

# Creating Culturally Relevant Activities

**CADA TOURS 2022**

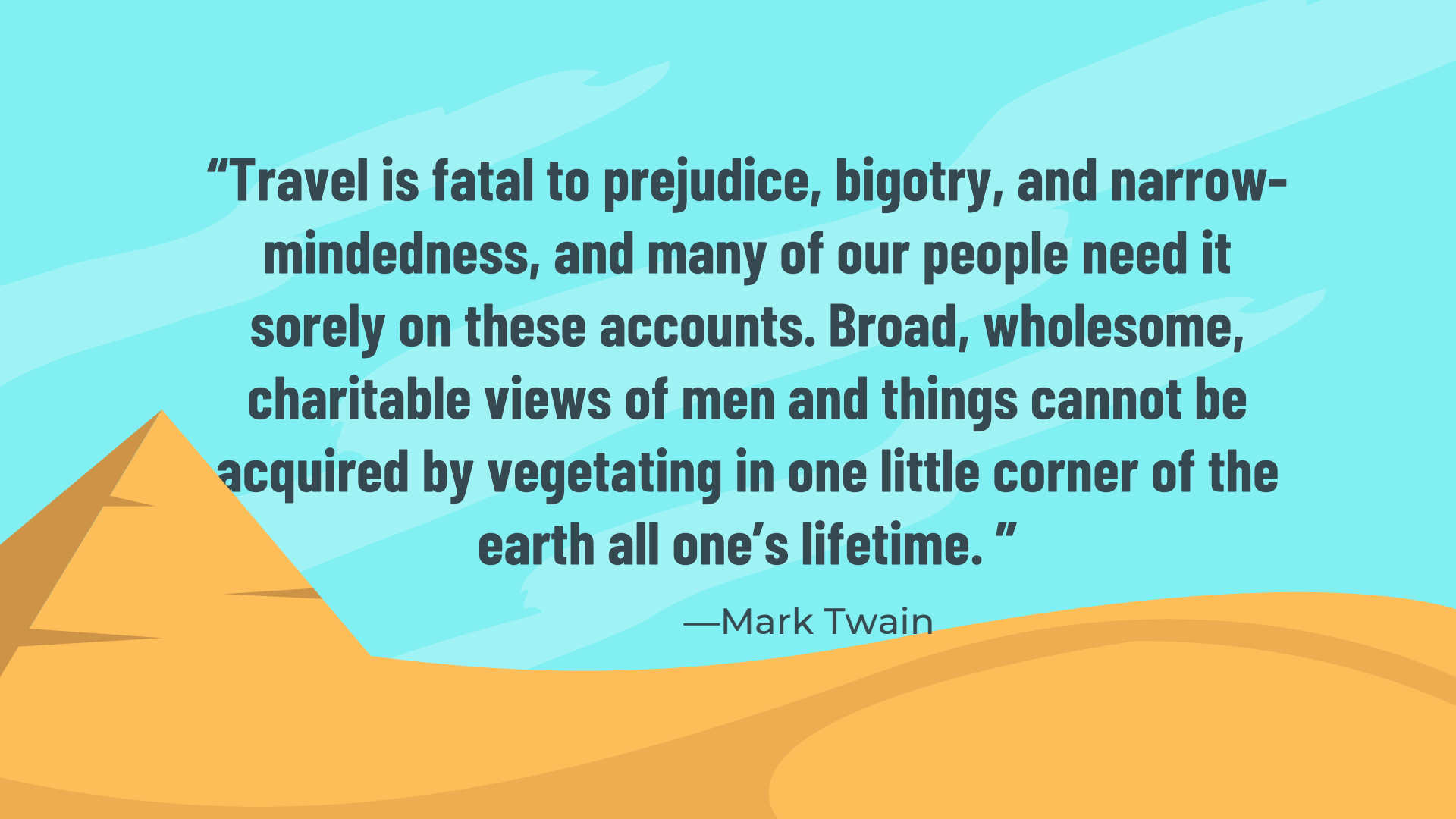
By: Greg Dowden



# Introducing Mr.Dowden



- Greg Dowden
- Husband, Father, Teacher, Mentor, Traveler, and Writer
- 5 years at Vista Murrieta High School
- 2 Years as Activities Director
- 3 Years as PLUS Advisor
- Currently teach Modern World History, PLUS, Mentorship Intervention, and ELD Coordinator
- Advise Polynesian Culture Club, Middle Eastern North African Club, Native American Student Alliance, and Together We Can - Changemakers



**“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”**

—Mark Twain



**CULTURE is KEY!**

# Cultural Iceberg

Culture is more than just language, food, music and dancing.

Culture shapes the way we think, including our core values and beliefs.





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Diversifying Student Leadership through inclusion.

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## Activities & Events

Making Cultural Learning Experiences a regular part of your School Calendar.





1

# Inclusion

Diversifying Student Leadership through  
inclusion is the key to  
Building More Student Leaders.



# 2017

Social Media Emergency  
All Leadership groups  
were asked to send  
representatives:  
ASB, Senate, Link Crew,  
PLUS, BBC.

Who is Missing?

**BSU**

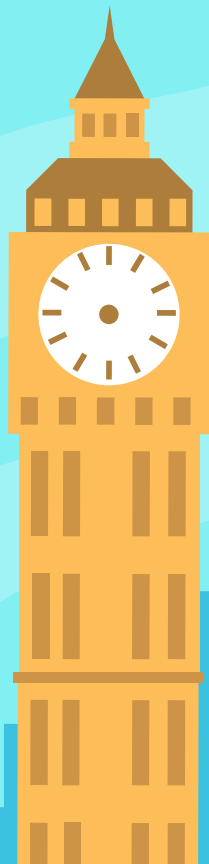


# Perception vs. Reality

**Students on campus were referring to ASB as the “White Student Union”**

**Students who participated in BSU Leadership were not applying because they didn’t feel represented in Student Gov’t.**

**Often Student Leadership and Culture Clubs were both doing great things for students but existed in separate lanes.**



## School Demographics 2017-2018

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
African American	8%
American Indian	0.2%
Asian	6%
Filipino	6.7%
Hispanic	34.1%
Two or More Races	7.1%
Pacific Islander	0.8%
White	36.9%

# Inclusion requires a Mindset Shift!

1

## Build

1. Attend Club Meetings & Events.
2. Get to know students involved.
3. Recognize students and Culture Clubs for their achievements.



