

The Warrior's Way

Steve Frazier
Elementary Counselor

In the elementary section, we are underway with our Warrior's Way initiative and the creation of a positive climate through the teaching of three core behavioral values: Being Safe, Being Respectful, and Being Responsible. We chose these three values as a base from which we can promote behaviors needed for both the academic and social-emotional success of students. Teachers worked collaboratively with their students to define what this looks like and means in each of their classrooms. Additionally, the office staff and teachers modeled appropriate and inappropriate behaviors in areas throughout the school for students to see what expectations look like. Through the school year we will continuously instruct students on behaviors, as well as reinforce positive behaviors through "Caught Ya's" and other celebrations. We are all enthusiastic about how this initiative is building an even greater sense of school-wide community in our elementary section.



Fourth Grade, the Final Year in Elementary

Jun Sung Kang Oh in 4-33
Elementary Student



This is my 7th year in the American School and I am only 9 years old. I'm Jun Sung. Every single year, of my childhood in Elementary has been a new experience. I have traveled this far and I am ready for a new challenge. Something that I am really looking forward to this year is getting ready for Folklorama and learning about different countries and cultures. I am also looking forward to going to Mazamitla in October because it is the first time I will travel by myself with my friends.

I am very excited about learning new and innovative things in 4th grade. This year will be my last year celebrating Children's Day and I am upset that I will not be getting any more gifts from the celebration. I am very nervous about heading into Middle School and getting lost through the hallways and receiving detentions. I hope I can become more responsible and mature so when I start to take classes on the other side of school, I can be organized which will help me in many ways. My sister received her phone right before she went to Middle School. Hopefully, I'll get my own phone too!

Coming back home feels great!

Priscilla Montilla
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION

Being formal alumni from the 80's to the 90's I was always an ASFG promotor; without knowing where I would stand later. Having lived the ASFG experience not only prepared me to the fullest of my capacities to start new challenges when I left to college, but also gave me a sense of inclusion and openness, honor and commitment throughout my personal and professional life, which were for sure advantageous for the meeting of various professional achievements. Now, although the real essence of honor freedom and commitment accompanied me through my later years, having the opportunity of being physically back on campus, reminds me the importance of my early formation years, and it feels just right. It is now my pleasure and delight to contribute, through the Admissions Office Direction, to an environment of the inclusion, such as the one that so positively brought momentum to my life before. The challenge now relies on keep encouraging the formation of purposeful learners, critical and creative thinkers, effective communicators, and community contributors into our society, our community, and into what it has always felt to me like home: the ASFG.

Markman's
Dave Markman
Middle School Principal

We are Future Middle School and are excited about embarking on another adventurous year. We have a can-do attitude because we know that intelligence, skills, abilities, and success are determined through hard work and effort. We also know that we increase our intelligence the most when we are challenged, and that our brains become more capable when we put them to the test. This is why we embrace difficult, rigorous, challenging work!

We also know that having a growth mindset contributes to our success. We realize that our success is dependent on our efforts and actions, rather than on gifts that we were either born with or without. Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck has spent much of her career studying the effect of one's mindset on success and growth, and has shared conclusive evidence supporting these ideas about intelligence and the human capacity to actually make our brains more effective.

As a learning community, we are committed to living by and reminding our community members of these ideas, because we know that our students will achieve more when they have a growth mindset.



ASFG en los años 20's

Becoming a Family in our Senior Year

Michelle Adams Anchondo
12th Grade student



After only a month and a half of senior life, I am already preparing to live away from the safety of my parent's care and I am seriously contemplating the uncertainties of my future university and career. Stress no longer is an effective driving force for me because I have grown used to it.

