



TMS PRIDE

Hey Wildcats,

I'm so excited to be your new Principal here at Tularosa Middle School! From the moment I walked in, I've felt nothing but a warm welcome, and I want to thank you for that. It's an honor to be part of your school, and I can't wait for us to grow together this year.

My job is all about YOU. My goal is to make sure Tularosa Middle is a place where you feel safe, supported, and challenged to be your very best. That means setting high expectations, pushing you to go further than you thought you could, and making sure you have everything you need to succeed—not just in class, but in life.

You are the reason I'm here. I believe in your potential, and I know that when we work hard, stay focused, and support each other, we can achieve incredible things. Together, we're going to make this year one to remember.

I'm proud to be a Wildcat and proud to stand alongside you. Let's make Tularosa Middle the place where big goals turn into big accomplishments. The future is bright—and it starts with YOU.

Let's get after it, Wildcats!

—Principal Alvarez



Tularosa Middle School Staff

2025-2026

Caesar Alvarez	Principal
Liz Chavez	Secretary
Caroline Claggett	Counselor
Diana Blondell	Nurse
Phillip Barreras	Custodian
Salomon Baca	Custodian
Lois Hill	Librarian, 6th Grade ELA
Gina Armijo	7th Grade ELA, Coach
Martha Medlock	8th Grade ELA
Hector Rodriguez	6th Grade Math
Kristyle Hammers	7th Grade Math
Melissa Richardson	8th Grade Math
Sienna Archunde	6th Grade Science
Cheyenne Heitz	7th Grade Science
Becky Mackechinie	8th Grade Science
Michelle Boroski	6th Grade History
Johnny Hudson	7th Grade US History
Stephen Sorden	8th Grade NM History
LaToya Mendez	PE
Carli Kazhe	PE
Alisha Day	Construction/Careers/FFA
Julio Torres	Art
Cherrelle Multari	Computers
Mike Brand	TMS IEP Facilitator
Cayla Smith	SPED Teacher
Scott Lehman	SPED Teacher
Rebecca Norris	District Literacy Coach
Liana Barcus	District Math Coach
Jessica Chavez	Educational Assistant
Paetin Silva	Educational Assistant
Monica Voorbach-Moheit	Educational Assistant
Brenda Barreras	Educational Assistant
Sarah Miller	Educational Assistant
Ashley Blaylock	Native American Liaison

TMS Newspaper Staff



Emmalynn Betancur
Cobi Bigas
Aliyah Bigmouth
Scarlet Cosio
Zoey Duran
Anabella Florentino
Jaelynn Garcia
Nealani Henley
Fallon Martinez
Isabel McAlister
Michaiah Morin
Kora Norton
Max Ruspoli
CT Sambrano

Brayden Schofield
Samson Terrazas
Matthew Todd
Madisyn Salazar
Lois Hill, Teacher
Brenda Barreras, Educational Assistant

News from the Nurse

By Mrs. Blondell

Hygiene

Handwashing is still the number 1 way to prevent illness and disease. If you need any Hygiene items, there is a display of pockets outside the Nurse's Office. Take only what you can use. If you need something that is not there, please ask the school nurse.

Snacks

Snacks will not be added to the pockets this year. Last year some students took advantage of the snacks. Please eat something at breakfast and something at lunch every day. If you are still hungry, see the office or School Nurse.

Food Safety Education

About 1 in 6 Americans get sick, hospitalized or die from contaminated foods according to the CDC.

CDC suggests 4 steps to prevent food contamination

CLEAN-Wash hands, utensils, and surfaces

SEPARATE-Separate Raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs from cooked food and fresh produce

COOK-Use a food thermometer to make sure internal temperature is safe

CHILL-Put left-overs in fridge within 2 hours or 1 hour if it is above 90 degrees

Bullying Prevention

*Be a Leader

*Challenge Others to be Kind

*Stand Up for Others

Are you feeling Stressed Out?

Some simple Stress Relievers:

Get Enough Sleep (At least 8 Hours)

Listen to relaxing music

Take a Walk

Take a 10-minute break between classes/subjects



Medications

If you carry an inhaler, please see the School Nurse. She needs an Asthma Action Plan signed by a parent/guardian and a doctor every school year. Every time you use your Inhaler, please see the School Nurse so she can document.