2

## Invest

1. Partner with Culture Club Advisors like Class Advisors.
2. Recognize that advisors and leaders need training and support.
3. Offer financial support through sponsoring activities.

3

## Invite

1. Invite cultural club leaders to participate in leadership activities.
2. Invite student leaders to participate in culture club activities.
3. Invite students from culture clubs to apply for leadership.

# What's Can ASB do?

**A**

Require Student Leaders to attend a Culture Club Meeting and write about their experience.



**B**

Invite Club Leaders and Advisors to attend trainings like CADA / CASL or Leadership Development Days

**C**

Have student leaders create a Culture Box Assignment and present during class.

# Commissioners of Cultural Awareness

- Appoint or Elect Students from the various Culture Clubs on Campus.
- Have monthly Culture Club President Meetings.

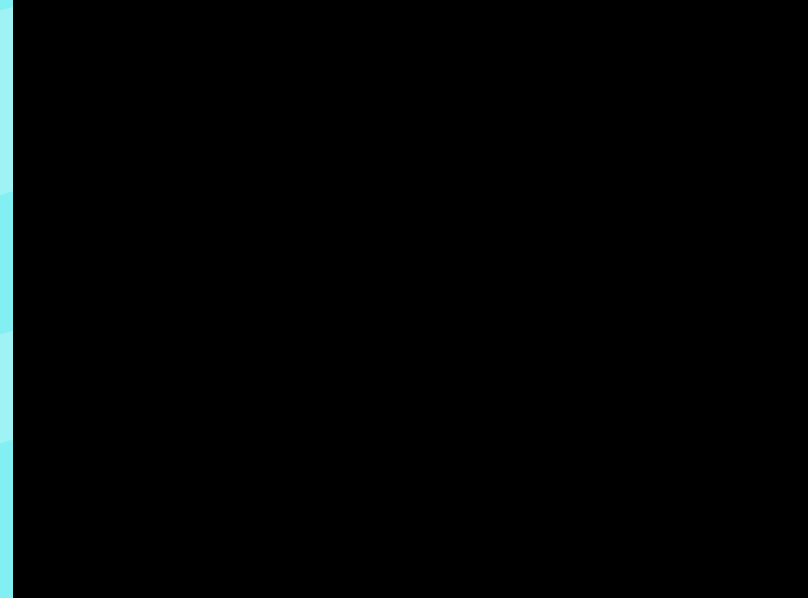


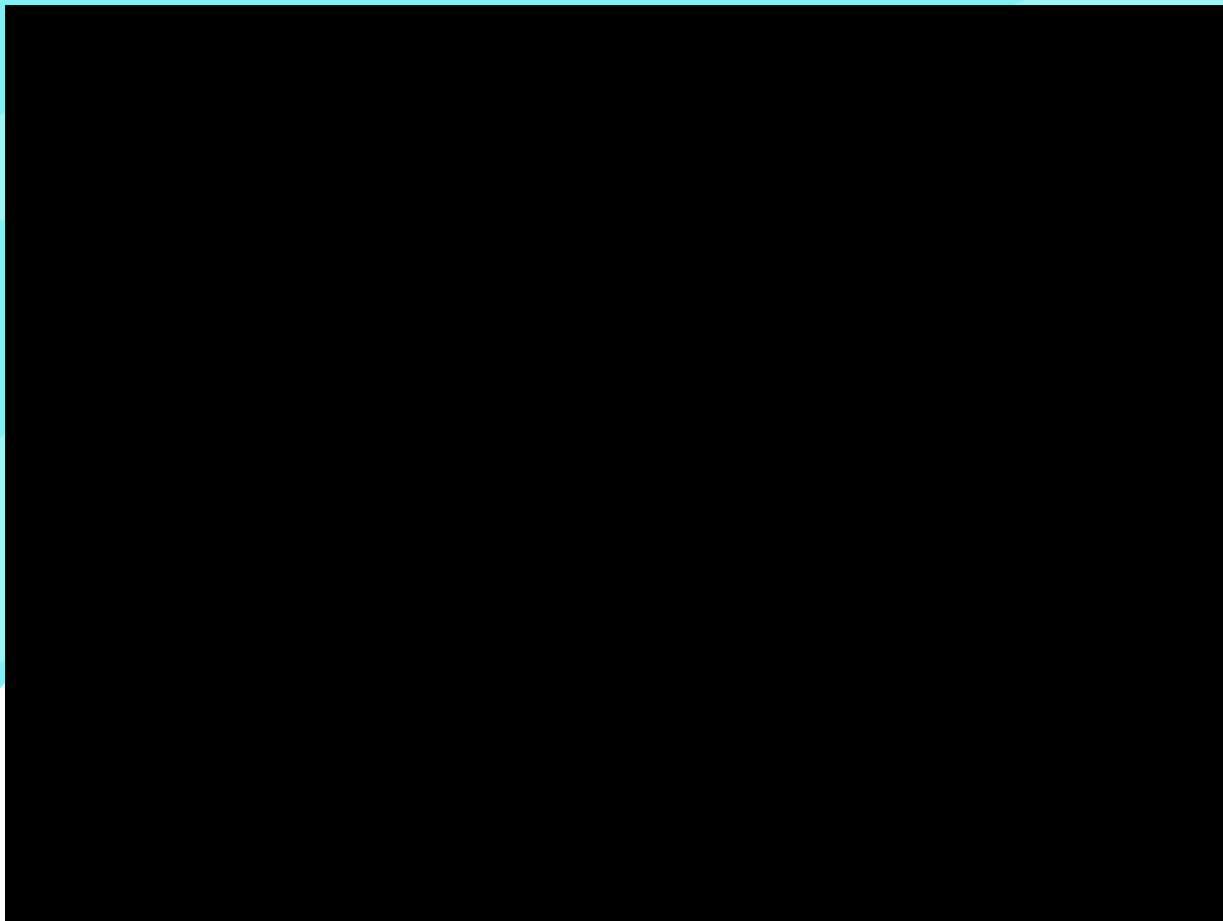
- Coordinate Culture Nights and Culture Month Campaigns.
- Consult various Commissioners on how to incorporate Culture Clubs into events.
- Collaborate with Culture Clubs in supporting their activities.
- Culture Minutes



