

# Roadrunner Express

J A M E S R U T T E R M I D D L E S C H O O L

## FROM SCRIPT TO STAGE, TURN THE PAGE!

BY UYEN LE

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Tuskegee Airmen	2
Door Decorating	2
Mr. Freitas	2
Honor Roll	3
AVID	3
Parents at Lunch	4
Equity Council	4
The Yearbook	4
6th Grade Orientation	5
Self-Defense	5
New Year's Resolutions	6
Spirit Week	6
Panther Kick Off	7
Rainbow Club	7
Hispanic Heritage Club	7
Wrestling	8
Club Live	8
Band	9
Coffee with Counselors	9
Gardening Class	10

Students at James Rutter Middle School are building confidence and creativity through theater class, an acting class taught by Mr. Bickle.

Joining theater will help you with confidence, as Mr. Bickle said, "The main skills I want students to come away with are self confidence, projecting or speaking loudly, and communicating emotions through their face, voice, and body movements." By the end

of the year, students' social skills will improve from being shy to confident.

Students say the class is both challenging and rewarding. Bella Newman shared that her favorite part of theater is meeting new people, while Khalise Muldrow said theater has helped her become more confident.

Mr. Bickle believes theater is about growth, not being perfect. He tells students to not worry about being

excellent, as he said, "Ignore them and keep going" when mistakes happen.

Bella Newman said that theater helped her get more comfortable during their performances.

Students can pick their own monologues by starting with a number of exercises designed to perform in front of a group slowly, kids that are nervous can choose to have shorter monologues and by letting them

## ROADRUNNERS TAKE NOTE: ORCHESTRA CLASS SET TO DEBUT NEXT YEAR!

BY ISABELLA AGUILAR

A new orchestra class is opening Fall 2026 at James Rutter Middle School.

Ms. Minge says they are being offered a new orchestra class because many high schools have orchestras and this would give students new opportunities. There will only be one class of orchestra for 7th and 8th grade with only about 20 students able to join, this is replacing a band 1 class but there will still be two other band 1 classes. 7th graders can join orchestra when doing course request or they can talk to Ms. Minge. The or-

chestra will perform throughout the year at events. Orchestras feature a core string section like violin,viola,cello, and bass, meanwhile band primarily consists of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Ms. Minge states, "you don't need experience to join an orchestra and being a beginner is fine." She also says students should join the orchestra because it's a new challenging experience.

Mr. Johnson says, we are paying for the orchestra class with prop 28 state budget for VAPA, money and

that they saw an opportunity and decided to take it. Mr. Johnson states, "The orchestra class will be something new to offer and will give students more opportunities for high school." There will also be events for the orchestra the same way we have events for band.

Skylar Quiliza, a student at James Rutter who does band as well as music outside of school states "Learning instruments is fun and anyone can learn." She also says others should do music because it's fun, good to learn and studies show it can raise intelligence.

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, GUEST SPEAKERS

BY KEI ANNA VALLIER

On January 22nd, the Tuskegee Airmen's children visited James Rutter as guest speakers for Future Quest.

Mr. Shrader invited them to speak because he wanted to let his students know that you sometimes need to go through struggles and people telling you that you can't do something for you to be able to make a difference.

Building on last year's visit, Mr. Shrader was excited for the Tuskegee Airmen's kids to return for a second year. He said, "Having the opportunity to meet the Tuskegee Airmen kids was important because it shows that if you have resilience, you can do something that no one else has done."

While visiting, the children of the Tuskegee Airmen spoke about resilience in the face of adversity.

They discussed the importance of remaining determined and motivated to effect change.

Aradhnan Singh, a student, said she was very happy they returned. She added, "I loved when they shared their story and how they faced discrimination. It was interesting to hear them talk about it."

Another student, named Nadine Vakalloma, who viewed this presentation, stated that the most important part of

their presentation was how they discussed overcoming their difficulties, as their leader had not allowed them to help out during missions.

At the end of their presentation, students were invited to the front to view items left by the Tuskegee Airmen. Many students enjoyed seeing these items and commented on how cool it was that their parents kept them.

## ROADRUNNERS ENTERED THE WINTERLAND DOOR DECORATING CONTEST!

BY ELIZABETH CHEBUKIN

The door decorating contest was the week before winter break at James Rutter Middle School, and all were welcome to participate during first period classes.