Instead, senior year itself is the time we students make so many things happen! Those of us who are shy or introverts, we finally speak up. Those of us who neglected our classmates, renew bonds and become closer. We all become more true to ourselves for everyone to see our real selves. At times, we may not have had a balanced approach to raise our GPAs, but this year is the time to make sure we live a little. We all accept the great change of "Senior Year" and take full advantage of every moment, creating a family. Despite the many differences among us, there is certainty that our senior class becomes a family. Our family may not always get along, but we certainly try. This class of 2019 is composed of a great variety of personalities, groups of different opinions, people who disagree, people who can't live without one another, and people who are proud of who they have become, and we are a family nonetheless.

Our Last Time

Andrea Arriaga Cota
12th Grade student

Here we are again... same school, same hallways, same classmates, yet this time everything is different. It's our last year. Ten months from now, life will change for each one of us; mornings will no longer be characterized by laughter at the lockers or complaints about the weather. Every single one of us will take a unique path and that is something terrifying but amazing.

Here we are again... enjoying our last adventures together and making the most of every moment we spend as a generation. It seems hard to believe that after growing with the same people for about twelve years, I won't be seeing them every weekday. We embark on a new chapter of our life and no matter what the future holds, for now what is left to do, is to enjoy the same school, the same hallways, the same classmates.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Loren Cortés and Arun Ishikawa
8th Grade Students

When asked what we were feeling at the beginning of our final year of middle school, a whirlwind of thoughts and ideas came into mind.

We realized that really, we live an extremely fast paced life. As the new 8th grade generation, we feel like a day goes by in a wink. Our graduation in June is nothing but a distant blur, but, we cannot deny the fact that it is present in our minds. Deep down, we know that our days as middle schoolers are counted. An invisible timer floats on top of our heads, counting down until the big day reaches

For this reason, we enjoy every day. We are receptive to even the most subtle detail. We can easily recognize each of our classmates laugh, the way the each individual locker sounds, the spot where the sun hits the hallway at specific time of the day or the sound of footsteps of those running late.

These two sides of things collide in this beginning of the year. We know time is ticking, and ticking fast, but at the same time, we are aware of our surroundings. We wake up each morning with the goal to live every second of this year, because we know it won't come back.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

David C. McGrath
General Director

Each year on a Saturday afternoon in June, I have the pleasure of welcoming a class of ASFG graduates to their 10-year time capsule opening. I always love visiting with alumni who have returned to campus, especially in large groups like these. They are so excited to see each other, walk the halls of their beloved "American School," and unearth the huge plastic barrel, hermetically sealed to protect the sentimental artifacts from a decade ago.

Before we open the capsule, I share a few words of both welcome and orientation and take them on a short tour of the campus. I title the presentation "The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same." Why? Because amid all that has progressed and changed at the American School, from 3D printing stations and maker spaces in the libraries to the new arts center behind the auditorium, from more handicapped access school-wide to the green-room recording studio, one thing is for sure... our essence, our reason for existing, hasn't changed at all.

- We still...
- uphold the 4 learning goals embedded in our mission statement – purposeful learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators and community contributors.
 - teach how to think more intently than what to think
 - understand that service learning opens the minds and warms the hearts of learners of all ages
 - value quality teaching over any other school quality indicator
 - maintain academic rigor so students meet the college and career challenges that lie ahead
 - cherish and foster diversity in the student, faculty and parent community
 - teach the values of citizenship, trustworthiness, kindness and commitment
 - (as our vision statement affirms) inspire, educate and act to better our world.

This year marks the 110th anniversary of our beloved American School's founding in 1908. We know change is not only inevitable but welcome, and, just like they have for the past eleven decades, education will evolve, technology will advance, and buildings will be rebuilt and repurposed. But, like the alumni from yesteryear would hope and expect, the more our ASFG will change, the more it will stay the same.

All About You in Six Words

Julie Villand
High School Principal

At the beginning of each school year, we open ourselves up to numerous new teachers and new classmates. Teachers guide students to get to know one another with strategies like ice breakers, checklists, and interviews, assuming that strategically posed questions will give us insight into one another. Amazingly just six words can be telling of one's character.