If you are carrying medication while at school, please see the School Nurse.

Health Conditions

If you have a Health Condition the Nurse needs to know about, please have your parent call the School Nurse.

TMS Cheerleaders



TMS Counselor

Caroline Claggett

By CT Sambrano and Cobi Bigas

I applied to the district and other schools in New Mexico, and really felt good by speaking to the Tularosa school district and interviewing. This happy school district and expansive community for the students, helped me choose Tularosa, a community tied to land, cultures and healthy connections in New Mexico. I have worked in New Mexico public schools, SF Indian School and Hawaii public schools, HI Immersion school and community college. Service Learning: Serving others. Americorps in schools, eco sustainability and conflict resolution programs. Wilderness counseling, Tesuque Mt. Center, museum summer programs K12 and arts, music, Indian arts and Chaco canyon and cultural heritage programs in NM. Ohana care and culture in Hawaii. HI Cultural Based Education and gardens, a beach cleans. Forestry contracts in Gila, Reserve, Jemez, Lincoln NM and Cougar, OR, reforestation, in Western United States and Pacific Islands: . On my own, I have been volunteering on breaks called cultural Immersion. experiencing life in villages, programs and helping service learning. I've been in jam packed trains all over India and helped in cities like, Kathmandu, Jakarta, Calcutta and Belize etc . Govt licensed training in wellness with India in Ashtanga and Hatha wellness yoga programs. Tiny villages in islands in Asia,

Cultural Immersion: Social services, under organizations to offer supplies to rural villages bringing needed food, cloth, water, land restoration, recycling and community, cooking, safe water and food needs and helping the destitute living and needs of communities. Volunteers local and those and knowing the languages, but knowing the heart. The heart is a universal language and eventually learning the language, songs. Graphic Design and film multimedia, taking courses, Film NM camera and industry training and camera person for sports, TV and film shoots for film and film festivals. Film NM and short film contests for NM Film. Arts program facilitating immersion, Bali Arts program, 12th graders in Indonesia, Lake Atitlan, Tikal villages Guatemala, and most of my volunteer work has been in India and SE Asia since 2007. I've lived and helped in like a dozen countries in Asia and other regions of pacific islands. Wellness is important! Keeping your life in balance in food and healthy choices and recreation and exercise and good thoughts. I was a lifeguard and worked at ski areas in Rockies

telemark racing and ski programs. My sports in K12 school built into life: tennis, track, swim, open water ocean swim, snorkel, camping, track, hiking, boating, etc. Arts, music and singing and taking care of animals . My daughter gets along with most anyone and is happy and born in Santa Fe and graduated, New Mexico schools and is a printmaker, artist, works in Oregon and hikes, rock climbed, ski, snowboard, swims, takes care of animals, kayaked the Grand Canyon and stand up paddled miles of rivers and lives CO and Oregon and just got married and has a sweet dog Annie.



When I was in grade school and Junior high I joined Girl Scouts to go camping and learn. I volunteered in old folks homes singing and giving art to old people, fixed schools, painted schools in Pine River and helped schools in Lakota Nation, US . Later worked and painted architecture in Montana with Lakota. NM Pueblos , community center, helping old people on Pueblo go to the zoo, having Kindergarten and high school students help in the cooking for Pueblos senior center. I had the best food and cultural dances to watch. I took care of horses and worked chores to go on a real wagon train.

Across wilds of Kansas, on the Butterfield trail, we would pull up and circle, ford creeks, ride horses, walk or wagons and sleep on the ground, hear coyotes, keep horses out of snake grass, snooze under the stars and the seasoned elderly wagon masters collected rocks and tumbled rocks in winter and showed us the geology and rocks, took us across the original wagon trails. Ruts in the ground trails. . We learned to hitch the wagons, fix the wagons, clear trails and get out of gullies and tend the horses during the rides. My relatives long ago went West and also took wagon trains and some came down the rivers from First Nations, all on explorations, via Yellowstone and many mountains to land in Salem Oregon and further south for the 49er gold rush.

Lots of times, if we try new things, use goals and fun in goals and explore that way, we end up doing similar things later on, which we learned in k12 and Junior HS.