James Rutter did this to celebrate the last couple of weeks before winter break. "It makes people feel like they can do something that can make them participate in school events." Said Mr. Johnson, the prin-

cipal. Students decorate and teachers give advice.

The door decorating event was only the day of advisory which is once a week on Wednesday during the first period. The students had 3 weeks to decorate. The point of the door decorating contest is to bring a small community closer.

The contest was planned by the school leadership teacher, Ms. Potter. Ms. Potter stated that "There is

always room for a little fun so why not?"

Kimberly Nejera, an 8th grader, was interviewed and said "I liked having this event because it allowed us to express our creativity." Moham-moud Habil Karimi, another 8th grader, was also interviewed and he stated "The contest was fun because me and my classmates decorated instead of school work." Mrs. Lee is the teacher of those students and she said "It was a fun way to

utilize our creativity." "Students from James Rutter like to have a little freedom before winter break," noted Kaitlynn Saechao, a 7th grader.

The contest was judged by the staff members on a survey. The top three winners were Ms. Jamora in 1st place, Ms. Beardwood in 2nd place, and Ms. Alvarez in 3rd place.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MR. FREITAS

BY YAVELIN HERNANDEZ

Mr. Freitas is an English teacher at James Rutter Middle School.

Mr. Freitas decided to work at James Rutter because of his friend Ms. Wang. When asked what he thinks makes him a good teacher he said, "My stu-

dents feel comfortable in my class."

In class Mr. Freitas says he helps motivate students by helping them realize they can do anything they put their mind to. One thing that makes Mr. Freitas proud is "when students succeed in something they thought they couldn't."

Brij Fualau, an eighth grader, said, "Mr. Freitas encourages me to do my work," and thinks Mr. Freitas is very funny and chill. Another eighth grade student, Uyen Le, also said he gives her lollipops and is super chill.

Some fun facts about Mr. Freitas are that he went to

Amador Valley High School. He also attended Ohlone College and UC Berkeley. Some of his hobbies are playing Pokemon Go, Karaoke, and playing Fortnite. Lastly, when asked what other job he would've chosen if he wasn't a teacher he said an In-N-Out manager.

## HONOR ROLL LUNCH FOR OUR ROADRUNNERS

BY MAY ROSE AGCAOILI

Honor Roll Lunch is a celebration for Honor Roll students at James Rutter Middle School.

According to Ms. Potter, the student activities director at James Rutter Middle School, Honor Roll Lunch is an event that students and teachers look forward to. According to an 8th Grade Leadership student at James Rutter Middle School, Emily Reber, Honor Roll recognizes our Roadrunners for working hard. In order to get an Honor Roll, students must have all A's, B's, or C's or a combination of those grades, no D's or F's. Some methods in getting these are studying hard and

making sure students have no missing assignments, Jewel Vang suggests.

This event takes place in the library, hosted by the leadership class and happens a week and a half after grades are due. 8th Grade Leadership runs 8th grade Honor Roll, and 7th Grade Leadership runs 7th grade Honor Roll. "This is because the leadership class serves and represents the whole grade level," Ms. Potter states. Ms. Potter adds students can go get their Honor Roll Lunch by checking in at the event and claiming their award.

Another important

thing for planning events is critical thinking and organization. According to Emily Reber, to come up with ideas, student leadership all come up as a group and decide together. When it comes to setting up this event, it involves teamwork. Emily Reber states that, "It usually takes about 6 people to set up for an honor roll lunch, but it also depends on what the treat is." Some challenges to prepare are ordering enough supplies, storing goodies such as ice cream and knowing the amount of students who are receiving Honor Rolls, from what Ms.

Potter explains.

Honor Roll Lunch includes prizes students earn, such as, ice cream and cereal sundae, soda floats, hot dog BBQ, and pizza party. Emily Reber says the most popular treat is ice cream. However, Jewel Vang shares her favorite treat from the Honor Roll Lunch are the soda floats. Also, Ms. Potter gives the average number of people at honor roll lunch is about 240 kids per grade, so about 500 students per quarter.

## AVID PROGRAM AT RUTTER PREPARES STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

BY JENNY LA

Rutter's AVID elective prepares students with study skills, goal-setting strategies and college readiness experiences, including a campus tour of Sacramento State.