# The Culture Minute

Leadership students can create and share or reach out to friends and the student body to create Culture Minutes to be put on Social Media or Campus News.







# IE Preps Magazine







2

# Creating Spaces

Developing Culture Clubs and connecting  
students to Cultural Learning.

# Culture Clubs on Campus

## **BSU**

Black Student  
Union

## **LSU**

Latino Student  
Union

## **Fil-Am**

Filipino-American  
Club

- The Possibilities are endless.
- Look at your student demographics to determine needs.
- Be willing to evolve and change with your student body.

## **Ohana/Haka**

Polynesian Dance  
Club

## **PCC**

Polynesian Culture  
Club

## **MENA**

Middle Eastern  
North African Club

## **NASA**

Native American  
Student Alliance

# If You Build It - They Will Come...

## The Don'ts

You **don't** have to belong to a particular culture to advise a Culture Club.

You **don't** need teach students about their own culture.

You **don't** need to be an expert!

## The Do's

Provide a safe space for students.

Establish consistency - Set regular meeting dates, times, and patterns.

Help the club grow with targeted invitations.

Let the kids take the lead in meetings.

Connect students with Cultural Learning.

Be willing to show up!

# Culture Club Formats

1. Consistency is Key. Establish a weekly, biweekly, or monthly meeting time. The more frequent the meetings the better opportunity to build community. They don't have to be long even a quick check-in builds trust and helps establish a pattern.
2. Easy format for meetings can look something like this:
  - a. **Welcome - Highs & Lows of the week**
  - b. **Song of the day**
  - c. **Culture Minute**
  - d. **Optional Activity**
3. As an adult you can send targeted invitations. You can run demographic queries or ask counselors or administrators for support. Send out invitations to students who belong to the cultural group.

**Students are happiest when they are able to be themselves, represent their culture, and share it with others.**



# Connect Students with Cultural Learning

Being a Culture Club Advisor gives you the unique opportunity to connect students with Cultural Learning.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE THE TEACHER!**

Connect students to members of their own cultural community.

This allows students the opportunity to form bonds that can last beyond high school and benefit their respective cultural communities.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ALLIANCE  
PRESENTS



## THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS



Our mission is to increase the visibility of Native Americans, amplify Native American Voices, and incorporate indigenous narratives into our current educational system.

OCT. 29 @ 2:45 PM



**Richard DeCrane, Dine/Navajo & Apsaalooke/Crow**

Richard DeCrane is an artist, educator, and advocate for indigenous people. He has been featured by San Diego American Indian Health Center as a lecturer on traditional smudging medicines. Richard will talk about Native Stereotypes and how to combat them.

NOV. 12 @ 2:45 PM



**Naelyn Pike, Apache**

Naelyn Pike was born and raised in Arizona and currently attends Mesa Community College. At 21 years old she is an advocate for indigenous people and granddaughter of 27. She says, "My whole life I have fought to live free. Today I continue to educate and shed light on indigenous issues we are still facing."

NOV. 19 @ 2:45 PM



**Andrina Wekontash Smith, Shinnecock**

Andrina Smith is a writer, performer, and teaching artist who splits her time between the East End and Brooklyn. Educating the youth has been one of Andrina's primary motivators, and is a driving force behind the work she does. Andrina is a part of the Native American Sketch group NEAPOLITAN and has been featured in Native Magazine and FB's Series Lift Black Voices for her poem, "The Darker Red Road."

DEC. 10 @ 2:45 PM



**Jalynne Geddes, Nehiyaw/Cree**

Jalynne Geddes is the founder of Nehiyanaahk Creations where she shares her art of beading. She is an advocate for indigenous people and will share about the Nehiyaw, her tribe, belief of how we are all connected and related.

[HTTPS://QRQO.PAGE.LINK/2M2FN](https://qrqo.page.link/2M2FN)

VMHS PCC PRESENTS...

## POLY TALKS

JOIN US..

JOIN THE POLYNESIAN CULTURE CLUB ON TUESDAYS AT 2:45 PM on ZOOM...

<https://qrqo.page.link/XSh7L>



Oct. 27 @ 2:45 PM  
**MORGAN CASEY**

**MAORI/SAMOAN**  
MOMO aka @therealmorgancasey has 774.2K followers on TikTok and 9.3M Likes. She is an artist, mother, and social media influencer. Morgan will talk about following her dreams while staying true to herself.



Nov. 3 @ 2:45 PM  
**ANDRE HANNEMANN-HARRIS**

**HAWAIIAN/SAMOAN**  
President and founder of Cultural Transformation Resources, Andre is a professional speaker and trainer servicing major corporations like BMW, Hawaiian Airlines, Allstate, The Howard Hughes Corporation, and Gator Center. She is a culture transformation leader and game changer and will talk about developing a positive mindset.



