EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

925-809-7530 | EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL | 14301 BYRON HWY BYRON, CA 94514

Back To School Night

Every year, Excelsior welcomes parents and students to Back-to-School Night, giving them the opportunity to explore the campus and talk with teachers. The evening began with excitement and curiosity. When asked about her experience, sixth grader Sophia Gallegos shared, "It wasn't too bad." She added, "It's not so bad at Excelsior, I've made lots of new friends."

We wanna know- How's the food??

Dallas M (8) has been at Excelsior for 3 years. If Dallas were able to add anything to the school menu, he let us know what he wished EMS would add, "Ice cream!"

Seventh grader Lexy has been part of the Excelsior community for two years. When asked about her favorite cafeteria food, she didn't hesitate —"Monday's pizza!" she said with a smile.

Back to School Dance

At the dance, Andrea Paz, Melyssa Corona, Amari Lacambra, and Leslie Amaya took a photo in front of Lightning McQueen. Andrea and Amari were interviewed and they liked the dance and liked hanging out with friends. "The dance was so fun!" Everyone else probably also had a ton of fun at the EMS dance.

When asked if their preference for past dances from their 6th grade year or now, Andrea said she thinks the dances are better now than before. Amari, however, likes the dances from last year better. Either way, both girls enjoy the dances a lot and said that they will continue to attend EMS dances in the future!

Message from the New Principal

Mr. H is new to EMS and he was previously at Freedom High School. When asked about how he liked EMS he said likes the school so far and the staff has been very welcoming. When we asked what he wanted kids to feel while at school he said, " I want them to feel connected to the school and each other." He wants them to feel good about what they're learning and them to feel they are a member of the community. We hope the students make Mr. H feel welcomed at EMS.

ROLES ARE ACTING!

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Jen, Mrs Lindell, and our superintendent, Mrs Casteneda, we are able to have a fall play at Excelsior middle school. Historically, EMS has had amazing fall and spring plays that entertain many in our community. Mrs Jenn said this when asked about how she feels about directing the fall play, "I'm very excited to be the director and this play has brought me happiness."

Upcoming Quarter 2 Events:

- **Pink Out- Breast Cancer Awareness Day**
  October 17, 2025
  Help support breast cancer awareness with our next spirit day- Wear as much pink as you can!
- **Trick or Treat for Canned Food**
  October 23, 2025
  Help support our yearly canned food drive by dressing up in your Halloween costume and head out in the neighborhoods to collect cans
- **Halloween Concert**
  October 28, 2025
  Come support Mr Ortega and all the hard work of the EMS band members by attending the concert Tuesday night at 7pm. Extra fun is that the band dresses up in costumes!

New Staff At EMS!

Mrs.Saleb is the new 7th grade ELA/History teacher. She says, "I loved this school at first sight. Reason one is that it's close to home. Second, the community is so nice." Make sure to help Mrs. Saleb feel welcome here at EMS!

Mr. H recently joined the Excelsior family after teaching at Freedom High School. Adjusting to a new campus always comes with challenges, and for him the toughest part was tackling some early technology issues. "At the beginning of the year, the technology had a lot of issues, and it was pretty challenging," he shared. Despite those bumps, Mr. H is settling in and looks forward to the exciting year ahead with his students.

Mrs.Barton is the new art teacher at Excelsior. Taking over Mrs. Tickner's spot is no easy task! She says, "I like this school because I used to go here as a kid and I like to see how it's changed."

Mrs. Anand is Excelsior's new 8th grade math teacher. When asked about the biggest challenge so far, she laughed and admitted, "Keeping the kids under control!" As for her favorite colleagues, she gave a special shout-out to Mrs. Lindell. "I love Mrs. Lindell's aura, her style, and the way she carries herself," Mrs. Anand shared with a smile.

What's your 6th Grade Experience!

Sixth grade Karla is so far having a nice fresh start at Excelsior. Before school started she was nervous but also happy to see her friends again. "History is my favorite subject because I really like learning about the Egyptian time period and doing in-class projects."

Harlow is a sixth-grader and has been enjoying her time here at Excelsior so far! At the beginning of the school year she was very excited to see how it would be at Excelsior. "My favorite class here is PE because nothing bothers me in that class and it's easy," Harlow also says, "Excelsior is fun, exciting, but also harder than expected."