AVID, or Advanced Via Individual Determination is a global wide program that has been transforming education for 45+ years. Their mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness.

At Rutter, Ms. Wang has been teaching AVID for 7 years and she explains that it teaches students how to take notes, stay organized, and figure out problems they are stuck on in their classes. Students do tutorials where stu-

dents bring in questions they do not understand in other classes and they solve it in small groups with the help of their groupmates. It also supports students in keeping up their grades in all their classes and teaches students skills to advocate for themselves to help them in high school and college. She says, "AVID helps students find which major and college fits the students' interest."

Abigail Alvarez-Saenz, a 7th grader and first year AVID student in Ms. Wang's class says that she joined AVID because it sounded quite interesting and she wanted to learn more about AVID. She said, "AVID has helped me a lot with keeping up with assign-

ments and reminding me what to do." She would recommend AVID to other students because it will help out with your school life and improve your studying.

Aira Garcia and Anny Pham, both 8th graders and second year students in AVID, explain that "AVID helps us in other classes by keeping us in order with the organization and planners to help us." What they liked most about AVID is the support they get, and their favorite lesson is covering procrastination and its risks.

In January, AVID also went on a field trip to Sacramento State University. The three students

rated it an 8 out of 10 because the field trip was too short and wished it lasted the whole day. Abigail says her favorite part was hanging out with my friends and learning about Sac State. Anny and Aira's favorite part was being a part of the tour and being able to explore and discover around campus to get a real feel of college life.

To students who are planning to join AVID, Ms. Wang states, "I highly encourage students to join AVID who have interest in going to higher education or want more support to do well in their classes but not if they are failing all their classes."

## LUNCH WITH A SIDE OF FAMILY

BY CAMILA REYES

Bring your Parents to Lunch happens at James Rutter Middle School every third Wednesday of every month.

"The event was suggested by parents to happen at this school just like other school communities do." Ms. Potter, the leadership and activities director, said. In addition, Bring your Parents to Lunch Day helps find volunteers for PBIS Kickoffs and other activities.

Ms. Potter advises students to tell their parents what to do when they are on campus. They can either sit at the tables that are in the quad or bring chairs. It is estimated by Ms. Potter, eighty to hundred families came to bring food to James Rutter.

The purpose of Bring your Parents to Lunch Day is to let the families see how the campus functions during school hours. Ms. Pot-

ter states that it strengthens the school connection with the parent community.

Ms. Potter shares her own thoughts about the event, "I wish the leadership kids would give a treat to the families that come to this event." she stated.

Khojista Adilpoor, an 8th grader, thinks the opposite. "The event should not have any changes because it is perfect." she said "I got to

bring my sister and show her my friends."

Elizabeth Chebukin, also an 8th grader, has the same opinion saying it's already as good as it is. The next Bring your Parents to Lunch is on April 15th, so make sure to inform your parents!

## ROADRUNNERS BRING EQUITY TO JRMS

BY ELI OM R. WILLIAMS

Student Equity Council, hosted by Mr. McNitt, is a K-12 program bringing equity to JRMS which have meetings every Wednesday during advisory.

Student Equity, a program formerly run and directed by Dr. Henry the person who outlined the program, is now being supervised by Mr. McNitt for the last 4 years and the

foreseeable future.

The way that the lessons for the program work is that there is the basic outline constructed by Dr. Henry then which the lessons can follow. However, Mr. McNitt will then discuss with the, "leadership kids that attend student equity" and plan it out from there.

When asked what the main idea for student equity was, Mr. McNitt said,

"Working on community and advocacy." However when asked what the overall goal was he said, "Making sure students learn grow and create equitable opportunities". While a student in the program, Jonas rodriguez he said they, "Do a lot of events mainly just for the students to bond." When Mc.Nitt was asked on his opinion about the class he said, "I love it".

The Student Equity program is also quite large

with a total of 56 students in the program. In fact, according to Mr. McNitt, this year has held the most amount of students in the program.

Some like Jonas said they joined to participate in events. While others like Jose Galan said they joined to hang out with their friends and have fun.

## ROADRUNNERS LOVE THE YEARBOOK!

BY JOHN MARTINEZ

Want to keep a memory from JRMS? You can buy the 2026 yearbook on our Jostens website!