Nov. 10 @ 2:45 PM  
**ROBIN "LEI" NOMAAEA**

**SAMOAN/HAWAIIAN**  
Lei is the CEO of Zephyr Partners Solutions which was founded with the mission to: Bring Jobs Back to America, Provide Unparalleled Customer Service, and Give Back to the Community. Lei is a successful business woman, world traveler, and mother of 5 sons and a daughter. She will talk about secrets to success.





# Invite Cultural Experts or Practitioners.

You can find speakers and experts on instagram.

Guests can run virtual workshops.

Connect Students with **THEIR** cultural community!

VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL'S  
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ALLIANCE  
PRESENTS...

## THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS SERIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP! NASA IS LOOKING FOR  
INDIGENOUS PRESENTERS TO EDUCATE  
STUDENTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE,  
CULTURES, AND ISSUES.

WE ARE SEEKING VARIOUS PRESENTERS TO  
TEACH A 30-45 MINUTE WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM  
ON A THURSDAY AFTERNOON FROM 2:45-3:30.

OUR MISSION IS TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF  
NATIVE AMERICANS, AMPLIFY NATIVE VOICES,  
AND INCORPORATE INDIGENOUS NARRATIVES  
INTO OUR CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

PLEASE HELP US BY SIGNING UP TO PRESENT!

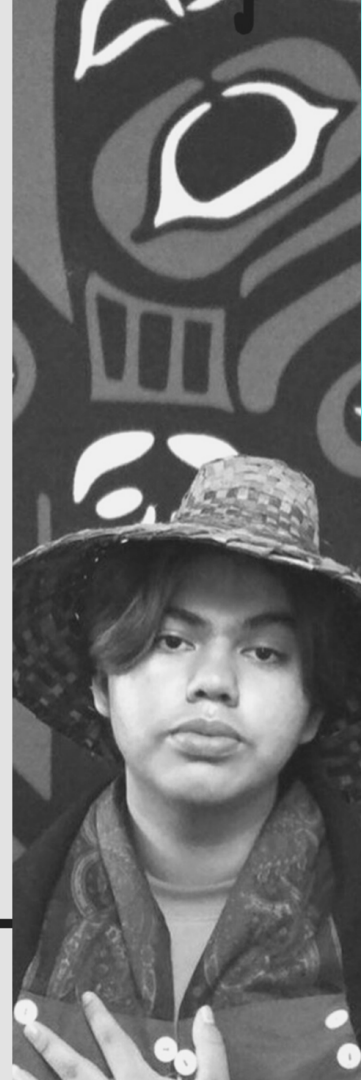
SINCERELY,

DANIEL HOLMES (PRESIDENT)  
TLINGIT - COAST SALISH - KWAKWATLAN

To participate please contact our advisor to  
schedule a date/time and topic:

Greg Dowden (Advisor)

[gdownen@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:gdownen@murrieta.k12.ca.us)



# THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS

FACILITATED BY:  
**DANIEL  
HOLMES**

TLINGIT  
COAST SALISH -  
KWAKWATL



**LOREN  
ANTHONY**  
DINE  
NAVAJO

ACTOR/MUSICIAN  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER  
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER  
FOUNDER OF IRON  
WARRIORS



**CHENAE  
BULLOCK**  
SHINNECOCK  
MONTAUK

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE  
HISTORIAN  
CULTURAL PRACTITIONER &  
PRESERVATIONIST



**TYLER  
HITTE**  
SIKSIKA  
BLACKFOOT

ARTIST & ADVOCATE  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
INFLUENCER  
STUDENT

## Roundtable Discussion

Via Zoom on  
Nov. 16  
@ 5:00 PM  
PST



**JOSEPH  
LEFTHAND**  
CHEYENNE - ARAPAHO  
TAOS & ZUNI

MILITARY VETERAN  
PERFORMANCE ARTIST  
ADMINISTRATOR



**J MIKO THOMAS  
AKA LANDA LAKES**  
CHICKASAW

INDIGENOUS TRIBAL QUEEN  
BOARD MEMBER OF  
BAY AREA AMERICAN  
INDIAN TWO-SPOTS  
(BAAITS)