TMS 6th Grade Math Teacher

Hector Rodriguez

By Mrs. Barreras and Scarlett Cosio



Mr. Rodriguez came to Tularosa to teach math. He is from Las Cruces and taught at Lynn Middle School. He has been teaching for 5 years. He met Mr Alvarez in Las Cruces and decided to join him in coming to Tularosa to teach here.

Mr. Rodriguez was born in Chicago but raised in Los Angeles, California. He is retired from the military. He has one daughter. She is in high school. He also has one cat. Mr. Rodriguez has traveled to Japan, China, Egypt and Russia. His favorite food is Mexican. His favorite team is Arsenal. His favorite music is R&B. He enjoys playing the guitar and playing chess. His favorite author is Michael Crichton.

Mr. Rodriguez feels that teaching math is important. He wants his students to enjoy math.

Mr. Rodriguez states that his favorite quote is from Steve Jobs, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do."

When you see Mr. Rodriguez in the hall or classroom, welcome him to Tularosa.

TMS 8th Grade ELA

Martha Medlock

By Nelani Henley



Martha Medlock is the new TMS 8th grade ELA teacher. She shared that this is her 30th year teaching. She applied to teach at Alamogordo High School, but then got a call from Mr. Alvarez and decided to teach in Tularosa.

Martha was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Her favorite subject in school was the Humanities. She also ran track in high school. She explained that she ran a marathon and has ridden her bicycle from Houston to Austin twice for the MS150 fundraiser.

Martha taught at Lake Travis Middle School in Austin, Texas. Her favorite genre is dystopian literature. Her hobby is trying to learn to play the acoustic guitar. She has traveled to Cozumel and Playa de Carmen in Mexico. Her favorite meal is medium-rare ribeye with a loaded potato and salad. She loves most music. She has no children, but she is a fur mom of a black- and- tan Coon Hound. Finally, her favorite sports team is the Texas Longhorns. Welcome to TMS, we are happy you are here, Ms. Medlock.

TMS 7th Grade Math

Krystie Hammers

By Emma Betancur and Kora Norton



TMS would like to introduce the new 7th grade math teacher, Krystie Hammers. Krystie discovered TMS was a better option than APS and decided to be a part of the Wildcat experience. Before coming to TMS, Krystie taught in Alamogordo at MVMS last year and at HMS 3 years before that. This is her 11th year teaching.

Krystie was born and raised in Sulphur, LA. Her favorite subject in school was math. She enjoyed reading, Dungeons & Dragons, Girl Scouts, and participated as a Youth Leader at her church. During school she did not play sports, but participated on the Yell Squad. She was the captain her junior and senior years of high school. Today she does not follow sports. During her senior year she traveled to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales for her senior trip.

She was stationed in South Korea for a year and then in Okinawa for 4 years. While in the Air Force for 4 years, she worked on different airframes to include: F15, F16, A10, KC135, C130, H60. She maintained the machines working on the fuel cells making sure the JP8 was able to fuel the entire jet.

Krystie has 3 children: Tre who is in 11th grade, Aiden who is in 8th grade, and Kat who is in 3rd grade. We have 3 cats and 1 dog. She loves Mexican food. She has her great-grandpa's tamale and sopapilla recipe that was passed down to her. Her favorite music is KLove or Christian music. She has too many favorite books to name. Her goal is to read 100 books a year and right now she is on book 30. She does this to honor her mother who was an avid reader. Since her mom has passed, the most she has read in one year is 87 books.

Krystie loves teaching the next generation to love math as much as she does. She understands that math for many is a struggle and she does her best to break it down step-by-step to ensure it is fun and engaging. While most are apprehensive about math, by the end of the year they realize that they could do it and really enjoy the class. I've even been told I was their favorite teacher, even though they still didn't really like math. My favorite quote is from Luna Lovegood, "Being different isn't a bad thing, it means you're brave enough to be yourself!"

TMS 8th Grade Science

Becky Mackechinie

By Isabel McAlister

We want to welcome Becky Mackechinie as the new 8th grade science teacher at TMS. Becky shared that Tularosa is her home town and she wanted to get back into education. Before coming to Tularosa, she taught in Alamo and Tucumcari. This is her 9th year of teaching.

