



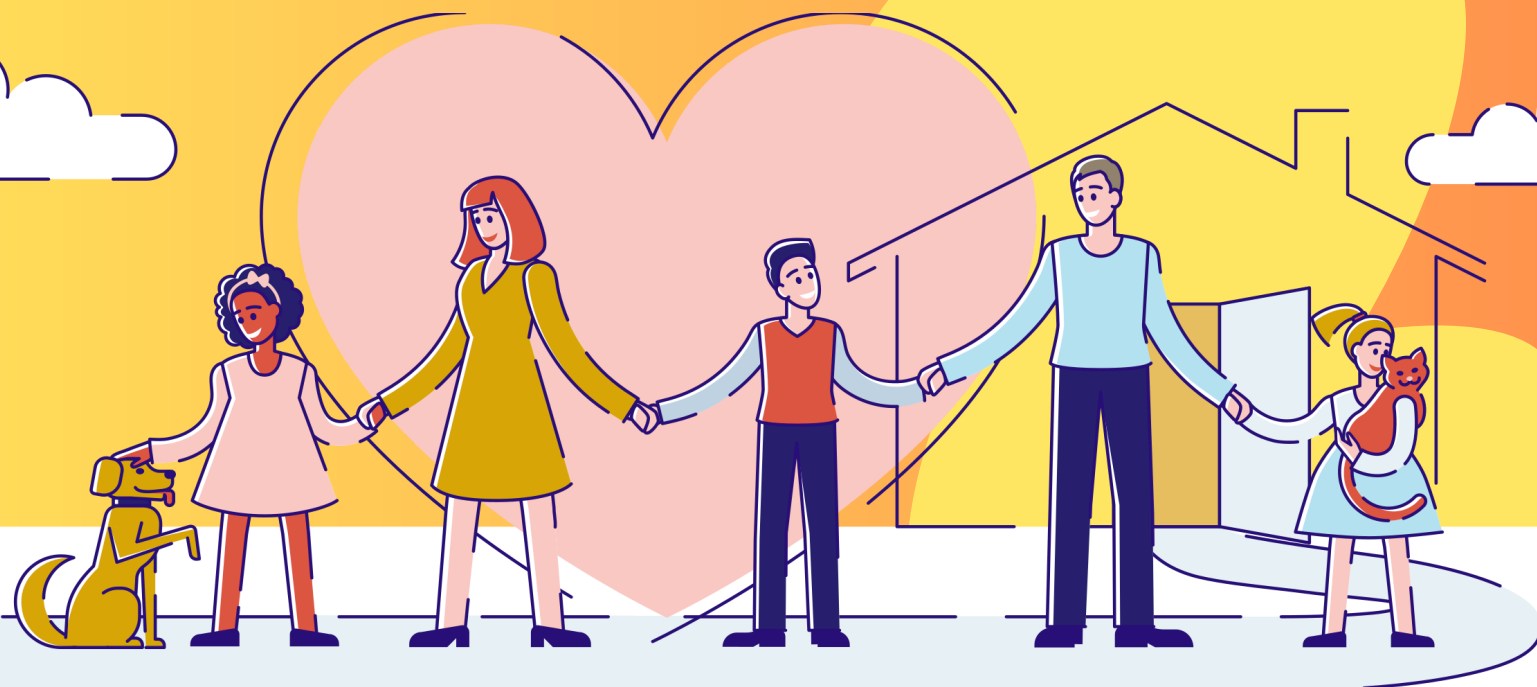
Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Santa Maria-Bonita
School District
CULTIVATING BRIGHT FUTURES

Strengthening Families

Parent Conference



May 16, 2025

Santa Maria High School
901 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA



Welcome!

Dear Families,

On behalf of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District and Santa Maria-Bonita School District, we warmly welcome you to our first Strengthening Families Parent Conference! We are honored to have you with us today as we come together to celebrate the vital role families play in our schools and communities.

This conference is a special opportunity to build connections, grow as leaders, and gain tools to support your children's academic and personal success. We hope you enjoy the keynote, workshops, and meaningful conversations planned throughout the evening.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's education. Together, we are building stronger schools, stronger families, and a stronger future.

Warm regards,



Maribel Vargas-Meza

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Family and Community Engagement
Manager



Maria Miramontes, M.Ed.