Right now you can pre-order your yearbook for the price of \$30. Ms. Conway states, "The yearbook costs 30 dollars for preorders, and 40 after April 25." So buy them quick Roadrunner's, as you only have until April 25th to save money purchasing

this year's yearbook.

Ms. Conway says, "You can buy the yearbook on our Jostens website, or use the link I send through email every week. Plus you can purchase it at the student store if these options sound too much of a hassle." Now you might be wondering, where to pick it up? According to Ms. Conway, you will be able to pick up your purchased yearbook

at the student store in May. The exact date will come as we move closer to the deadline.

Josue Carrillo, a 8th grade student from JRMS states he likes the yearbook as he gets to look at his friends' pictures which he thinks are funny. Also because he loved last year's yearbook. He says, "I would recommend people to buy the yearbook if they want to keep a loving memory of

the last school year or the first year of their middle school life. Guijin Wu, another 8th grade student from JRMS stated that he hopes to see events that have his friends or bring your parents to lunch.

Overall, you should buy the yearbook if you want to keep something from your middle school years.

## 6TH GRADERS MEET MIDDLE SCHOOL

BY JEWEL VANG

6th grade orientation is when future middle schoolers come and check out the many opportunities that Rutter has to offer.

Every year our school welcomes 6th graders from 5 schools. Jocelyn said that "trying to get the students to engage in activities and learn about middle school" is the main reason why we have 6th grade orientation. This year, the orientations were mostly planned by our leadership students so a big thank you to our leadership team!

When doing the

tours, Jocelyn Acaylar from 8th Grade Leadership had said "The most important places for the 6th graders to know are the office and the elective classes." Then they were taken to the multipurpose room for a presentation from Ms. Potter and were told about all the different activities here at James Rutter.

Hafeez Ahamadi from our 7th grade leadership team said, "grades, clubs, classes, electives, PBIS, sports, and different activities provided by our leadership teams", get talked about during the presentation. This

year, Ms. Potter had her leadership students help the presentation. She said this was to prepare her 7th grade team to be more independent when they are 8th graders. She said that she was very proud of her students doing such a good job.

After the presentation, everyone gets to enjoy the activities and treats provided by the leadership team.

They get to go explore the different club booths that go and show what they do. Alexander Ngyuen had said that the 6th

graders looked like they really enjoyed the orientation. Then at the end of 3rd period. The 6th grade visit comes to an end and they go back to their schools. Let's give a big thanks to everyone who was involved in 6th grade orientation because they were showing the future roadrunners what Rutter has to offer.

We hope that the 6th graders learned a lot from the orientation about what to expect in middle school.

## SELF-DEFENSE CLASS FOR STUDENTS AT JRMS

BY JONAS RODRIGUEZ

Self Defense is a class that is offered before school for students here at JRMS.

One main thing that Mr. Shrader stated was, "There is no hard part in teaching this class." Mr. Shrader, has stated that he wanted to create a program that gave students the skills to be able to defend themselves in whatever situation they find themselves in.

Self defense class is

to show and teach students how to defend themselves if put in an uncomfortable situation where they are not safe. Mr. Shrader advises new students to come out and see if you find any interest in learning self defense.

Mr. Shrader stated that his class is made to help students, lose weight, gain muscle, gain self confidence, and overall help yourself learn the skills which you need in order to defend yourself if ever put in any danger or in

way of harm.

A very important thing that many students need to know first is, most of the time the situation is avoidable. All you really need is to have good situational awareness skills. Paying attention to your environment happens to help out a lot. Learning how to avoid situations is an important lesson that our self defense class at JRMS teaches the students. The class taught students how to stay calm

and relaxed when under pressure.

Self defense took place every Tuesday and Thursday. A former student, Josue Carrillo, used to attend the class, Josue was asked, "Did you like the class?, what are your thoughts on it?" Josue answered "I thought the class was cool, I liked it." Students clearly had some type of connection with the class.

## ROADRUNNERS MAKE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

BY MALIK QUINDES

New Year's Resolutions is a tradition that is known for the New Year.

Every year on December 31st, many people come together and share some goals of their own to maintain throughout the year. Some people promise themselves goals for the year, but they don't even try to accomplish their New Year's Resolutions. Many Americans didn't celebrate New Year's as a holiday until the 20th century. So I'm here to tell you how this all started and show staff and students New Year's Resolutions.

