn how to let that go and move on."

**Mr. Ledesma**

"I would advise the senior class to not always believe what you think and think about it twice before you put your name on something! DO NOT allow Concentration to be the lost art of your generation."

**Mrs. Legazcue**

"I have a lot of advice; my first advice would be to be financially stable. That is one outside of English that I would advise so that means make good choices that aren't going to put you into debt, because we all know how that life goes"

**Mr. Keany**

"Now it's your turn, Senior Class, to shake the foundations, to shake the status quo; make a positive difference in your community and in your life with good decisions."

**Mrs. Nelson**

"My favorite memory is having a lot of laughs in class and good conversations. One piece of advice is to work hard, don't let the setbacks prevent you from reaching your goals."

# A Moment for Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

By Samantha Sandoval

The Senior class of 25' have showed dedication and hard work throughout their years in high school, which has paid off with the excellence of our seniors being honored for outstanding academic achievement with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

This year's Valedictorian is Adrian Mora, and Salutatorian is Cecil Howell.

Adrian Mora, whose brother was also Valedictorian for the class of 2023, will be attending Yale University to follow along in his brothers' footsteps. He says that he had big expectations for himself, and making himself and his parents proud was a way for him to meet and exceed those expectations. At Yale, Mora plans to study Ethics, Politics, and Economics with aspirations to become a corporate lawyer, then later in life, to become a congressman for the United States.

When talking about being honored as Valedictorian, Mora says, "I've worked so hard to achieve this goal and it feels great that it has all finally paid off."

Adrian Mora was involved in many clubs and took roles such as President of both AP Club and Green Club on campus.

Cecil Howell, who transferred to Chino High his sophomore year, has

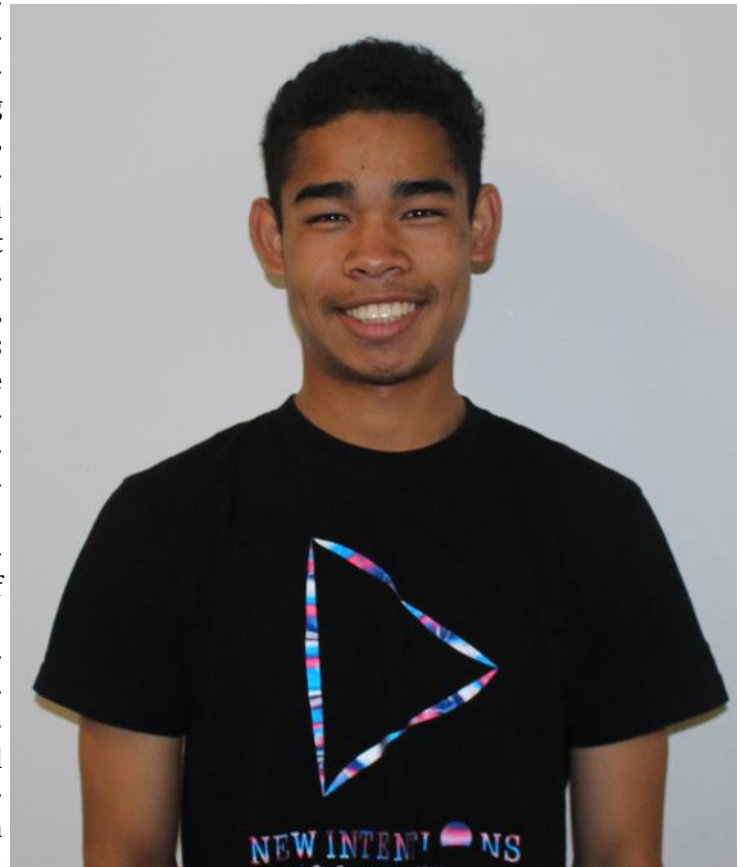
been in tennis at the school and plans to play varsity tennis once in college. He says that being honored as Salutatorian feel "bittersweet to finally get the award because it marks the end of an era."

After high school, Howell wants to complete his studies in Mechanical Engineering at UC Berkeley, to pursue a career goal as a creator to start his own product design firm, where he hopes to introduce new technologies that improve the livelihood of others.

The prestigious spots of Salutatorian were a challenge for Howell, as his greatest friend and academic competitor Ivan Tan have both been switching spots with 2<sup>nd</sup>

and 3<sup>rd</sup> for the last couple of years, which Howell believes "that the process only drove both of us to be better."

If you would like to see more of Cecil after high school, feel free to follow his Instagram @cecil.y.howell.



The 2025 Salutatorian Cecil Howell who happily chose UC Berkeley for his undergraduate degree this fall.