**ALTHEA WILSON**

LUMMI  
TLINGIT  
KWAKWAKA'  
NATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENTIST  
DOCUMENTARY  
FILMMAKER

Oct. 29

# RICHARD DECRANE

Navajo, Crow



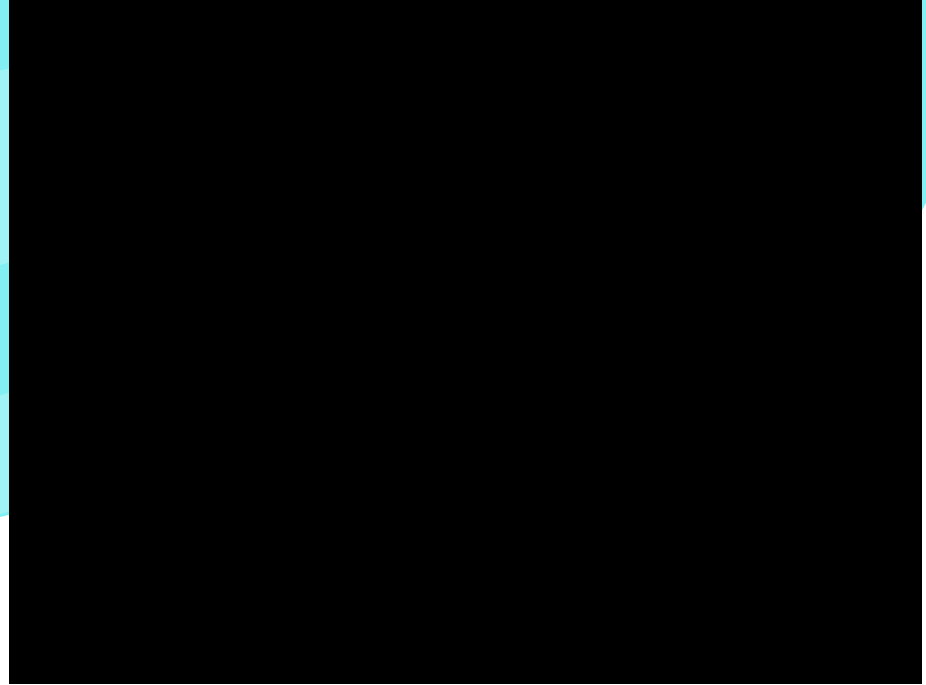
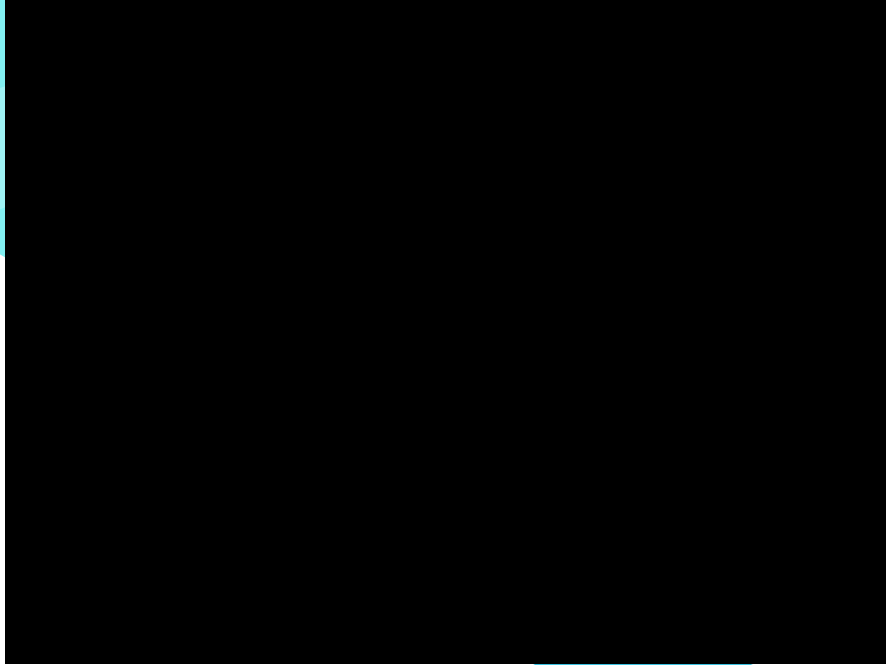
## THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS

Native Regalia, Costumes,  
& Breaking Down  
Stereotypes





# Connecting Students to Cultural Learning and Representation



3

# Building Community

Providing Opportunities for  
Collaboration.



# How do you encourage collaboration among Culture Clubs?



**Joint Club  
Activities**



**Service  
Projects**



**Culture Nights  
(Plural)**

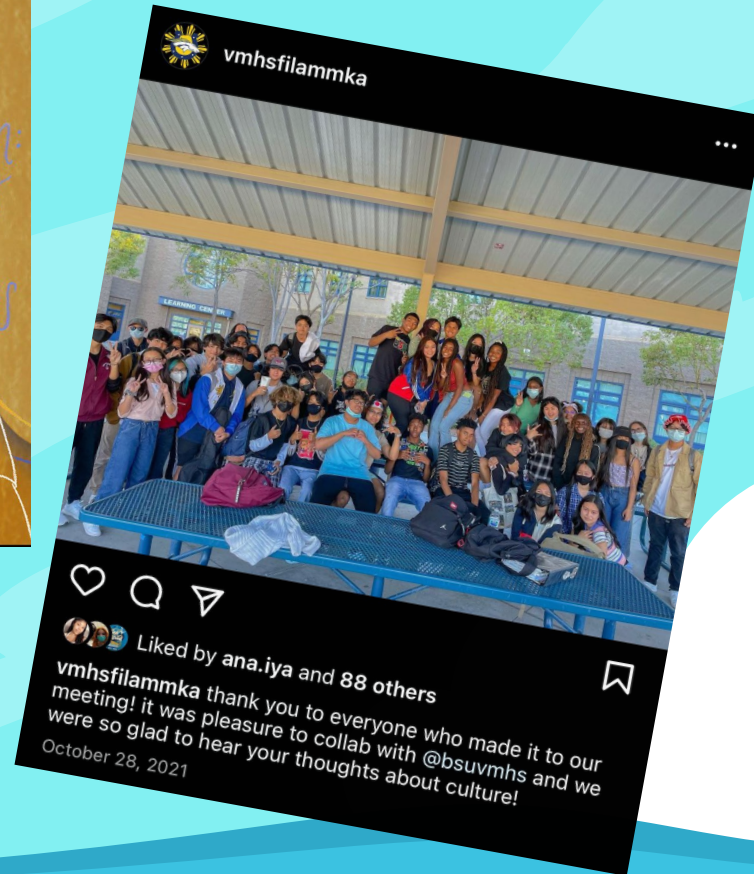




## Joint Club Meetings

In October Fil-AM invited BSU to their club meeting and had an awesome turnout. The two groups were able to share their cultures with each other and increase community ties.