We asked the entire High School faculty and student body to give us a glimpse into their personality using only six words. This straightforward prompt moves us past intimidation and frees us to share just a bit of our self in a clever yet non-threatening way. Some of us generated six word stories that were "inside jokes" and made close friends smile, others gave insight into hobbies, while others were more introspective.

Sharing High School personalities in six-words:

- Sacrifice a like for a love.
-Dario Molina, grade 12 student
Fall seven times stand up eight.
-Ariela Kleiman, grade 9 student
Messy = being many things at once.
-Fernanda Barragán, grade 9 student
Embrace detours, fear yields growth.
-Emily Cordz, Chemistry teacher
Xijtemiki suéñalo, Ximonekilli deséalo, Xichiuva hazlo.
-Karla Vidrio, Mexican Social Studies

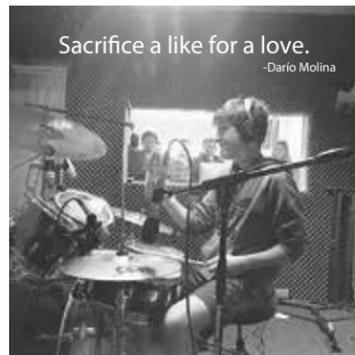


Fall seven times stand up eight
-Ariela Kleiman

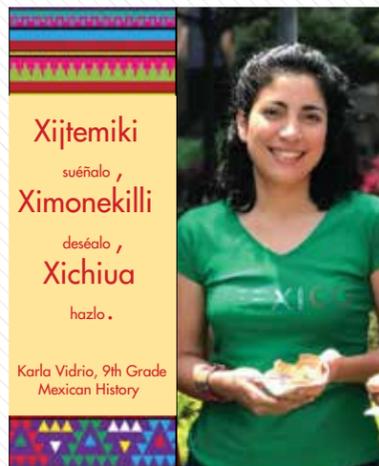


Messy =
Being many things at once

-Fernanda Barragán



Sacrifice a like for a love.
-Dario Molina



Xijtemiki suéñalo,
Ximonekilli deséalo,
Xichiuva hazlo.
Karla Vidrio, 9th Grade Mexican History

EN MEMORIA DE ÁNGEL SALAZAR BARAJAS



Ángel entró a trabajar con nosotros el 2 de marzo de 2015 por recomendación de un compañero del ASFG. Comenzó como ayudante de limpieza y dos años después se le asignó el área de eventos, principalmente el auditorio. Desde ahí tuvo la oportunidad de tocar la vida de alumnos, papás y gran parte del staff. Todos los que lo conocimos, lo recordamos con su sonrisa amable, su disponibilidad y compromiso con su trabajo. Desafortunadamente, Ángel falleció el pasado 28 de agosto, después de una breve lucha contra el cáncer. Con su partida nos deja la enseñanza de apreciar nuestro trabajo, realizarlo con gusto, tomarse las cosas con humor y ser un gran amigo. Lo vamos a extrañar. Descanse en paz.

Bienvenidos, Welcome, желанный, Bienvenue, Willkommen, よこそ, Benvenuto, Welkom, 受歡迎的, Bienvenus

- Cursos abiertos a todo público / Courses open to general public
- 4+ años en adelante / Courses for every age group, 4+
- Estudiantes de High School reciben créditos / High School students earn credits



LA RIQUEZA DE NUESTRAS TRADICIONES



Grace Montes
Maestra de español en kínder

La celebración de la Independencia de México es un evento que disfrutamos en la sección de preescolar. Este festejo lleva varias semanas de preparación; comenzando con los padres de familia decorando los pasillos con banderas tricolor, las asistentes de maestras ensayando para la obra "El grito" y las fiestas en cada salón con platillos tradicionales. ¡Sin mencionar uno de los eventos culminantes de esa mañana, el mariachi en el recreo!