Spirit Days

WE HAVE HAD TWO SPIRIT DAYS SO FAR. THE SPIRIT DAYS HAVE BEEN: SPORT JERSEY DAY AND EMS ALL OUT.

Excelsior students showed their school spirit by wearing jerseys from all kinds of teams and sports. The halls were filled with basketball, football, baseball, soccer, motocross, and more. Seventh grader Jilyana Gamez shared with a laugh, "A lot of people didn't like my jersey," but she wore it proudly anyway!

EMS All Out: Last Friday, Excelsior students showed their school pride by going all out in green and gold! The campus was filled with spirit wear, face paint, and plenty of excitement. Seventh grader Gaby shared, "I would definitely do EMS All Out again because I think it was so much fun."

BOTH JERSEY DAY AND EMS ALL OUT BROUGHT LOTS OF ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT TO CAMPUS, SHOWING HOW SPIRIT DAYS BRING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKE EXCELSIOR PRIDE SHINE. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE!

EMS SOFTBALL 2025-2026

ENDING THE SEASON WITH SOME WINS, SOME LOSSES AND A WHOLE LOT OF TEAM SPIRIT!

The softball season has ended with wins and cheers. Everyone who tried out for the softball team made it. The more skilled players made the A team and the beginner players made the B team. The A team was lucky enough to win a few games but the B team didn't have as much luck. Natalie (8), from Team A said, "When I was playing the first game I was excited and I wanted to win." Thalia said, "I felt my whole team could have done better on our last game, but it was a fun season". Although the season was rough for the B team there's always next year to look forward to with the lessons learned.
Hopefully next year we can win every game!

Introducing the wrestling team!

Conner Conley, Marissa Miller, Collin Camilosa Tristan Kitcing,

We're excited to introduce the wrestling team, featuring these 4 standout athletes who are bringing strength, skill, and school pride to the mat!

Our 1st athlete is Conner Conley(6) "The wrestling team is amazing!" Our 2nd athlete is Marissa Miller(6) whose won 18 games in her whole wrestling career. Our 3rd athlete on the team is Collin Camilosa (8) says, "The wrestling team is too small and would be helpful if you could join the team." Tristan Kitcing agrees with the rest of the team that their coach, Mr Alex, "is an amazing coach!"

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The wrestling team truly represents the spirt of our school,and they deserve all the support they can get.

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR YEARBOOK!

MAKE TIME STAND STILL

ORDER A YEARBOOK

2026 YBK PRICING:

Earlybird pricing!
$45 (by 9/30)
$50 (10/1-1/31)
$55 (after 1/31)

EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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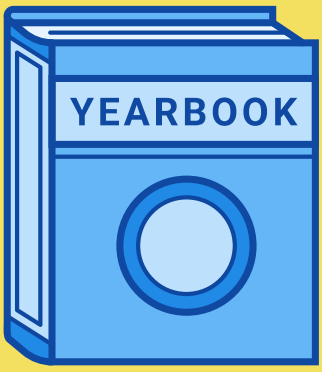

"CELEBRATE YOUR 8TH GRADER'S ACHIEVEMENT! BUY AN AD TO SHOW YOUR PRIDE AS THEY GRADUATE!"

8TH GRADE YEARBOOK DEDICATION ADS

CONGRATULATE YOUR 8TH GRADER WITH A PERSONALIZED AD IN THE YEARBOOK

Riley Quinn Holman

To our little bug,
You have the sweetest soul, the kindest heart and we couldn't be more proud of you. Good luck with your future goals and follow your dreams!

Love,
Mom & Dad

PRICE & SIZE

- 1/8 page: $50 (by 9/30) $55 (by 1/31)
- 1/4 page: $90 (by 9/30) $95 (by 1/31)
- 1/2 page: $165 (by 9/30) $175 (by 1/31)

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EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Join Excelsior PTSA Today!

Why Should You Join?

Helps support our students and staff with teacher supplies, field trips and assemblies. Help facilitate the Reflections Art Contest and provide Scholarships for EMS alumni!

Membership Dues
$20 Cash
$21 Card

Scan the QR code to join today!