According to Rachel Treisman at [npr.org](http://npr.org), New

Year's resolutions are a key part of how many people observe the holiday. In 1813, "New Year Resolutions" were first announced in a Boston newspaper. Many cultures and countries came together at a new year and took time to reflect, and set goals. In 1907, the Times Square ball dropped for the first time. After the Times Square ball dropped for the first time, U.S newspapers started to mention New Year's Resolutions after the event.

According to Ms. Bridget, a teacher/staff member at JRMS, her New Year's resolution is to stop eating sugar. People set New Year's

Resolutions to have more discipline in life according to Ms. Bridget. Ms. Bridget states, "Some common New Year resolutions are to lose weight and to stop drinking." Ms. Bridget hopes to accomplish her New Year's resolution. Ms. Bridget states, "I will try and maintain this throughout the year to stay disciplined."

Jonas, a student at James Rutter Middle School says his New Year's resolution is to pass all of his classes. He chose this goal because he needs his classes passed so he can walk the stage. Jonas states, "I will try to maintain this throughout

the year because it is important to walk the stage and to promote going to High School." He says It'll affect him this year because if he doesn't walk the stage, then he won't get his certificate.

I've shared a lot of important details about new year's resolutions and people's new year's resolutions, but I want to know... What is your New Year's Resolution?

## SPIRIT WEEK IN DECEMBER

BY MIEKO THAO

Roadrunners dress up for spirit week in December, students and teachers are able to dress up in the winter spirit week to participate in something easy and to have fun.

According to our James Rutter Middle School Leadership teacher, Mrs. Potter, all spirit weeks are made in a month of advance with themes already picked for that spirit week. Mrs. Potter had already planned when the next spirit weeks would be on her calendar and would have the leadership class make themes for that week.

Spirit week is usually

just one week and has 5 different themes for each day of the week. You're able to dress up on whatever spirit day you want, and if you have a shirt or hat, it could help you participate for a spirit day.

At James Rutter Middle School, spirit weeks are usually every 2 months. We've had 5 spirit weeks this whole year: Red Ribbon Week, Spirit Week in December, Valentine's Day Spirit Week, Multicultural Spirit Week, and St. Patrick's Day Spirit Week.

Two students from James Rutter Middle School,

Monserrat Perez and Nyssa Dixon, both said "Spirit week themes are a little hard because you don't want to repeat the same theme all the time."

Monserrat Perez and Nyssa Dixon both say "We don't count how many people participate and dress up for our spirit weeks, but when making our school's, James Rutter Middle School's spirit weeks, all of the leadership students help pick themes for the week."

Both Nyssa Dixon and Monserrat Perez say that they both participate in the spirit weeks but it de-

pends on what spirit week day it is.

According to Mrs. Potter, Monserrat Perez and Nyssa Dixon, Spirit Week in December is a week where students can dress up cozy or match a Christmas theme since Christmas will be around soon. Spirit weeks started at James Rutter Middle School more than over 10 years ago. Around 2009-2010 James Rutter Middle School had Spirit days and Red Ribbon Week.

## ROADRUNNERS KICK IT OFF WITH PANTHER KICK OFF

BY KATALEYA HUERTA

Panther Kickoff, the trip that almost all 8th graders take to learn about clubs and classes held at Florin High School. This took place on January 28 and 29, at 8:45 in the morning.

The teacher who planned the Panther Kickoff was Dr. Ramos from Florin High School. During the Panther Kickoff the students took a tour around

the school, played games, and watched some performances.

The Panther Kickoff showed 8th graders how to be prepared for what high school would be like. It tells the students all the events that are held and shows them the opportunities they could accomplish.

This trip was very important to the 8th graders because the Florin High

Schoolers told them to join clubs and activities to explore more things so they can have a better experience at high school.

Ken Xiong, an 8th grader that attended the field trip said "I got to see opportunities of what to do." Ken also mentioned the trip was exciting and that they got to meet new people on the trip.

Another student is MayRose Agcaoili, she said the

most exciting part was watching the performances and looking at all the clubs. She also said that "it helps to be more excited about high school."

This trip is the start of 8th grade Roadrunners years on the way to high school.

