

Jack G. Desmond Middle School



February 2021

A Message From The Principal

Longhorn Families,

Our 3rd quarter is already moving right along for our teachers and students! We are happy to see students logging into their virtual classrooms and participating in the work that needs to be done for them to master standards and pass their classes. Our students and staff continue to show perseverance and determination in this setting and for that we are so proud.

Our great teachers are constantly looking for ways and planning innovative lessons to engage and encourage students in their learning. If students or parents have questions about a Distance Learning class, teachers have office hours available daily and are available to provide support. Thank you for all you do to continually support your student in their learning.

Carry Gassett, Principal

Upcoming Events

02/3/21 11:00am-12:30pm
Food Distribution

2/4/21 MTHS Parent Forum
@6:00pm

02/08/21 Holiday-No School

02/10/21 Honor Roll Drive
Thru

02/10/21 11:00am-12:30pm
Food Distribution

02/17/21 11:00am-12:30pm
Food Distribution

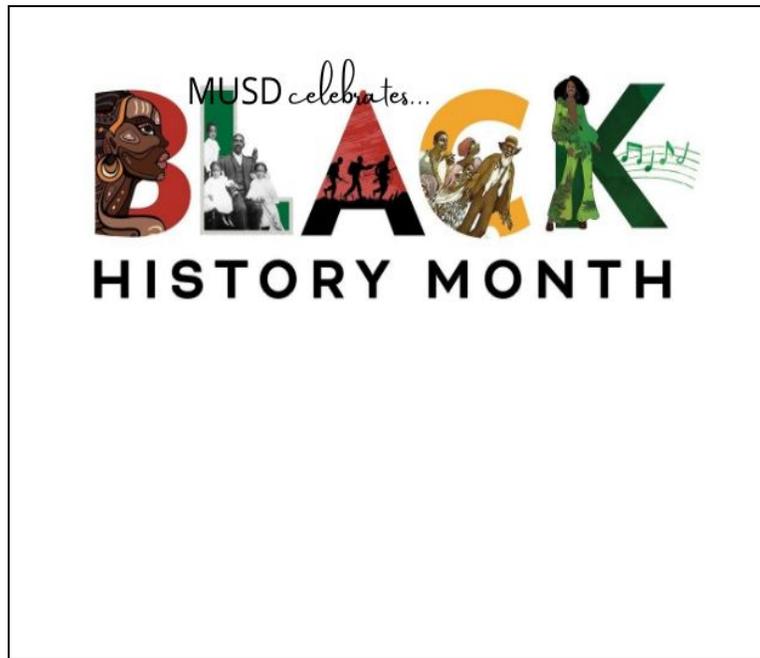
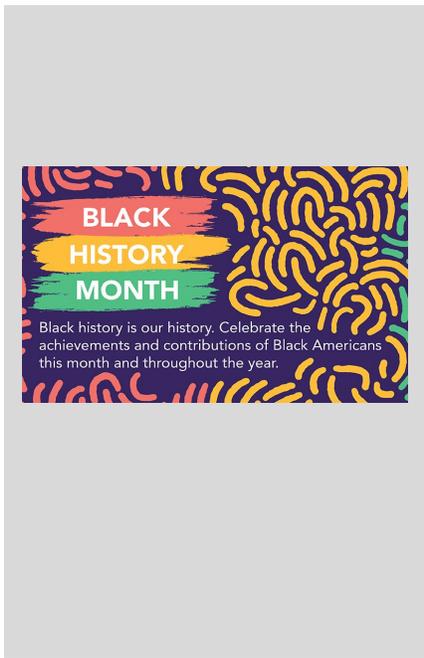
02/24/21 11:00am-12:30pm
Food Distribution

Event Highlight

Black History Month

Desmond celebrates Black History Month during the month of February! Students will be watching videos each week in their classes to learn more about some of the successes and triumphs that African Americans have encountered throughout history. Desmond will also be making posts on our social media platforms! Parents if you want to check out what the students will be learning refer to the DMS Black History Month link below. There you will find videos, articles, and activities that you could also provide your child at home.

[DMS Black History Month](#)



PBIS

The Desmond PBIS Committee has been going above and beyond to keep our students motivated in staying engaged through distance learning. Our PBIS committee has been creating videos each week sharing the names of students that have won a prize for exhibiting the correct behaviors of being prepared, prompt, positive, productive, and polite. Check out the video below that highlights students from last week!

[PBIS Winners Drawing Video](#)



PBIS winners for the week of 1/25/21

Matilda Torres High School Parent Forum:

Torres High School will be hosting an 8th Grade Parent Forum on Thursday, February 4th at 6pm.

This event is to give parents an overview of the THS registration process and to provide information on our programs and activities. They will also be hosting a Q&A session with our Administration and Counseling teams.

The Zoom Webinar event can be accessed at: <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/82442951460>

After School Program

[Meet our Tutors!](#) Show your child this awesome video made by our ASP Tutors! They share some things that they offer our students besides tutoring. They also provide enrichment such as art, and games. If you would like to have your child be apart of After School Tutoring please check out their website [After School Program Website](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact josebarrigamagdalenom@maderausd.org who is the ASP site lead for Desmond.

Counselors

- On Wednesday, February 10th, we will be holding our 2nd Quarter Honor Roll celebration. We'll invite parents and students to drive through to pick up certificates and goodies. We have 145 7th graders and 147 8th graders who achieved honor roll!
- Counselors will start academic groups the week of February 15th. Our Safety Officers, Attendance Liaison and Student Advocate will be partnering with us to run the groups. We will run 4 academic groups with certain students who are below the 2.0 GPA mark.
- Counselors are starting weekly student check-in surveys. We include different, fun questions to engage students and maintain contact with them. Please encourage your student to participate!
- We are working to register all students for College Next, a college and career interest platform. Be sure to ask your student about College Next. We encourage all students to explore the lessons and interest surveys included in this platform!
- All students have had the opportunity to choose their elective classes for the 2021-2022 school year. For 8th graders who will be attending high school, please make sure they have filled out the appropriate paperwork if they are planning on applying to a school outside of their boundaries (i.e., Madera South to participate in the Agriculture program, or Madera High to participate in the Construction or Transportation program). The deadline for these applications is FEBRUARY 12th - No Exceptions.

Student Health Wellness

The most important relationship to a child is the one they develop with their parent or caregiver. Children learn about the world around them through a positive parent-child relationship. As they are growing and changing, children look to their parents to determine whether or not they are safe, secure, and loved. It is also the foundation from which they will build their future relationships.

You can build a positive parent-child relationship by being in the moment with your child, spending quality time together, and creating an environment where they feel comfortable to explore, and by listening and acknowledging your child's feelings. By listening and empathizing with your child, you will begin to foster mutual respect.



There is no secret handbook or guaranteed approach to get this relationship right, and you'll likely experience a few bumps along the way. However, if you keep working on improving your relationship, your child will surely blossom.

We may be working from a distance, but we are still here for our students and our families. We are available to help in any way we can~GO LONGHORNS!