El gran día se vistió de sol y de colores que fueron portados por los niños, padres de familia y maestras, en trajes típicos de nuestro país. Iniciamos con la representación de la historia de la Independencia; nuestro jardín se llenó de sonrisas y los niños entusiasmados llamaban con cariño a sus maestras al verlas interpretar a nuestros héroes patrios. Al finalizar, niños y adultos comenzaron a bailar música mexicana tradicional; la alegría se sentía por todo el lugar. Lo mismo ocurrió con el mariachi durante el recreo, el cuál creó un ambiente de goce en el que era imposible no ponerse a bailar al ritmo de "El mariachi loco". La exquisita comida típica hizo presencia en cada uno de los salones, formando parte de una convivencia especial.



En la clase de español, los alumnos de kínder escucharon la historia de la Independencia, exploraron juguetes mexicanos y realizaron bosquejos de la bandera de México y de los personajes involucrados en la Independencia. Al conversar respecto al 16 de septiembre, compartieron que:

"Miguel Hidalgo es mi favorito porque tocó la campana y tiene muchos amigos". "Celebramos porque queremos mucho a México, porque vivimos en él". "Celebramos México de amor".

Efectivamente, ese día todos celebramos a México de amor.

Growing Together

Gloria Jimenez
EC Psychologist

In September, Parents' School hosted a conference in which Alondra Velasco and I presented the concept of growth mindset, the research behind it and practical tips for parents to reinforce this mindset in their children. The crowd included 120 curious and participative parents. We began reflecting on our own mindsets, recognizing that many of us were raised with a fixed mindset. You either have talent or you don't. By examining our own ideas and experiences related to failure, we were able to challenge our preconceived notions of what it means to be smart and successful. Thanks to studies showing the brain's neuroplasticity at all ages, we now know we can change our brains with consistent actions. Research pioneered by Dr. Carol Dweck from Stanford University shows that individuals who believe intelligence and abilities can be developed (possess a growth mindset) are more likely to accept challenges, persist in the face of obstacles, see effort as necessary in order to achieve a goal, and accept constructive criticism. In other words, children, adolescents and adults with a growth mindset believe they can get better at something with effort, persistence and strategies; this belief leads to greater levels of achievement and success. Tips we shared with parents included welcoming mistakes, talking about the brain, understanding the role of emotions in learning, and providing feedback for children that focuses on effort, challenges, and strategies. How empowering it is to shift from "I can't" to "I can't yet"! An English version of this presentation will be given in the spring by one of our elementary teachers, Kristen Farrow. Please help spread the word!



Un racimo de esfuerzos cotidianos

Alondra Velasco
Programa Mexicano

Abro la puerta de mi piso y huelo a café. "Buenos días", "good morning", es mi recibimiento. Entro a mi oficina y todo está ordenado y limpio. En mi escritorio los pendientes y en la bitácora lo que mi equipo debe realizar.

Los proyectos con diversos departamentos continúan o nacen. Visitas de padres de familia, reuniones con maestros y saludos de mis exalumnos alegran mi día.

Cada persona que colabora en nuestra escuela ofrece una flor con las que creamos un gran racimo, el cual regalamos a los estudiantes. Desde el primer paso que damos al entrar por la caseta de seguridad hasta acudir al auditorio a un evento, son muchos los esfuerzos que se realizan para que el día a día hagan de la escuela un hogar de aprendizaje.



Este año, inicié colaborando con el "Departamento de desarrollo y relaciones con la comunidad" dando una conferencia junto con Miss Gloria, psicóloga del Preescolar, sobre la mentalidad de crecimiento. Fue muy grato darme cuenta que el auditorio se llenó y un "mundo de personas" corrieron a poner sillas, mover mesas, poner café, sacar copias, etc. para que todo invitado a la sesión tuviera lo que necesitara. Esa experiencia me recordó que, aunque Gloria y yo estábamos "al frente", un racimo de esfuerzos se llevaban a cabo para que todo fuera un éxito. Así es la vida en el ASFG, hay flores por doquier.