## THE GLOW OF THE RAINBOW CLUB

BY MALIAH EASTER

James Rutter Middle School has Rainbow Club for allies and people in the LGBTQ+ community

Ms. Welch said the Rainbow club is hosted by her in G27 every week on Mondays after school unless there is a meeting, and then she will move to another day. If you would like to join Rainbow

Club, then all you have to do is stop by her room during lunch or after school.

Ms. Welch said Rainbow club is so that other people can feel more comfortable around more people and can make more friends.

Ms. Welch said, "We check in on how people are feeling and talk about good or

bad things, plus we also do crafts."

A student named Max Ruelas said, "I feel happy and I like it very much because everyone there is very nice and are all very understanding". Another student, Dawnie Fleming, said, "I feel happy and I like it very much." Dawnie had also said that

she really recommends people to join. If you ever have any questions about Rainbow club you could ask Ms. Welch.

Rainbow club is open to anyone who would like to join it and make more friends.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE CLUB SHARES CULTURE

BY BIANCA JULIET DIAZ CARRILLO

Hispanic Heritage Club is every Thursday afternoon after school from 3:15 to 4:15 in Ms. Verduzco Classroom, N-48, located near the garden in the science building

Hispanic Heritage Club is about educating people about the Hispanic community and their cultures and this is what Ms. Verduzco wants to teach people about Hispanic Heritage Club "I like

to educate people on our issues and share as much information with everyone even through social media. All non-hispanic people can join, it doesn't matter what race you are, everyone is welcomed depending on holidays. The Hispanic club does fun activities like coloring, watching movies or videos about hispanic news.

She also said, "

The way I represent my culture is, I speak the language and teach people words. I also celebrate hispanic holidays. I like to wear clothes and jewelry that represent my culture. Students get to choose what project they want to do. Sometimes they choose a country to research on and make a project on it".

Now some words from the student Madeleine Guadalupe Reyes Validiva "I

enjoy the Hispanic Heritage Club because you make new friends and you can learn about our culture"

Sophia Alavarez Sierra, a member of the Hispanic Heritage Club says, "You guys should join because it's fun and we get to communicate about our culture and get to make new friends"

## JRMS WRESTLING COMPETES

BY BRI-ELOISE FONG

The James Rutter wrestling team is a winter competitive sport that started on November 1st, 2025.

To begin, the wrestling team is about controlling your opponent and going against other schools to understand the competitive sport of wrestling. Another thing about the wrestling team is learning about different types of positions that are top, natural, and bottom. In other

words, they are also for hand combat control.

The wrestling team is very important to JRMS since it is an intense physical teaching and self-reliance. Another reason why it is important is because it can improve balance and strength for people who want to do it or need it. Following, it is important for our school because it's for everyone who wants to try wrestling and

have fun with wrestling.

Students from the wrestling team said they liked wrestling. Like one of the members, Yoaslynn, said "I like wrestling because they have discipline." Another member of the wrestling team, Raysean said, "It feels good and is fun."

The wrestling coach, Mr. T said, "The wrestling team did not have tryouts because there weren't a lot of

people so instead of tryouts I recruited people who signed up for wrestling". Lastly, some people from the wrestling team like Raysean said, "They would do it again because they like the competition." In the end the wrestling team was something for students to have fun and enjoy it.

## CLUB LIVE, SPREADING AWARENESS ALL AROUND

BY RAINIE CHA

Club Live wants to help people live better lives and stop kids from getting addicted to drugs and vaping. It's held on Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:15

Mr. Maples, the adviser of the club, says that Club Live tries to spread the message about preventing bad influences from getting to kids and grownups. They want to spread awareness of drugs, smoking, and anything unhealthy for your mindset and health. And they want to help people live a better lifestyle.

According to the Sacramento County Department of Health Services, Club Live wants to, "make the County of Sacramento a safe place for young people to grow up..."

There are a total of 5 people in Club Live according to Mr. Maples. Anyone can join at any time and there are no requirements to join this club besides following the Four Bs. Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Kind. So if you're interested in joining, please do!

Club Live has a fun time making posters and cards for people. Aliyna Franklin says that her favorite part of the club is, "that me and my friends have fun." Though Club Live doesn't fund trips or go places, members can go to other Sacramento County Club Live events. The locations sometimes change, but this year it was held at The Sofia Theaters on March 13, 2026. They had a "Showcase of Stars" countywide talent show.

