

# VAPA News

Visual and Performing Arts News of Madera Unified

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## NEW FACES TO THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT



Kayla Corona, Digital Media Arts Teacher at Matilda Torres High School comes from the business world, where she has owned her own photography and videography business since 2007. Mrs. Corona holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Art from California State University Stanislaus and a Career Technical Education (CTE) credential in Business, Media Arts, and Marketing, along with various industry certifications. She is the Future Business Leaders of America adviser and looks forward to building and growing the program at MTHS.



Donna Kohlruss, Media and Performing Arts Teacher at Madera Technical Exploration Center. For 30 years, she has been teaching middle school English and history in Yuba City, Fresno, and Clovis. Through her sons' experiences in children's theater and high school drama, she has become a lover of theater.



Elena Navarrette, Drama Teacher at Matilda Torres High School is currently serving in her 13th year of education. She attended CSU Fresno where she studied Drama and English, and later received her Master's in Education from Concordia University, Irvine. Ms. Navarrette has had experience serving as a stage manager for the California Opera Association, traveling and acting with Theater for Young Audiences, and directing plays for local high schools within the Valley.



Ryan Dirlam is the Director of Bands and Choir at Matilda Torres High School and is excited to bring his passion for music to Madera. Mr. Dirlam, a Fresno State graduate, was Director of Bands for Firebaugh High School for eight years where he created the program and now has multiple students at Fresno State as music majors. He has sung in a shows for Disney and Star Wars in Concert, toured as a timpanist for Jackie Evancho, and has played drum set in many musicals.



Jeffrey (Mac) McCandless, Guitar and Mariachi Teacher at Madera South High School has been teaching for the last 16 years in Southern California. Jeff graduated from Fresno State in 2004 and has been teaching ever since. He is working on completing his Masters Degree in Instructional Design and Technology through Arizona State University.



Steven Chin, Media and Performing Arts at Madera Technical Exploration Center. He earned his Master's Degree in Film Production from Chapman University and has taught high school and currently teaches college courses at Fresno City College. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts from the University of California, San Diego and continues to produce creative bodies of work.

Milagros Delgado, Media and Performing Arts Teacher at Madera Technical Exploration Center. She has a degree in Agricultural Education with an emphasis in Agricultural Communications from Fresno State and a masters in educational leadership from Concordia University, Irvine. Milagros's career as an English teacher began at Bryant Middle School in Dos Palos, CA and continued for 11 years at Kerman Middle School in Kerman, CA where she taught English 7 & 8 and Honors English 8. She also taught and created curriculum for electives such as Journalism & Yearbook, Humanities, Introduction to Agriculture and Computer Concepts. She served as club advisor for the Drama Club, Debate Team, Movie Club, CJSF and Student Council.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/19 First Day of School for Online Instruction
- 9/10 Instrument Rental Night at MSHS front parking lot. 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. (for returning students only)



Left: Corbin Callaway, Art Teacher at Matilda Torres High School. She graduated from Fresno State University with my Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design.



Right: Anjanette Baskin, Art Teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School has been in education for 15 years. Within these years she has had a variety of teaching assignments but the bulk of the time was spent teaching 6th grade and the CTE education pathway courses for Kerman Unified.

## Staff members that have moved school sites.



Steve Berst, Media and Performing Arts Teacher at Desmond Middle School, MLK Middle School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School



Brandon Petrie, Digital Media Arts Teacher moved from Thomas Jefferson to Madera High School



David Willet, Art Teacher moved from Thomas Jefferson to Madera South High School

# New Online Instruction Systems Quaver & Smart Music



QuaverMusic is a world leader in online curriculum development for grades Pre-K to 8. The company started in 2009 in Music City, Nashville, TN with a focus on general music education. Their approach to online curriculum development combines engaging digital resources, ongoing professional development, world-class customer service. As a result, in less than four years, their music education programs have been adopted by more than 8,000 schools worldwide, supporting schools in 50 states and 30 countries using Quaver's teaching resources.

SmartMusic is the award winning software used by music educators around the world to enhance their programs and dramatically improve students' skills. It also allows teachers to provide students with the individual instruction and customized feedback needed to get better faster.