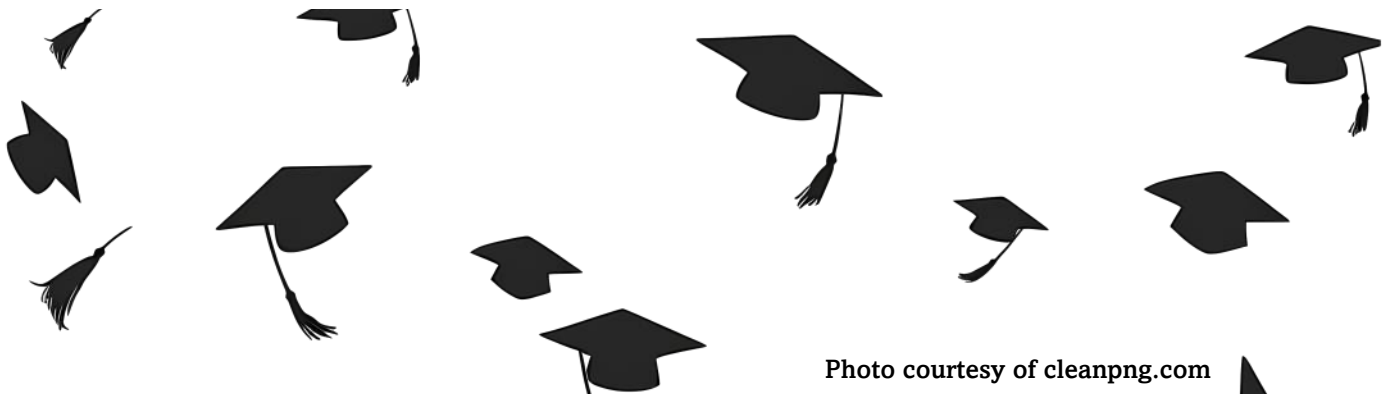


Photo courtesy of cleanpng.com

# Top 10 Seniors Announced for the Class of 2025

By Lizette Ruelas

Every year at graduation, the top ten seniors of that year's class are recognized and given the privilege to be the first ten students to walk across stage. This year was extremely competitive, and some students even share a top ten ranking because it was so difficult to determine who had the highest GPAs.

We asked the top ten seniors how they stayed motivated throughout high school, their plans after graduation, and which staff helped them along the way. This was what they said:



Valedictorian Adrian Mora says his brother, who was also his class's valedictorian, motivated him to follow in his footsteps and make his family proud. He is committed to Yale University and will study Ethics, Politics and Economics as he hopes to become a corporate lawyer and eventually a U.S Congressman.

Cecil Howell responded "I relied more on consistency than motivation. I just made it a personal standard to finish all my work regardless of how I felt that day. After graduation, I plan to study mechanical engineering/ physics and pursue a career in industrial design. I want to give a shoutout to my day 1 librarian- Mrs.King! From the day I transferred to this school, she has been a consistent helper. She has enabled me to achieve excellence in my academic and extracurricular pursuits over the past 2.5 years at CHS."

Tilly Kakuk said "Throughout high school I stayed motivated by constantly setting goals for myself that I could look forward to achieving on the way to my big goal of getting into a great college! After graduation I will be attending UCLA and studying pre-psychology. There, I intend to also extend my wrestling career by continuing to compete internationally. Taking AP Psychology with Mr. Angulo helped me discover my passion for psychology! I also learned valuable study habits in that class, which have been essential in keeping up my good grades.

Johnson Ngo said "I stayed motivated throughout high school because at some point you get used to the difficulties that high school presents, especially your average student's sleep schedule... mine's usually no more than 5 hours every night. My plans after graduation are to attend UC Irvine and gradu-

ate with a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry; then, I will enroll in its School of Medicine to attain my Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine which will qualify me for my future profession as a neurosurgeon. Yes, in fact I'd like to give a shoutout to two people here who have especially helped me along the way: Mrs. Mendoza, my Spanish 1 teacher, and Mr. Pollara, my high school counselor of three years."

Olivia Phillips "I stayed motivated by my personal drive to get things done and make sure that my goals would be in reach. After grad-



uation I plan on attending UCSB to study pre-economics and accounting. My favorite class is my 5th period art, as miss Williams has been such a godsend in providing me so much help and support this year."

