

# PANTHER PERIODICAL

## WHY I LOVE TEACHING AT NMS

By Jeff Galindo, Music Director, Teacher

As a music teacher at Natomas Middle School since 2005 I've had the opportunity to see students grow up to be adults in the community. Part of why I love teaching here is that I also live in Natomas, so I get to hear

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about their lives beyond middle school, beyond high school, and beyond college. It's really exciting to run into a student and have them tell me what they are doing now and tell me what they remember about my class.

Another reason I love teaching here is that it is so incredibly diverse. I love being a part of that diversity and actually *learning* from the kids, not only about their individual cultures but about how they get along so well and navigate their way because of the diversity. It's really part of the DNA of Natomas.

And finally, I need to mention the biggest and most important reason. It's the kids! They are simply great. Our school has really great kids coming from really great families. I'm super fortunate to work in a place that has families that support what I do and to establish relationships with them. It's something I do not take for granted.

### **NEXT PTSA MEETING:**

Thursday 5/16/19 at 6:00

NMS Library

“PTSA Officer Elections”

Remember, only PTSA members can vote!

### **TO JOIN THE PTSA**

Sign up and pay \$8.00 in person at the NMS front office or go to  
<https://jointotem.com/ca/sacramento/natomas-middle-ptsa/join/register>

**Questions? Interested in running for office?**

**[ParisBury@gmail.com](mailto:ParisBury@gmail.com) (805)415-2553**

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP

By Thaima Ivery and Deric Natuel

*Earlier this spring, students organized a walkout to demonstrate against police brutality. Here's what one of the organizers has to say: "My name is Thaima Ivery. I had the idea of the walkout to protest police brutality. I understand that police brutality is a bad thing in the world and that I wanted to give the point to the students that they should stand up for what they believe in. And I believe every student that walked out was a RISK TAKER because they were sacrificing their grade and they were risking enough of their reputation as a student in their teacher's classroom by walking out. I also believe that the students that walked out were PRINCIPLED because they never were yelling at me or engaging me in what I had to say. I believe my goal was achieved because the students were very CARING. It was nice, they gave me advice on next time what I should do and some pointers and things like that. I also believe that the students that came should take away that it does not matter what people say to you. If you believe in something you should do it." We agree with you, Thaima. Always follow your heart.*

*Last month, a group of renegade musicians performed at our PTSA meeting. This self-motivated, self-directed group of students have been gathering during their lunch breaks to practice every day. Here's what one of their members, Deric Natuel has to say about his love of music and playing with his friends: "I've had this idea of kind of having a group of orchestra kids like play songs cause at the end of the year I kind of wanted us to like play a song for all the kids out there in the front of the school when everyone's leaving for the last day of school since it was our last day here since most of us have been here for three years learning about string instruments and orchestra and music. I don't know. It's my favorite topic, I guess, and I wanted other kids to know what it's like. We just started [practicing] a couple days ago. We just had the idea in the band room and we were like hey we should do that." We honor and admire your dedication and passion. And we are grateful for music teachers like Ms. Deems and Mr. Galindo who help ignite this sort of love for music.*

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The NMS PTSA Proudly Present the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance:

### **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH FUN AND GAMES!**

**Friday, May 10, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**\$20 Ticket includes DJ, Photo Booth,**

**Dinner, Glow Sticks, and Fun!**

**Tickets are on sale now at the Student Store,  
and online at the PTSA Website:**

**<https://natomasunified.org/nms/ptsa-2/>**

**TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK  
IS COMING!**

**May 6-10, 2019**



**Take a moment to thank  
a teacher today!**