

THE DEFENDER

San Marcos Educators Association Newsletter



<https://www.sanmarcosteachers.org/>

Message from the President...

Dear Colleagues,

We made it! I wish you all a restful summer with family and friends. SMEA has had a great year negotiating a two year contract, advocating for members and increasing our membership. I am proud of all the work you have done this year. Teaching is an art and science that is a noble profession bringing a myriad of emotions to us all. It takes a summer to recharge from a year of successes, sometimes setbacks and triumphs . I am grateful to each and every one of you! See you in August for the 2023-2024 school year.

~Yours in Solidarity, Dale Pluciennik

PRESIDENT

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Get to Know Your Executive Board



Hi, I'm Marla Rosenthal and I serve as the Digital Media Chair on the Executive Board. This is an appointed position on the board. My role consists of many behind the scenes activities for maintaining our SMEA Mailing Lists, answering emails received in our general email box, managing our website, our Facebook page, and our other Social Media feeds (@SMEAteachers). I also manage most other digital programs that our union uses in our day to day business, like coordinating Zoom Meetings for Executive Board and Rep Council monthly.

Hi, I'm Tyler Eytchison. As Secretary, I am responsible for ensuring that all communications with site reps are delivered ^{at} in a timely manner. This includes sending out: Ten Minute Meetings, agendas, Zoom links, and training opportunities to all site reps. During elections, the Secretary is responsible for distributing ballots, managing the election, and troubleshooting any problems with email addresses. The Secretary's main responsibility is taking meeting minutes for both Executive Board meetings and Rep Council meetings. As a CTA State Representative, I am responsible for representing SMEA at a state level. We meet four times a year to discuss how to make our union stronger!



Hi, I'm Robert Gordon, and in addition to teaching math at San Marcos High school, I am your SMEA Treasurer. I help develop the budget with the Executive board along with all other accounting needs the union has. I make it a priority to make sure your union dues are spent wisely, and I appreciate your trust in me to make sure our union is financially stable.



Erin Daddio-ECE/Elementary:

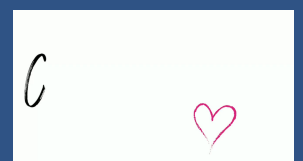
Erin is professional, helpful, and knowledgeable. She is passionate about early education and being a "model" representative of preschool and TK classes for SMUSD. In addition to fulfilling her role as the general education teacher supporting the entire preschool department, Erin has volunteered to support TK (transitional kindergarten) teachers and students by providing co-teaching and fulfilling open paraprofessional positions. Erin also provides immense support to colleagues by deepening their understanding of differentiating instruction, identifying and using appropriate accommodations and supports, and consistently fostering positive relationships with a variety of diverse learners.

Grace Ramirez/Middle School:

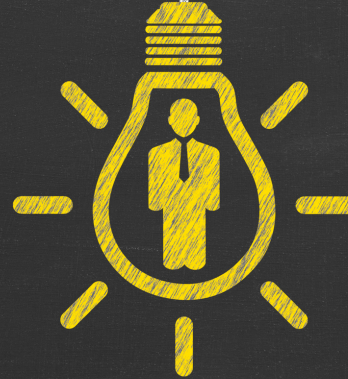
Grace Ramirez is a teacher who cultivates strong student relations through her patient and understanding approach, taking the time to get to know each of her students individually and tailoring her instruction to meet their unique needs. Beyond her classroom, Ms. Ramirez has also made a significant impact on the school-wide community through her mentorship program at La Mirada School site. This program has helped to foster a positive and supportive school culture, where students feel valued and supported in their academic and personal endeavors. She sets a high bar while also giving them the motivation and tools needed to not only meet those expectations but exceed them. She sets a high bar for the staff as well. Her seemingly endless positivity is contagious - you can't help but smile when you're around her. A person who finds the light no matter what she is a teacher who truly deserves this special recognition!

Eddie Hackbarth/High School:

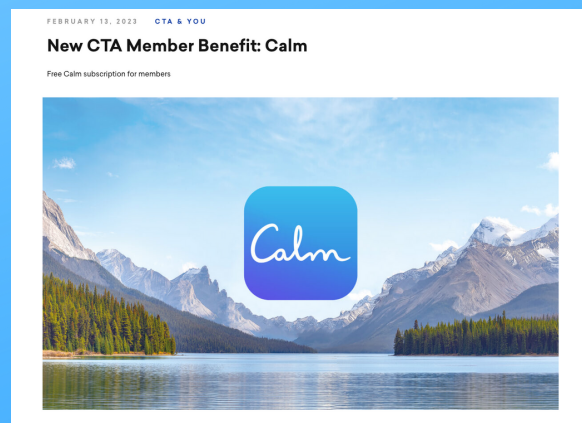
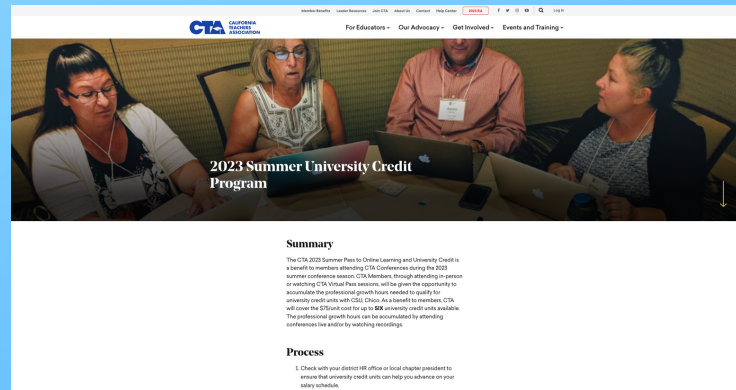
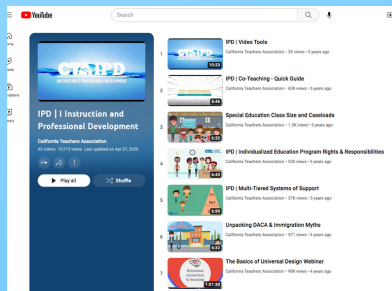
Eddie is an extraordinary AVID teacher, AP Human Geography teacher, and History Team Leader. He is a true champion for students and believes all students have the ability to go to college and does his best to support them along the way. I love how he teaches students to have a growth mindset, grit, time management, and the importance of taking rigorous coursework. He doesn't just focus on standards; he teaches soft skills students will use in the future as a college student or in their career. His enthusiasm in the classroom and during staff meetings is infectious. He makes class fun for students and our staff meetings extra enjoyable. He has worked tirelessly this year to embody empathetic teaching to connect with students, to cultivate curriculum for all cultural groups, and to make all students feel welcome and safe. Edward, or "Eddie" as he is known at Mission Hills, is the embodiment of the Ovation Award.



Resources



CTA Instructional Professional Development Webinars



Mental Health Awareness

Here are some very useful links pertaining to mental health awareness. Check out all of [VEBA's new online mental and behavioral health resources](#).