Charlie Fe replied "I stayed motivated throughout high school as I want to try my hardest in whatever I do for my success in the future. I want to work hard now to gain ben-

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official opportunities in my life and future career. I also stay motivated for mostly myself, as I want to push myself to work hard and do good in school. After graduation, I plan to attend Azusa Pacific University and get my bachelor's degree in nursing. My goal is to be a neonatal nurse and take care of newborn babies. I am considering continuing and get my Master's degree to go higher and become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in advanced nursing care to newborns. My calculus teacher Ms. Bergmann helped me along the way as she is very kind and gave me her support this year, especially during admission and decision season. I am thankful for her support this year!"

Marco Robles says "My main motivation is making my parents proud. Knowing how hard my parents work to provide me with the things I have really motivates me to try my hardest in school. My plans after high school are to go to a four year to get my bachelor's degree and then try to get into med school. My favorite classes were both Ap and Honors Chemistry, I had that

class with my friends, so it was a very fun and interesting class."

Franklin Duane San Mateo answered "I stayed motivated throughout high school by remembering the importance of studying and not procrastinating. My plans after graduation are to take civil engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. Mr. Fallon helped me along the way. Mr. Fallon helped me with extremely difficult Physics concepts I endured in Junior Year."

Ashley J Garcia Barrita - I was able to stay motivated through these four years by just reminding myself of my end goal, which is making my family, especially my mom, proud. She has sacrificed lots in order for me to have an education and it is something I know to not take for granted. I also made sure to have breaks when I needed to in order to not have constant burnouts or get my stress levels too high. After high school, I plan on continuing my education although I'm still deciding where to go whether it be UCSB or UCLA. I will aim to major in psychology and pursue a master's and doctoral degree to go into forensic psychology and continue my career in that field.

All of my teachers have been influential to be whether it be by giving advice or being an overall positive influence in my academic journey, guiding me to be the best I can be. A special big thank you to Davila, Guillemet, Bergmann, and Morris as they have made big impacts



in my life, whether they know it or not, and I will always remember them fondly when I look back at all the ways they've helped me. These teachers are truly something I will miss in the future and I'm glad I was able to experience being their student.

Ivan Tan - I stay motivated throughout high school by coming to school every day with an open mind to learn and socialize with peers. My plan after graduation is to attend UC Irvine and major in political science. My favorite class/teacher that helped me along the way is Ms. Parrell as she helped me get a 5 on both the AP European History and AP US History exams.



Photo courtesy of cleanpng.com



# Saying Hello and Goodbye Mr. Bowden

By Sophia Jimenez

At the April academic rally, most students might've just discovered Mr. Bowden's retirement. But the students in the music department had been aware since the summer that their beloved choir and band director, Doug Bowden, would be retiring.



Bowden started teaching in 1986 at Magnolia Junior High and has been teaching since then for about 39 years! But why did he choose this path in the first place? Bowden said "I discovered in high school I really liked being in the music department and so I just thought I'd like to do it. I guess my teachers inspired me, although some didn't last."

To be more specific, when he was a junior year in high school, his band teacher abruptly quit. Leaving Bowden, an assistant drum agent, to help run a couple of band classes. "I had to help run the band for like nine weeks, we didn't have a teacher. And so, you know, I kind of got a taste of it," relayed Bowden.

Although his school eventually obtained a replacement teacher and director, Bowden, a senior drum major, still took up a lot of the work alongside other drum majors. He explained "He had me do a lot more extra things than I normally would do. I did a lot of directing even as a

senior, a lot of stuff like that."

However, while pursuing his eventual teaching career, he did a bit of student teaching at Arcadia High School. "This was the spring I had to do choir and band, so it's when I first started really teaching choir classes," said Mr. Bowden. Marking what would eventually become the Chino Chorale at Chino High.

In comparison to the past, Bowden said the only stark difference he felt was more emphasis on his retirement, and lots of congratulations. "It's been normal cause I have goals to accomplish, performances, and you know, I want to fulfill all that. Bowden further added "when I walk away from Graduation, it's going to be, well, that's it."

With about 39 years of teaching experience, there's an abundance of treasured memories this teacher holds dear. "I mean, I've been very blessed with many, many cool things from this year, wow," relayed Bowden. Specifically, one of his favorites being that the band and choir got to go to Disney again after so many years. "That was kind of cool for you guys to experience that because you can't really understand it till you do it," stated Bowden. He hopes they'll be able to continue the tradition annually once again.

Additionally, what comes with being a teacher in any field are a few joys and challenges alike. One of the most prominent in any field being motivation. As Bowden put it "As a teacher of a non-regular class, I also have to keep people in it. If I'm in math, I have to be in math, you have to take English, but you don't have to take music."

On the bright side, he relayed how he appreciates the kids who are motivated and ready to learn more



from him. Alongside how he gets to positively impact the community with the performances he gets to do with the kids from both groups.