Becky was born and raised in Tularosa. Her favorite subject in school was biology. She did not play sports in school and does not have a favorite sports team. She has four children and five grandchildren. She has one dog and her name is Rip. Her favorite food is chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes and gravy. She loves to cook. She likes classic country and gospel music. Her favorite book is Conagher by Louis L'Amour. An interesting fact about Becky is that she spent nine years in the oil field driving a big truck. She mostly helped moved drilling rigs. Her future plans are to travel.

We send a big Wildcat welcome to Becky Mackechinie.

TMS Sped Teacher

Scott Lehman

By Zoey Duran and Isabel McAlister



TMS welcomes Scott Lehman as the new Sped teacher. He shared that he came to TMS for the culture to make the school a safe place and fun for the students. Before coming to TMS, Scott worked as an educational assistant and full-time sub at Capitan Middle School and Capitan High School. He has been teaching for 2 years. Before teaching he worked as a CEO at a medical device company in San Diego.

Scott was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. This is where the Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville are from. They are renowned for inventing and building the first successful airplane. His favorite subjects were gym class and English class. He enjoys hiking and working on his cabin in Ruidoso and Capitan. He graduated from the University of Florida, so he roots for the Florida Gators. He is a Gator and also a Cincinnati Bengals fan (NFL) and Cincinnati Reds fan (baseball). He ran track and cross-country in college and also enjoys surfing.

Scott lived in Vancouver, British Columbia and surfed in Alaska. He does not have any children, but does have a four year old Siberian husky, her name is Sugar. His favorite food is Baja California style fish tacos. He enjoys country music and heavy metal and reggae music. His favorite book is "Geronimo: Leadership of an American Warrior." He is also reading "Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know."

Scott worked on two tv shows. He was a stunt man on "The Contender" with Sylvester Stallone. Scott also did on-set first aid and craft services on the Chris Isaak Show. Scott stated that teaching is important because schools are safe places for kids. He wants students to think and communicate like adults. His classes are learning those skills. Communication and relationship skills have gotten me far in life. I want that for our students. His favorite quote is, "Progress, not perfection."

TMS Educational Assistant

Sarah Miller

By Max Ruspoli and Matthew Todd

TMS welcomes Sarah Miller a new educational assistant. Sarah states that she came to TMS because she was ready for a change of pace from elementary school and because she loves this area. Before coming to TMS, Sarah was at Buena Vista Elementary in Alamogordo. She has worked in education for 7.5 years.

Sarah was born and raised in the 907! Alaska girl here! Her favorite subject in school was music. She was in choir from 3rd grade up. She loves hiking, horseback riding, quads and snow machines, going to concerts and traveling. Her favorite football team is the Green Bay Packer. Favorite hockey team is the LA Kings, and favorite college is Boise State. In school she was a cheerleader. She loves all kinds of music. Her favorite food is Thai, green chili chicken enchiladas and soup season. She enjoys the movie “Gone With the Wind” by Margaret Mitchell.

Sarah has been all over. Her husband is retired military, so we explored a bit of Europe. My sister and I love to go to Mexico to relax on breaks. My mom and I used to leave Alaska when winter was too cold for somewhere warmer. I’ve been to 46 of the 50 states. We have 6 kids, 5 grandkids with 2 more on the way. I am a grandmother, they call me Yaya. We also have 2 horses, 2 rabbits, 5 laying hens, 2 cats, and 4 dogs.

Sarah says teaching is important because learning is important. To reach students in a meaningful way and connect with them makes the material easier to absorb. I want students to take memories they’ll cherish for life and know they are supported and cared for always. Sarah likes the quote, “For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness, and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.” Audrey Hepburn



TMS Physical Education

Carli Kazhe

By Brayden Schofield



TMS welcomes Mrs. Kazhe as a new physical education teacher. Mrs. Kazhe taught 4th grade last year and 7th grade math before that. It is her 7th year of teaching. Mrs. Kazhe was born and raised here in Tularosa. Her favorite subject was math while attending school. She played volleyball, basketball, and ran track. She also played volleyball in college on a scholarship. She likes hanging out with family, playing and being involved in sports, reading and anything outdoors. She likes the Chicago Bears, Chicago Bulls and Chicago Cubs.

