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SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

February 11, 2022

National School Counseling Week 2022, "School Counseling: Better Together," sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), was celebrated from Feb. 7-11 at the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

This week focused public attention on the unique contributions of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do. It highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Each day at Santa Maria High School, staff had an opportunity to learn about the school counseling program, according to Saint Assistant Principal Monica Pallan. The week's informational displays included "ASCA Professional Standards and Mindsets", "Classroom Visit Counseling Lesson Information", "Counseling Profession Use of Time" and others. The activities also included a raffle and treats such as tortilla chips and dip, trail mix and a self-care basket.

"Being a school counselor has been a dream job for me because there are so many rewards when it comes to working with our students," said Saint School Counselor Donna Trombetta. "We get to help them problem solve when they're confused and unsure of themselves, we get to watch them grow and mature from one year to the next and we get to walk along side of them encouraging and supporting them as they prepare themselves to go out into the world for the next phase of their life. I've been so blessed to be part of a great team at Santa Maria High School and being recognized for all we do for students by our administrators and peers during 'National School Counseling Week' is just the icing on the cake."

Righetti School Counselor Eric Blanco agreed.

"I think this year's theme for the week is great, "School Counseling: Better Together," because districtwide our school counselors have worked together with students, families, teachers, support staff and administration to provide key counseling services to students in the areas of academics, college/career and social emotional development," Blanco said. "Collaboration with our community partners and local colleges/universities has provided our students with great opportunities while in high school and in preparing for their post-secondary future."

Santa Maria, Righetti, Pioneer Valley and Delta High School Counselors received certificates of appreciation and snacks from Panera. Counseling support staff were also recognized.

Pioneer Valley Principal Shanda Herrera praised the school counselors for providing support to students and parents during the COVID-19 situation, adding they do a “great job”.

The District has about 30 School Counselors and partners with several outside professional counseling agencies, according to Director of Student Services Steve Molina. The SMJUHS Board of Education last month adopted a resolution recognizing school counselors and guidance professionals from SMHS, PVHS, RHS, DHS and other educational partners.

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