Generally, when someone retires, there's a sixth month period where you're not supposed to do anything, because you're retired. But he plans to do all the things he typically couldn't during the school year. "I know some of the things I can do, since I'll have more time. I could judge more and help people improve that way. I have grandkids in Iowa, now I can visit and travel more," he said. Alongside doing more around the house and attending more Bible studies.

The pure scope of his impact on



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the lives of his students will always be known. The students in the 77th Cavalry and Chino Chorale have had such memorable experiences because of him, and not just the current members, but all of those who have been under his tutelage over years. As Chino says goodbye to Bowden, it welcomes Flint Parrell to continue the wonderful legacy and traditions laid down by beloved teacher, Mr. Bowden.



## To the Leader of The Lariat

By Lizette Ruelas

As this school year comes to an end, we say goodbye to an amazing leader, Samantha Sandoval. Samantha, a senior at Chino High School, has been the Editor-in-Chief of The Lariat, during the 2024-25 school year and her impact on the newspaper has been unforgettable.

Samantha joined journalism two years ago and quickly became someone everyone could look up to. She's been a part of the editing team since she joined and has since then been the person to curate and perfect the newspaper layout for every issue. She works hard on every story, helps others with their writing, and always makes sure everyone's papers are the best they could be.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, Samantha is currently coaching the future editors on the process of creating the newspaper. She works alongside the managing and section editors to get editing and review done but holds the biggest responsibilities as she set deadlines and expectations for the students' writing and ultimately does final revision on each article to



make sure they are up to printing standard.

Samantha's dedication doesn't go unnoticed. Samantha was voted "Most Likely to Be Successful" in the senior superlatives, a perfect and reflective title for her. Whether it was long days editing or supporting her staff, she always gave her best efforts to The Lariat.

Her leadership, kindness, and energy will be missed but we know she's off to do great things. Thank you, Samantha, for everything. The Lariat won't be the same without you!

## Farewell to ASB Seniors

By Samantha Sandoval  
and Lizette Ruelas

As the school year comes to an end, we start to say goodbye to our seniors. This year, we say our farewells to the class of 25' ASB seniors.

These students have worked tremendously hard throughout the school year to plan activities, events, and even rally's that students participate in.



Cassidy Rodriguez ASB Class  
President

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The hard work not only comes from all members ASB, but also from the seniors who finished their last year in the program.

This year's seniors were Cassidy Rodriguez, Kalia Brady, Aiden Franco, Charisma Cano, Rachel Rubio, Jeremiah King, Aubrey Morales, Daniel Murphey, Xiovany Ochoa, and Angela Talavera.

ASB President Cassidy Rodriguez says "The main part of the ASB program that I hope Chino continues after I leave is the bond. The program is literally a second home and second family even." She also says, "I believe everyone should be able to have a chance to be a part of that."

## Folklorico Seniors Moving On

By Jasmine Garavito

The Folklorico Club ended their year with a celebratory banquet, where they appointed their new cabinet of 2026. The seniors of the club are excited about what it is to pass the responsibility to new club members at their banquet on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Junior Desiree Orendain is the new Vice President of the club. She has been in Folklorico all her years of high school and is going into senior year strong as Vice President. Orendain says, "I am very thankful, and looking forward to



making new friends and memories."

Junior Alyssa Gonzales is the new President of the Folklorico Club, and she is very excited. Gonzales says she is, "super-excited and grateful that I got this role and this opportunity." Gonzales promises that she will try to make the club exciting and continue to grow as a family next year.

## Theatre Says Farewell to Graduating Thespians

By Sarah Olguin

As spring comes to an end, all clubs and activities get ready to say goodbye to their seniors, most notably, theatre. The theatre company consists of twelve seniors.

Diana Jimenez Fernandez, a theatre veteran who has been with the company since their main stage debut of 'Our Town', says "One of my first and favorite memories is getting my very first role, where I got to dress up as a dude and play How-

ie Newsome. He was a supporting character, but the role that made me fall in love with performing. Since then, I've grown as a performer, and got to play many other fun and unique roles but getting to play Mary Poppins for our latest musical is one of the most exciting and rewarding roles I've had."

Last year, more than half of their group of actors graduated. Yet this year, most of their technical team will be graduating.

Which leaves Ryan Davis, the technical director, to build up his team again with incoming freshmen.

"My advice for those who come after me is that enjoy every single second of life, school, and theatre. You could blink and all of a sudden you're walking the stage, I recommend making the most of what you have and some of my best memories and even friends came from theatre, it's truly special and it's the best thing I've done all throughout high school." says Layne Da Rocha, a theatre veteran and stage manager.