Mrs. Kazhe has traveled to Australia, Hawaii, and Canada. She has one German Shepard dog. She also has 3 kids. She loves red chili and pork and she asks for it every year on her birthday. She loves all kinds of music, but her favorite is country. She enjoys reading psychological thrillers and romance books. She was the varsity volleyball coach for Tularosa High School and took the team all the way to state all 3 years that she coached. They played in the state championship game 2 of those 3 years.

We are very glad to have you back at TMS, Mrs. Kazhe. We look forward to a great year.

TMS 6th Grade Science

Sienna Archunde

By Samson Terrazas



TMS is happy to welcome Mrs. Archunde as the new 6th grade science teacher. Before coming to TMS, Mrs. Archunde taught at Mountain View Middle School. She has been teaching for 2 years.

Sienna was born and raised in Dell City, TX. Her favorite subject in school was science. Her favorite hobby is drawing. Her favorite sports team is the Dallas Wings, WNBA. In school she played basketball, volleyball, tennis and cheer, and ran track. An interesting place she has visited is Alaska. She has no children but has 3 dogs, 1 cat, 2 cows, and 1 spider. Her favorite food is noodles and her favorite music is Kidzobop. She likes the book *The Diary of Ann Frank*. She also likes silly geese and ducks. We are happy to have you here Mrs. Archunde.

TMS FFA

By Isabel McAlister

In late August, the Tularosa Chapter of the FFA met at Tularosa High School to elect officers and discuss business. The students discussed the schedule for fund raising sales. During the chili roast the students sold 460 boxes of chilis. The next meeting will be on the last Monday of the month. The new officers are:

President: Bridgette Glynn

Vice President: Elijah Bradburn

Secretary: Johnny Chavez

Treasurer: Billy Hillebrand

Reporter: Makenzi Rice

Sentinel: Robert Trujillo

Parliamentarian: Machenzie Patterson



TMS FFA



TMS 2025-2026

National Junior Honor Society



TMS National Junior Honor Society Members 2025-2026

Landon Medina
Khaden Worley
Jayden Jimenez
Antonio Marrujo
Katelynn Mills
Blaine Alexander
Riot Dunivan
Tylee Garcia
Adrienne Jaramillo
Lexi Lucero
Raelynn Quappe
Jocelynn Ward
Shaun Gray
Aiden Hammers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian
Historian

TMS 2025-2026

National Junior Honor Society

The TMS NJHS is currently selling popcorn for their yearly fundraiser. If you see one of our members and would like to buy some popcorn, just let them know.

NJHS will be holding its fall canned food drive starting in October. Items must be non-perishable items. Items can be rice, noodles, canned soup, canned beans, corn, tuna. You can bring ramen noodles, bottled water, boxed items. Any donations will be appreciated. All items will be given to the local food kitchen at the church. Also, the class with the most donations will be awarded ice cream. The competition is between the 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes.

We look forward to helping our school and our community in any way possible.



TMS Art Teacher

Julio Torres

By Michaiah Morin and Fallon Martinez



We want to welcome Mr. Julio Torres as the new art teacher for TMS. Mr. Torres shared that he came to TMS because he needed to change schools and Tularosa has a great reputation.

Mr. Torres taught at Lynn Middle school in Las Cruces as the Art Magnet teacher. He has been teaching for 5 years. Julio was born in Las Cruces, NM and raised in Chaparral, NM. His favorite subject in school was art. His hobbies include doing DIY stuff around the house and he is currently learning how to make tattoos.

He played soccer and ran track in high school. His favorite sports team is the Cowboys. His favorite food is tacos de tripitas, his favorite music is regional Mexican, and his favorite book is *The Three Little Pigs*. He has no children, but he does have 2 dogs, both super mutts, Ali and Luna. He also has 2 chickens, Margarita and Lupe. He has traveled to Cozume, Mexico and found it to be amazing. He is not afraid to do new/unknown things. He bought a house that was burnt down and is rebuilding it. He said he had no clue how to do many repairs, but after plenty of hours on YouTube, he learned many things. He says he has learned how to lay concrete, do carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and how to lay bricks.

Welcome to TMS, Mr. Torres, we are happy you are here.