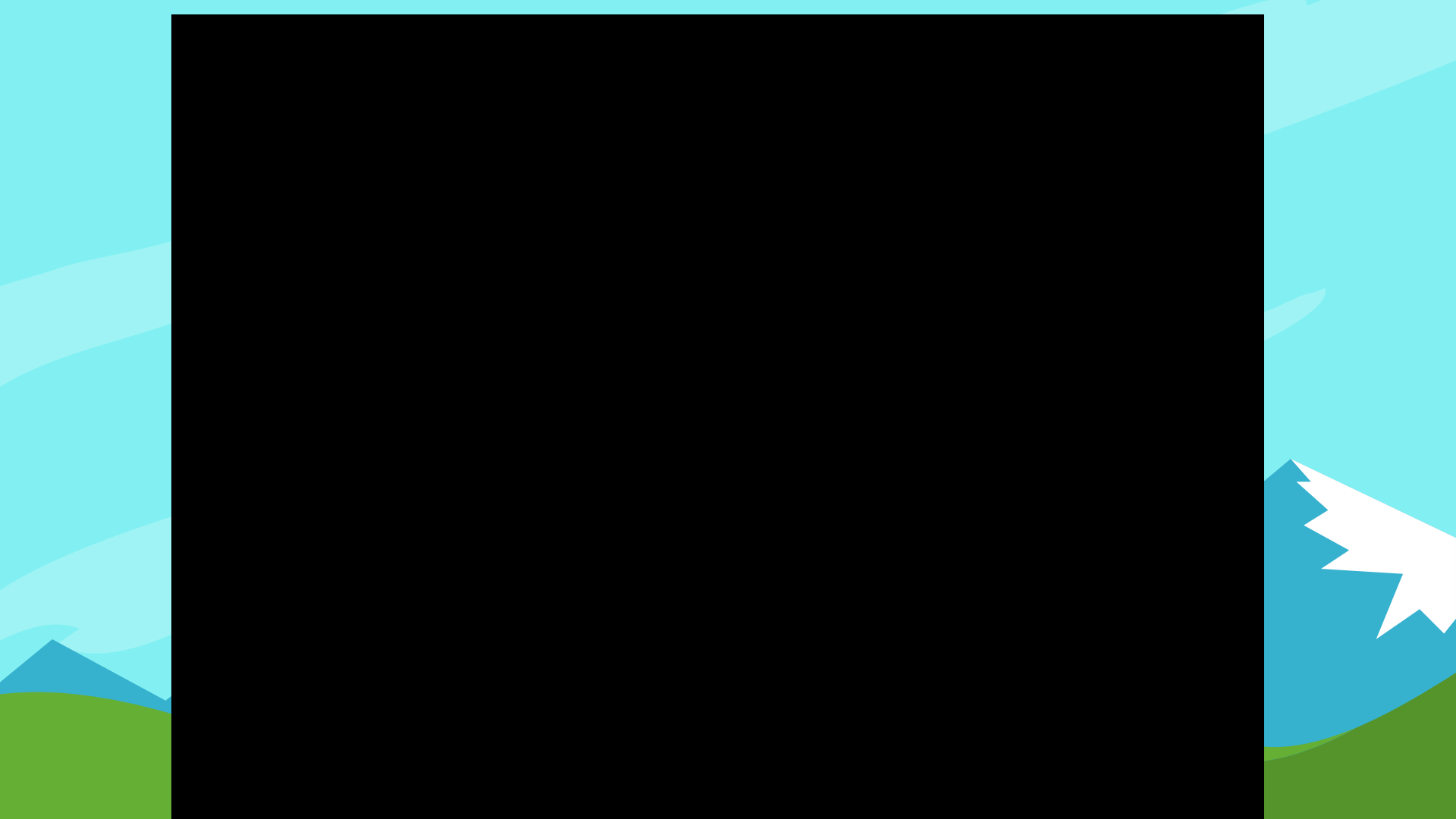
In April MENA plans to hold a Ramadan Break the Fast inviting the other culture clubs to a potluck.



# PCC Feeding the Football Team

Since many of our Polynesian Club Members are also on the Varsity Football Team, we give service by having parents make traditional foods and our club serves them before the game.





4

# Activities & Events

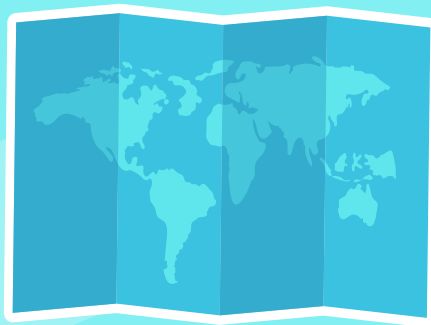
Making Cultural Learning Experiences a  
regular part of your School Calendar.



# Systemic Change Takes Time...

**2017**

Mindset Shift:  
Began treating  
Culture Clubs like  
Leadership  
Organizations.



**1**

**2**

**3**

**2019**

Held first Culture  
Nights in Oct. & Dec.  
a little under 100  
people each time

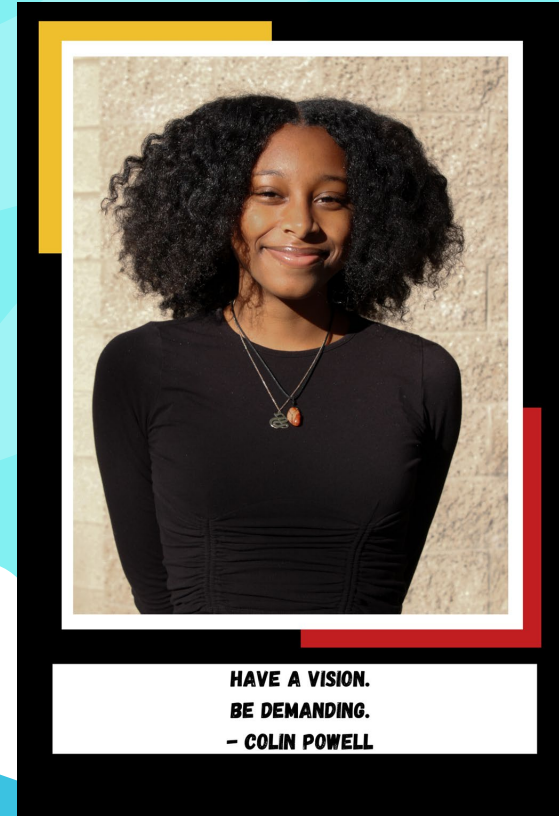
**2021**

Campus Cultural  
events take place  
monthly. School-  
wide Cultural  
events have  
ranged between  
200-300 people.