Santa Maria Bonita School District
Coordinator , Family and Community
Engagement



Agenda

Time	Activity	Presenter
4:00PM-4:30PM	Registration / Refreshments	
4:30PM-4:45PM	Welcome	Antonio Garcia, SMJUHSD Superintendent & Maijue Lochungvu, SMBSD Assistant Superintendent
4:45PM-5:15PM	Keynote Speaker	Arturo Avila Meza, Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Teacher
5:20PM-6:00PM	Workshop Session 1	Select from Program, page 7
6:10PM-6:50PM	Workshop Session 2	Select from Program, page 9
7:00PM-7:30PM	Panel interview: <i>The impact of family involvement on the academic and personal development of students</i>	Maribel Vargas-Meza, SMJUHSD FACE Maria Miramontes, SMBSD FACE Maria Avila, Parent Leader Elizabeth Vasquez, SMJUHSD Student Alejandra Dino, SMBSD Teacher
7:30PM-8:15PM	Dinner	
8:00PM-8:15PM	Closing, raffles and survey	Maribel Vargas-Meza, SMJUHSD FACE Maria Miramontes, SMBSD FACE



Keynote Speaker

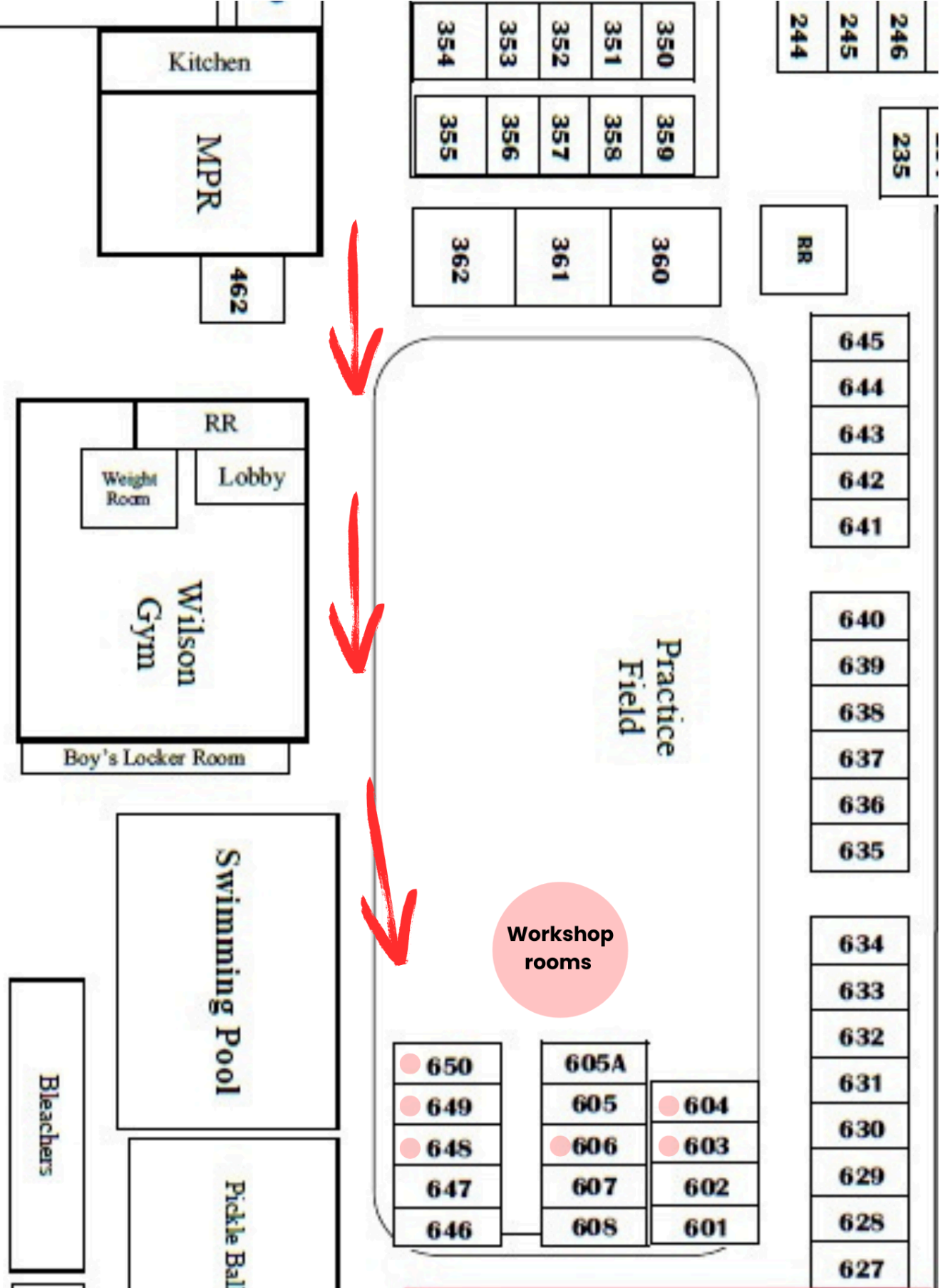
Arturo Avila Meza – Science Teacher, Pioneer Valley High School

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Arturo Avila Meza is a proud first-generation college graduate whose life and career reflect the power of perseverance, education, and family support. One of 6 children in a migrant farming family, Avila Meza—who didn't learn English until he was 14—spent much of his childhood traveling between Oaxaca and Northern Mexico picking strawberries and tomatoes on farms.