Also, Mr. Maples would like to give Aliyna Franklin the credit she deserves for being a part of the "Showcase of Stars" event. She did a monologued-skit about losing a t.v remote and even won the category of rhythm! Anna Dodoo, a member of Club Live, says that she would join this club again and that, "I love the club," because it helps a lot of people.

## BAND CLASS: LOUD AND PROUD!

BY ALEXA RIVERA

Band is an elective at James Rutter Middle School.

There is a big variety of instruments to choose from when joining a band. The band also has a few concerts throughout the school year where students are able to perform in front of friends and families.

Ms. Minge is the band teacher at James Rutter Middle School, she won the "Title 1 School

Music Educator Of The Year Award." She states, "I am so proud of how hard my students have worked and the strong community they all have built amongst each other." She also shares how she keeps her students motivated to practice, she says "For the most part they are already motivated and want to be successful but I usually choose the songs that are fun for them."

The band's goal for this year is to compete and

have more performances. Band I has one more home concert on May 8th. Band II is going to Six Flags and having a performance somewhere in April.

Shina Vang, a two year band student at James Rutter says her favorite part of the band is playing her instrument and seeing everybody excited to learn. What she does to prepare for performances is taking deep breaths.

Ms. Minge says,

"There will be 4 periods of band". There will also be an orchestra added next year. Band I is for beginners with no experience and Band II is for people who have already had experience with an instrument.

Joining band as an elective offers significant benefits, including enhanced cognitive function, improved social skills, and emotional stress relief.

## COFFEE WITH COUNSELORS INFORMS PARENTS

BY ANNELISE MOUA

Coffee with Counselors is run by Ms. Mehl for parents of Roadrunners.

According to our school counselor, Ms. Mehl. Coffee with Counselors begins with our Rutter counselors. They thought "How could we make parents feel seen at their students' school?" That is when they thought about "Coffee with Counselors."

Parents are welcomed by our amazing counselors for some information. We let them know how their children have been doing and how we can make some things change. This event was made to catch parents up with what they need or should know. This can also lead parents/counselors to have a better connection with stu-

dents.

Counselors have been keeping this event going for three years, their 2022-2023 team has helped set up to make Coffee with Counselors happen. Every month, counselors are open to do this so parents are able to identify what or how their child is doing in school. We are able to get 1 to 6 parents every time we open this event, and also spend 20 minutes talking with the parents.

Roadrunner's parents are messaged on "Talking Points" to inform them that they are welcomed to attend Coffee with Counselors, either in person or on zoom. Each month our counselors come up with a differ-

ent topic to talk about so then they are able to know more about the parents. Our counselors think of wonderful topics about the roadrunners to see how much they have come into the year.

Coffee with counselors is located at James Rutter Middle school in the rooms of J-39 or A-18. Some teachers or students might wonder "How much does it cost for these supplies that we have!" Well, we actually get the coffee donated from Starbucks. Depending on the food; the costs vary due to what we can get.

Our school is very lucky to have this event because according to Ms. Mehl, some of the schools in the Elk Grove District don't even do some

of these things. This is an opportunity for counselors to know more parents of the Roadrunners.

Ms. Baskin's, a parent of one of the Roadrunner's, is often always there to talk with the counselors. She says "I try to come all the time, I have only missed one meeting. Otherwise I've been here all the time." Ms. Baskin's explains to us that she doesn't miss a day of the meeting with counselors because she is able to be given information about promotion, credits, and how her child has been doing in school. Since Ms. Baskin's didn't have something like this in her school days, now she is attending to her children.

## PLANTING FOR THE GARDENING CLASS

BY CALISTA HER

The Gardening Class is an elective for 2nd period at James Rutter Middle School.

The Gardening Class was opened 7 years ago. They opened this class for social emotional learning and to get kids outside. The Gardening class is known for being outside, their engineering, planting, drawing, and painting.