This year has been an amazing year for the company because of everyone who's in it, when they get a job to do they do it with precision.

"Be confident and shine like the star that you are. Thank you to the Chino High School's Theatre Company for giving me a place to shine and belong." says senior Annalise Ortega.



Theatre seniors after their final rally performance.

# Chino Chorale Spectacularly Sing For Spring

By Sophia Jimenez

On the night of March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chino Chorale performed several beautiful and exciting pieces of music at their annual spring concert! With music full of heartwarming messages, serious tones, and fun for all ages.

Befitting the choir, considering their track record, the stunning and fitting choreography was created once again by juniors Brianna Ramirez, Rosa Gamino, Janessa Ramirez, and Alexis Robbins. The students were so excited, if not more so than the crowd!

The Chino Chorale's opening act for the spring concert was a piece called *The Sixties*, arranged by Kirby Shaw. It included *The Sixties Opener*, *I Get Around*, and renowned song: *Sound of Silence*. The final song in the installment features a duet performed by senior Ashley Moreno and junior Angeline Penaloza.

If you attended the Fall Concert, the second song in their lineup should feel familiar. It marked the return of *Rockin' America Movement 2*: *Rock 'n' Roll is Born*. The choir was more than prepared and once again delivered a performance

fitting of Disney performers! It also served as the first part of three in the "Na" series of songs. "It felt nice to have one final performance with one part of our Disneyland music before moving on to the closing concert," said junior Abigail Rico.

The third installment in the concert and second in the "Na" series, originally performed by the acclaimed Pentatonix! Featuring solo's performed by junior Brianna Ramirez and senior Ariel Garcia.

Up next was the song *Spinning Wheel*, with words and music by David Clayton Thomas. With the title, in the writer's words, meaning "Hey, don't get too caught up in movements because everything comes full-circle." Besides its meaning, the performance featured on the nose and eye-pleasing choreography alongside stellar energy. Making this song, despite its slower pace, still a hit to watch in concert.

Fifth in the lineup was a beloved song by The Beatles titled *Hey Jude*. During this number, the

choir, Mr. Bowden, and some of the crowd came together to sing the end of the final installment in the "Na" song series with pure glee.

From this point forward, the message of this concert became clear, hope and joy. Made specifically clear with the song *Eja! Eja!* conducted by Mr. Parrell. Key and re-occurring lyrics "we will sing for joy" are very noticeable from the jump. This beautiful piece, written by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, truly hammered home the importance of having joy and continuous hope no matter what. Including the significance of musical expression!

*Let Us Sing*, composed by Sally K. Albrecht, served as the acapella and mature piece for the night. In a song like this, harmony is key since there's no music, but the choir delivered spectacularly. A truly wonderfully executed performance and message. "It was definitely harder to learn, but worth it when we finally got it (right)," said junior Noemi Rivera.

Finally, the choir performed *You Will Be Found* from beloved Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. With beautiful music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the choir truly shined the brightest that night. This piece was moving on so many levels and continued the running theme of hope, with the additionally factor of "you are not alone." Conveying at every instance that no matter the situation or how you feel, you should never forget that there is always someone there to lift you up when the load gets too heavy for a single pair of shoulders to bear.



Chino Chorale's group photo after another concert. Featuring teachers and directors, Doug Bowden and Flint Parrell. Photo courtesy of Freshman Desiree Montano.

## Part 3: Chino Alumni Take a Walk Down Memory Lane

By Deja Hernandez and Evelyn Alva



**Jessica Parrell Class of 2006**

"My favorite memories at Chino High all revolve around sports. There wasn't a week that went by where I wasn't in the stands cheering on my friends or on the field myself feeling the love and support from everyone else. My favorite memory will always be breaking the school record in Pole Vault and getting tackled on the pit by my coaches and teammates after. The look on 'Grandpa's' face is a memory I will always cherish."



**Patrick Surina Class of 2007**

"My brother and I both grew up going to CHS. My brother and I were actually waterboys/ball boys for the football team during the 90's when we were in elementary school."



**Monique Legazcue Class of 2007**

"I was entertained by the stories from Mr. Osborne's history class where he talked about all of his travels which made me enthused to travel like him one day. Señora Cardenas took us on a trip to the LA Art and History Museum to look at Aztec art. Being a part of ASB and Winning Winter Formal Queen was very memorable. Getting my guy friends ready to be cheerleaders for Powder Puff was hilarious. Playing in the Powder Puff game was even more exhilarating. The best feeling is walking across the stage was the biggest accolade of my high school life."

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## Farewell 2025 Seniors!

## Have a Great Summer Cowboys!

# – The Lariat