# Do your Hallways reflect your Students?

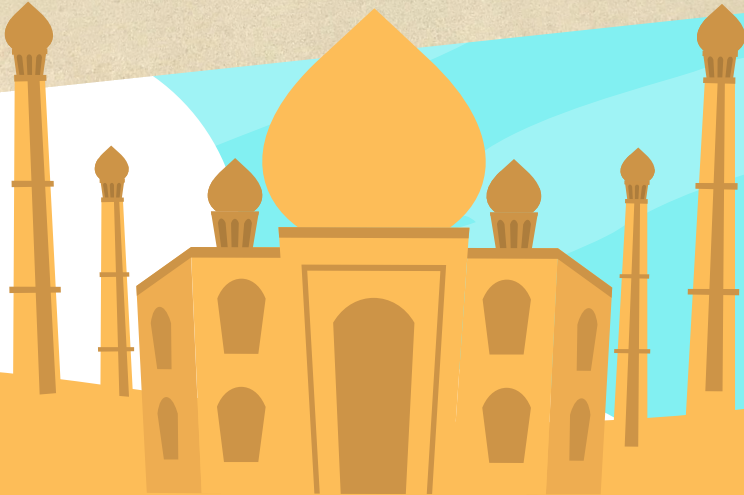
Connect your Photography Classes or Club with your Cultural Clubs to create visual campaigns for Cultural Months or Celebrations.





# Family Nights

Individual Culture Clubs invite their families. Each family is encouraged to bring a cultural dish to share and students are recognized and present what they have learned.



# Mi Familia

- Tickets were \$5 per person.
- Art Competition displayed and winners announced.
- Loteria played and prizes given.
- Food Served.
- Performances
- Quinceanera Fashion Show





VMHS LSU & PLUS

present

**¡YO SOY!**

## Art Competition

Write a poem, essay, paragraph, short film, photograph, drawing, or painting.

All entries should reflect YOUR connection to Hispanic Culture or how Hispanic Culture has influenced you.

ALL Entries should be submitted to [jt102019@gmail.com](mailto:jt102019@gmail.com) or delivered to Room W113.

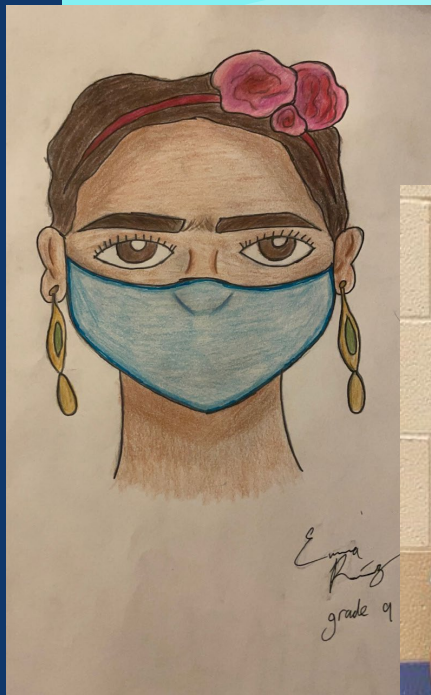
**DEADLINE EXTENDED**

**9/30/2021**

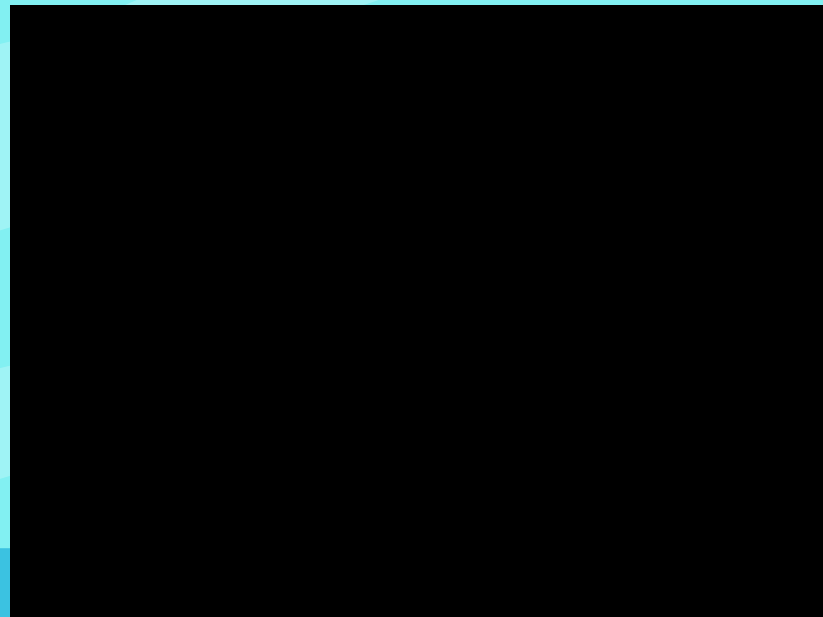
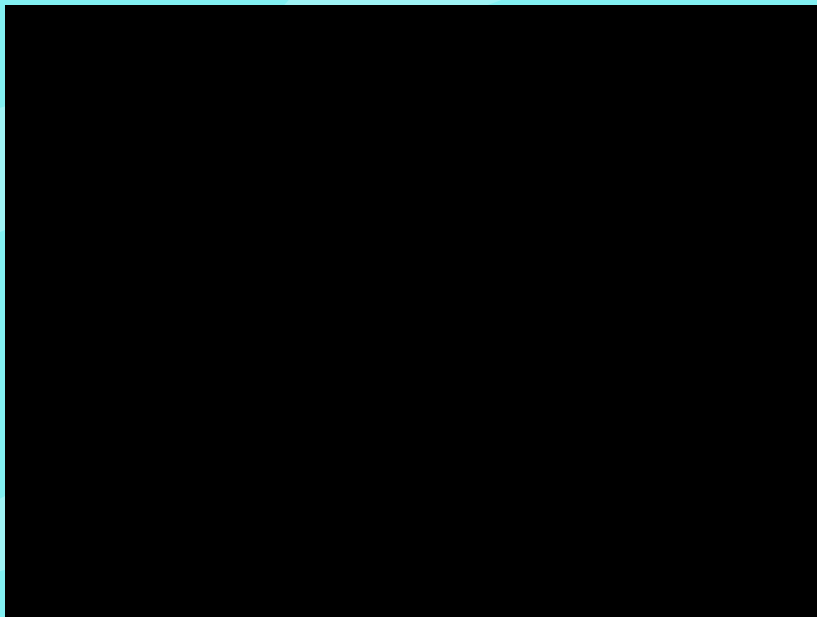
1st Place - \$100 Gift Card