TMS Lady Cats' Volleyball

By Fallon Martinez



7th Grade Team

Meelah Gomez: manager
Sawyer Griffin
Fallon Martinez
Bella Sanchez
Eliana Silva
Charlie Starkovich
Brissa Telles
Lanee Willoughby
Janeah Sanchez
Yolanda Sanchez
Shania Evans
Savannah Chavez
Brelyn Ham

Coach Garcia

TMS Lady Cats' Volleyball

By Fallon Martinez



8th Grade Team

Paisley Balderrama

Jaycee Betancure

Tylee Garcia

Adrienne Jaramillo

Analee Lathan-Perea

Lexi Lucero

Hailey Manzanarez

Mariella Mendez

Abri'Anna Morales

Dally Munn

Mikayla Trujillo

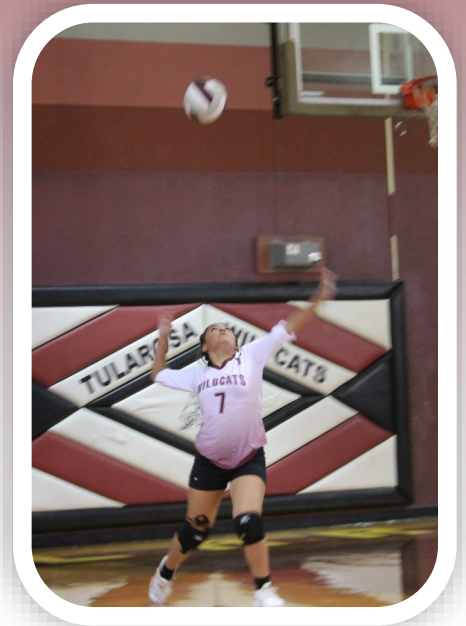
Lorda Valdez

Braidyn Been: manager

Aiden Hammers: manager

Coach Armijo

TMS Lady Cats' Volleyball



TMS Lady Cats' Volleyball



TMS Wildcat Football

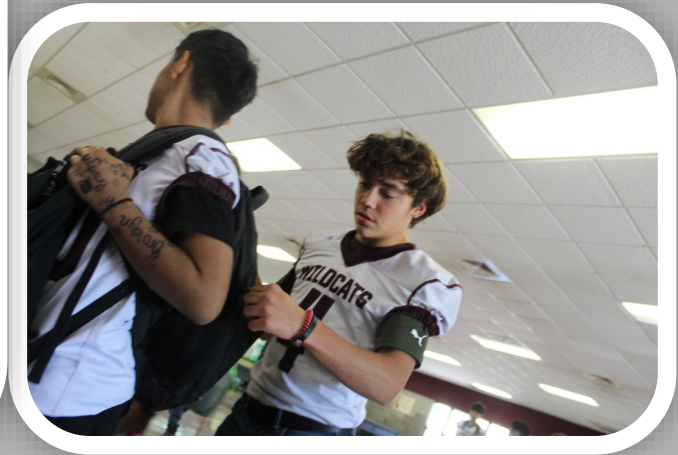


Blain Alexander
Elijah Castillo
Dalton Baca
Jase Bartram
Josiah Blazer
Embre Carrillo
Elijah Cropper
Isaiah Lester
Josiah Galvan
Nathaniel Garcia
Jaydan Jimenez
Michael Lucero
Bryce Magoosh
Robert Martine
Antonio Marrujo
Landon Medina
Bradley Otero
Ruben Rocha
CT Sambrano
Isaiah Sanchez
Michael Schroeder

Gabriel Vigil
Levi Wiley
Alex Young

Coach Medina
Coach Cisco
Coach Holguin

TMS Wildcat Football



TMS Wildcat Football



TMS Wildcat Football



Zozobra Celebration

The official story and tradition of the burning of Zozobra is a rich and meaningful one that has evolved over nearly a century. It is a unique and beloved cultural event in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and its official story can be broken down into several key components:

The Origin and Meaning

- **The Creator:** The tradition was founded in 1924 by artist William Howard Shuster Jr. Shuster was a World War I veteran who had moved to Santa Fe for his health.
- **The Inspiration:** The idea for Zozobra came from two sources. First, a Christmas Eve gathering where Shuster, surrounded by his artist friends, grew tired of their gloomy moods. He had them write down their troubles on paper and set them ablaze, and the act of watching the paper burn brought a sense of collective relief. Second, he was inspired by a trip to Mexico where he witnessed Yaqui Indian Holy Week traditions of burning an effigy of Judas.
- **The Name:** Shuster and a friend, E. Dana Johnson, a newspaper editor, found the perfect name in a Spanish-English dictionary. *means anxiety, worry,* which perfectly captured the purpose of the effigy.
- **The First Burning:** The first Zozobra was a much smaller, 6-foot-tall figure burned in Shuster backyard. The first public burning took place in 1926 as part of the annual Santa Fe Fiestas.

The Modern Tradition and Ritual

- **The Purpose:** Zozobra is a towering, 50-foot-tall marionette that embodies all the gloom, anxiety, and worries of the past year. By burning him, the community symbolically destroys its troubles and starts anew. It is a sacred rite of purification, laughter, and rebirth.
- **The Glooms:** Leading up to the event, gloom boxes are placed around Santa Fe where people can submit their glooms—written-down worries, bad habits, painful memories, and even legal documents like divorce papers or speeding tickets. These papers are then stuffed inside the Zozobra effigy to be burned along with him.
- **The Show:** The burning is a dramatic and highly orchestrated pageant. Zozobra, the Old Man Gloom, is a giant marionette with flailing arms and a menacing growl. The show includes a narrative in which Zozobra tries to spread his gloom by controlling a group of gloomies (dancers).
- **The Fire Spirit:** The climax of the show is the arrival of Zozobras immortal foe, the Fire Spirit. Dressed in a flowing red costume and armed with torches, the Fire Spirit dances in a battle with Zozobra. The Fire Spirit's goal is to ignite Zozobra, thereby vanquishing the gloom and restoring hope. The Fire Spirit is a central figure in the spectacle, and the role was famously performed for 37 years by former New York City Ballet dancer Jacques Cartier.
- **The Grand Finale:** As the crowd chants *Burn him! Burn him!*, the Fire Spirit sets Zozobra ablaze. The effigy is destroyed in a fiery explosion, and a magnificent fireworks display erupts, symbolizing the end of the year gloom and the triumph of hope.
- **The Philanthropic Aspect:** In 1964, Will Shuster transferred the events rights to the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe. The burning of Zozobra is now the club's largest fundraiser, with all proceeds

going to local children's charities. This transforms the event's negative energy (the collective gloom) into a positive social cause.

The Narrative of the Burning

The modern-day Zozobra pageant in Santa Fe has developed a specific, theatrical narrative that explains how the city lures Old Man Gloom into a trap and how he retaliates by turning children into his minions. This official lore is a crucial part of the spectacle and is performed annually.

Luring Zozobra into Santa Fe

- The story begins with the townspeople, weary of the years accumulated gloom, devising a plan to rid themselves of the menace once and for all. Zozobra, the personification of all gloom, anxiety, and sadness, is an immensely prideful and arrogant creature. Knowing this, the city's leaders concoct a cunning plan: they send him an invitation to a grand party, a celebration he believes is being held in his honor.

□ With his colossal ego, Zozobra can't resist the invitation. He sees it as his perfect opportunity to invade the heart of Santa Fe, a city known for its vibrant spirit and hope. He arrives at Fort Marcy Park, dressed in his finest attire, ready to be the guest of honor and begin his nefarious plan to spread even more despair.

The Transformation of Children into Gloomies.

□ Zozobra is left waiting. The crowd gathers, but no one immediately honors him. This infuriates him. Realizing he's been tricked, Zozobra becomes disgruntled and, in a fit of rage, decides to exact his revenge. He casts a powerful spell over the children of Santa Fe, robbing them of their happiness and hope.

□ The children, now under his dark influence, become his minions, known as the Gloomies Dressed in eerie, ghostly costumes, they dance in a menacing way, serving their new master. Zozobra commands his army of Gloomies to wreak havoc on the city, destroying its spirit and ensuring that gloom reigns supreme.