Now a dedicated science teacher at Pioneer Valley High School, Mr. Avila Meza brings passion and purpose to his classroom, inspiring students not only to explore the wonders of science, but to believe in their potential. His journey from migrant fields to the front of the classroom is a powerful testament to the impact of education, resilience, and family.

Mr. Avila Meza's commitment to education extends beyond teaching—he is a mentor, a leader, and a bridge between cultures. At the heart of his work is a deep belief in the importance of family involvement in student success. As the keynote speaker for the Strengthening Families Parent Conference, Mr. Avila Meza will share his story, uplift others, and highlight how educators and families can work together to transform lives.

Map





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Workshop Session 1

Workshop Session 1

5:20pm – 6:00pm

Room	Topic	Description	Presenter
603	*Positive Discipline to Strengthen Youth Mental Health and Healthy Relationships	Come learn tools and resources for connecting with your teens on the topics of discipline, healthy relationships, and mental health.	Charley Newel, CAPSLO Youth Coordinator
604	*Resiliency	This workshop will discuss the definition of resiliency, review the factors, myths and facts, as well as simple activities to increase our resiliency.	Maribel Landeros, Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness Community Specialist
607	**Understanding Your Child's Brain and Behavior	Want to better support your child during emotional outbursts or challenging moments? This session will help you understand the different brain states children experience—from calm to escalated—and how to respond effectively. We'll explore the impact of rewards vs. punishment, focus on building lasting skills, and share practical, positive behavior strategies you can use at home. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to connect, support, and guide your child through behavior challenges with confidence and compassion.	Kassondra Quaglino, SMJHSD BCBA
648	*Understanding the ELPAC and Language Proficiency Pathways	This session will help families better understand the purpose of the ELPAC assessment, how it supports language development, and the reclassification process. Presenters will also share ways families can support English learners at home across grade levels.	Alejandra Meza, SMBSD ELD TOSA & Dr. Sandra Bravo, SMBSD Program Specialist
649	*Building Strong Home–School Connections: Supporting Your Child's Success from Kinder–12th Grade	This workshop highlights the importance of strong communication and partnerships between families and schools. Parents will receive tools, tips, and strategies to support their child's learning, engagement, and success from the early years through high school.	Maria Miramontes, SMBSD FACE Coordinator
650	*Family Nutrition: Food Safety, MyPlate, and Nutrition Labels	This interactive session will guide families in understanding food safety practices, using the MyPlate model for balanced meals, and learning how to read nutrition labels to make informed food choices.	Miguel Diaz, Nutrition Educator

*Interpretation services available in English and Mixteco

**Interpretation services available in Spanish and Mixteco



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Workshop Session 2

Workshop Session 2

6:10pm – 6:50pm

Room	Topic	Description	Presenter
603	*Positive Discipline to Strengthen Youth Mental Health and Healthy Relationships	Come learn tools and resources for connecting with your teens on the topics of discipline, healthy relationships, and mental health.	Charley Newel, CAPSLO Youth Coordinator
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Panel Interview



Maria Avila, Parent Leader



María Avila Anguiano was born in Morelia, Michoacán, and immigrated to the United States 25 years ago in pursuit of a better future for her family. She is a proud mother of six children, some of whom attend Santa Maria High School and Rice School. María currently works as a home caregiver, providing care and support to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Her journey began with work in the fields, and over the years, she has held various jobs to support her family. She is passionate about giving back and actively supports her community through involvement in parent-teacher committees. María continues to hold strong dreams and aspirations, both for herself and her children. Her greatest satisfaction comes from seeing her children happy, thriving, and reaching their full potential—especially as they pursue and complete their university education.



Elizabeth Vazquez, SMJUHSD Student

Elizabeth Vazquez was born in Ventura, California, and is currently an 11th-grade student at Santa Maria High School. As a proud first-generation student, she is dedicated to achieving her goal of attending a four-year university after high school to pursue a degree in business and fulfill her dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Elizabeth is actively involved in her school's business club and participates in community service, as she is passionate about staying engaged and giving back. She values helping others and is committed to making a positive impact in her community.



Alejandra Dino, SMBSD Teacher

Alejandra Dino is a dedicated educator and proud Mexican immigrant who has overcome numerous challenges on her journey. Holding two master's degrees, she brings both academic excellence and personal resilience to her role as a teacher. She deeply cares about the success of her students and works tirelessly to support and uplift them. Her passion for education and commitment to her students are deeply rooted in her own experiences, inspiring those around her.

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Strengthening Families Parent Conference Feedback Form



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Thank You for Attending!

We appreciate your participation in the Strengthening Families Parent Conference.

Your feedback helps us improve future events.

➡ **Please scan the QR code to complete a short feedback form.**

Thank you for your time and support!





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Thank you!