# Art Competition



# School News/Social Media Spotlights



# Movie Nights

To kick off Black History Month, BSU showed Black Panther in the Quad and PLUS Supported by buying the snacks.



# Inclusion in Campus Activities



## Hallway/Door Decorating

It's the closest planet to the Sun

1

## Pumpkin Decorating

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

2

## Holiday Trees

It was named after a Roman god

3

## Homecoming Competition

It has very high temperatures

4



# Culture Nights

Culture Nights always contain  
Food, Family, and  
Performances or Presentations

One way to involve all students  
is to create sign-ups for  
students without a culture club  
to create a display or  
presentation. Supply the  
Presentation Boards and  
encourage student leaders to  
sign up.



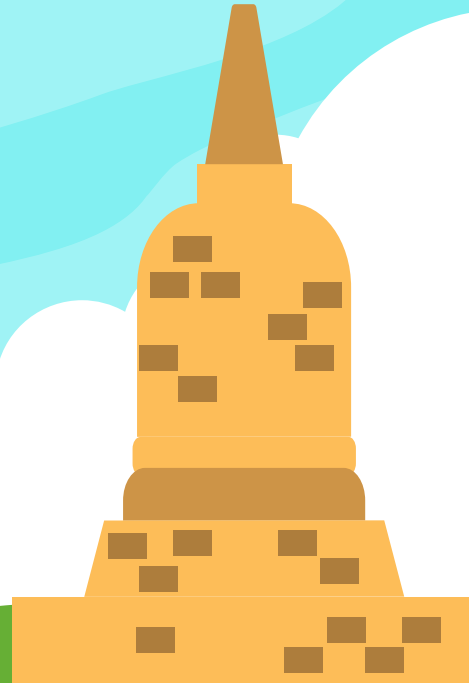
# Cars & Culture

On April 23, VMHS will be putting on it's first ever Cars & Culture festival.

Various Car Clubs will be displaying their cars that are associated with the different Culture Clubs on Campus.

Culture Clubs will be providing food trucks and performances.

We are excited busy working together to create this new event.





PLUS presents...

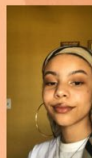


Hosted by:



Justin  
Brown

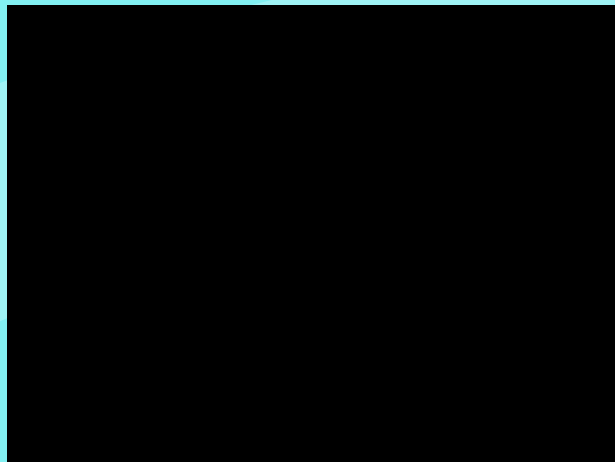
# BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL FORUM



Amelie  
Jennings

Thursday, Feb. 25 @ 12:30PM

## Forums & Flyers



VMHS LSU & PLUS

present

# ¡MI FAMILIA!

Hispanic Heritage

Family Night

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021

**FOOD - GAMES - MUSIC**

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

VMHS QUAD

COMMUNITY WELCOME!

**Pre-Sale Tix \$5**

**At the Door \$8**

Musical Performances  
Quincenera Fashion Show

Art Displays  
and More!

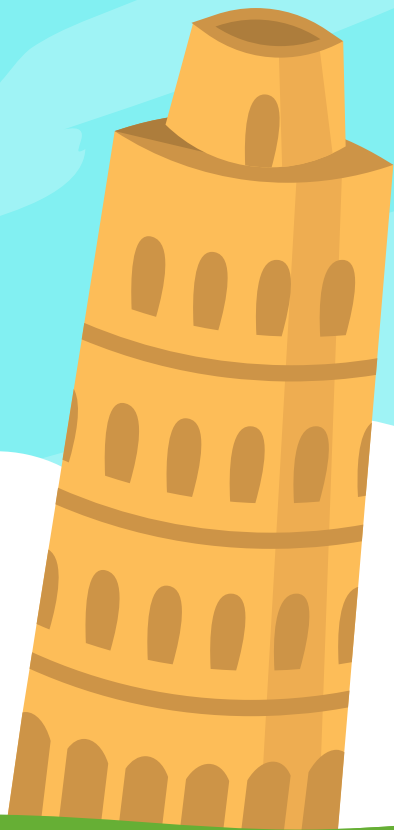




# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!!!







# Thanks!

## Any Questions?

Mr.Dowden15@gmail.com  
Greg Dowden  
Vista Murrieta High School

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