Mr. Jaeger states

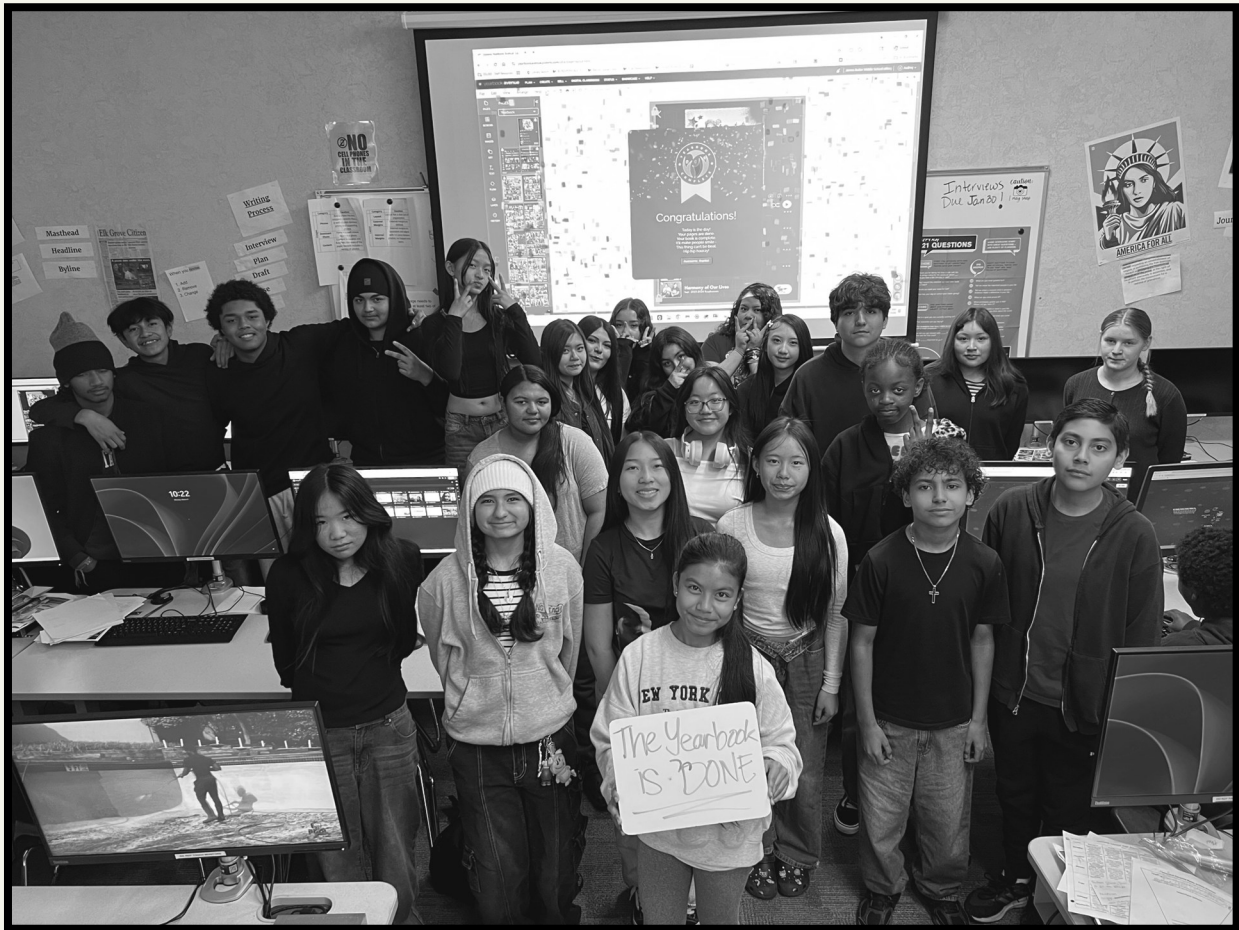
that The Gardening Class also helps with mental health. Apparently it helps with stress, anxiety

The Gardening teacher, Mr. Jaeger, says he enjoys teaching this class and states he enjoys being able to teach the students everyday. Mr. Jaeger says even though he struggles to help these students in his class, it's very fun to teach them.

Two students of Mr. Jaeger's Gardening Class says that they learn lots of things in this class. Though one student, Jayden Martines, says he does not know what he learns in this class. The other student, Katelyn Her, says that she was recently learning about business and engineering.

Business and engineering is considered in The Gardening Class because it

helps them treat gardening as a profession. As the students learn the business and engineering benefits in their Gardening Class, they start to improve their ways of working.



The yearbook is done, and you're in it! Have you bought your copy? Prices go up to \$40 on April 25th!