The Reversal and Climax

□ The Gloomies begin to carry out Zozobra's wicked plan, but the townsfolk fight back. A group of brave, torch-bearing townsfolk arrives to challenge the gloom. The bright light from their torches breaks Zozobra's spell, and the Gloomies, as if waking from a nightmare, scatter and flee.

□ Zozobra, enraged by this turn of events, growls and chases the torchbearers, but his victory is short-lived. The crowd, now energized and united, begins the ancient chant: Burn him! Burn him! This collective cry of hope summons Zozobra's eternal foe, the Fire Spirit. The Fire Spirit, representing goodness and light, battles Zozobra in a dramatic dance that culminates in the fiery demise of Old Man Gloom, freeing the city and its people from the grip of sorrow for another year.

Information provided by Mr. Sorden



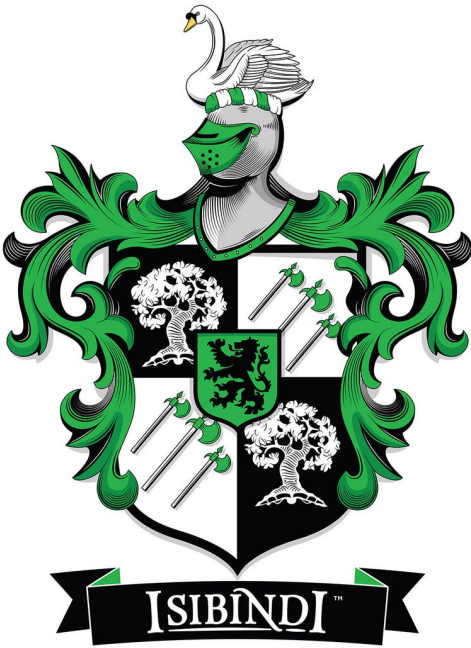
TMS Zozobra Celebration





TMS Pride Academy

This year, TMS is implementing the Ron Clark house system. The 4 houses are Isibindi, Reveur, Amistad, and Altruismo. All the students at TMS took a turn spinning the house wheel and were sorted into houses. The houses will meet certain days of the week to work on community projects and other school projects.



Isibindi

Zulu

Courage

The dichotomy of sharing symbolic animals between the gentle and beautiful swan and the proud and courageous lion is what makes Isibindi so unique. It is a House that inherits the legend and influence of both Shaka Zulu as well as Nelson Mandela. It is a House that knows when to be strategic and creative, or when to pull back and be reserved, but also when to go full force with power and strength. This is why Isibindi welcomes creative and quiet kids and turns them into leaders over time. They learn that, like the mute swan, their quiet creativity can be harnessed to speak volumes in its own way.



Reveur

French

Dreamers

Rêveur is a royal House whose name in French means "dreamers" or "idealists" — because the members who fill this group are students filled with freedom and wild abandon who recognize their dreams and will let nothing stand in the way of achieving them. This can be seen in the unicorn, which is on the center of the House's crest, a powerful creature who is almost impossible to tame. Similarly, the House of Rêveur is a House of passion.



Amistad Spanish Friendship

Amistad is the House that originates from Mexico. A group of kind but powerful individuals that are known most for their unconquered spirit. This is why, in the language of their ancestry, their name means "friendship."

Members of our House are consistently challenged to self-reflect because we believe that "Once the peacock finds its feathers, it discovers who it really is." Therefore, the encouragement is for each student to find their own feathers and step into their greatness. While some students may enter the House lacking confidence, they will learn to embrace their authentic selves and master the gifts, talents, and virtues of an Amistadian. Once this milestone occurs, a student may earn the highest honor of the House, knighthood. As a knight, they are fierce warriors, protectors of the realm, and guardians of the kingdom's most valuable treasure, friendship.

Information is from the Ron Clark website.



Altruismo Portuguese Givers

This special group is known for striking a balance between bold strength and altruistic giving — a team that knows that real power comes not from looking out for yourself but from empowering others. They care deeply about lifting others up, but they also maintain a fiercely competitive spirit and pride. Historically, the House has been known for its smart and driven students, and Altruismo has produced more valedictorians per class to this day. Its members have been very involved in every club, committee, or activity that a school offers. Therefore, Altruismo takes great pride in being a cultivator of real leadership and instills a strong spirit within new members to grow into and live up to this legacy.