



MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2021

Brought to you by



Class of 2020 Recognition.....	Mr. Kevin Piquette <i>Technical Theatre Director</i>
Pre-Ceremony Announcement	Mr. Kevin Piquette <i>Technical Theatre Director</i>
Procession	
Welcome	Vanity Chavez <i>Student Body President</i>
Presentation of Colors.....	Air Force JROTC Color Guard
National Anthem.....	Band
Welcome.....	Katie Hanks <i>NHS President</i>
Keynote Speaker.....	Dr. Tracey Lopeman <i>MUSD Superintendent</i>
Introduction of Salutatorian Miguel Perez	Katie Hanks <i>NHS President</i>
Introduction of Valedictorian Anabelle Dayley	Miguel Perez
Military Honors.....	Lt. Col. Allen E. Kirksey Jr. <i>Instructor, Air Force Junior ROTC program</i>
Rose Ceremony	Vanity Chavez <i>Student Body President</i>
Introduction of Foreign Exchange Students	Mr. Larry Veltrie <i>Counselor</i>
Introduction of Graduates.....	Mr. Larry Veltrie <i>Counselor</i> Ms. Jennifer Miller <i>English Teacher</i>
Proclamation of Graduation	Ms. Deana McNamee <i>Principal</i>
Tassel Ceremony.....	Vanity Chavez <i>Student Body President</i>

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (Blue/Gold Cords)

A student inducted into the National Honor Society

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (Gold Cord & Tassel)

Awarded to students who earn a 4.0 unweighted grade point average or a 4.0 weighted plus a 3.5 unweighted grade point average for AP/Honor students for Semester 1.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (Silver Cord & Tassel)

Awarded to students who earn a 3.8-3.99 unweighted grade point average or a 3.8-3.99 weighted plus a 3.0 unweighted grade point average for AP/Honor students for Semester 1.

STUDENT COUNCIL (Red and Black Cord)

A student who is an elected member of the Student Council

DECA (Royal Blue Cord)

A student who is a member of DECA, an organization dedicated to emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of marketing, management, hospitality and finance.

LINK (White Cord)

A student leader who acts as ambassador, positive role model, motivator and mentor guiding freshmen to success as part of LINK high school transition program.

CAVIT (Orange Cord)

A student who graduated from a Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology program and received both high school and dual-enrollment credits while enrolled.

Cover and collage photography by Victor Moreno.



The students listed may not have met the requirements for graduating at the time of printing.

- ⦿ National Merit Scholars
- ◆ AP Scholars
- ⚔ National Honor Society
- ⚡ Academic Excellence
- 🏆 Academic Achievement
- 🇺🇸 Military Enlistee
- 👑 Student Council

A

Justine Orillo Abellana
Maryam Osias Abon
Melvin Perez Agram ⚡
Simone Antoinette Alexander
Spencer Thomas Allen 🇺🇸
Christopher Rolland Anderson ⚡
Dalia Charlene Anderson
Lynn Carl Andrews
Macy Bren Anglin
Marie Antone
Arlene Araujo Barraza
Jazelle Alyssa Areola
Seth Anthony Arias
Zakiah Andrew Arias
Kale Joseph Armstrong
Benjamin Blake Array

Adrian Arteaga
Ramy Taeb Asasfeh

Laurel Happy Auer ◆ ⚡

B

Jazmyn Jade Bailey
Sarah Elizabeth Bailin
Anne Christ Nikka De Vera Bandola ⚡
Natalie Camila Baqueros ⚡
Nicole Andrea Baqueros ⚡
Elizabeth Barba
Cami Nicole Bardin
Cerrell Eric Barner
Esmeralda Elsa Barocio
Valeria Alejandra Barragan
Caleb Joshua Barrett
Shayla Rae Geneva Barry

Gabrielle Erin Bartholomew
Aaron Manuel Bazzel
Marco Antonio Becerra
Shelbee Rae Beecroft
Kendahl Carter Belmore 🏆
Desiree Alize Bernal
Tristan Alexander Bishop
Hailey Marie Blackwell
Matthew Anthony Blodgett ⚡
Treveon Christopher Blunt
Emmeline Lindsay Boothe ⚔ ⚡
Alyson Michele Bowen ⚔ ⚡
Ryan Randall Bowen
Joseph Michael Boyce
Joshua Micah Bradshaw
Spencer Wayne Bragonier
Graciela Maria Brambila Fimbres

Angelina Lynn Brewer
Le'Nyija La'Gracie Bridges
Allison Claire Briggs
Joseph Ellis Brock
Mary Alex Brokenshire ⚔ ◆ ⚡
Aden Timothy Brooks
D'Andre Joseph Marquette Brooks
JaQuary Ajahlon Brothers
Arissa Monee Brown ⚡
Breanna Ryann Gossage Brown
Dyani Adrianne Bryant
Cayden Matthew Buck
Olivia Caroline Byers

C

Alberto Cabrera
Gwenyth Mia Calaro ⚔ ⚡

Jayden Christopher Call
Lance Patrick Chauka Camarista
Adrian Alejandro Cameros 🇺🇸
Isaiah Esteban Campos
Steven Gabriel Canche
Malana Leilani Canionero
Donovan Michael Canter
Katelyn Nicole Cantrell
Marisa Lanae Cantu
Maria-Fernanda Carias
John Magbanua Carmack
Federico Carrillo Correa
Jordin Arianna Carter
Davina Dawn Carter-Saber ⚡
Analysia Castillo
Alfredo Rangel Castro
America Gabriela Castro

Alexis Renee Chacon
Lanndan Guy Chatfield
Breeanna Marie Chavarria
Vanity Lysette Chavez 🏆 🇺🇸
Mister CoreyWayne Chavis
Cipriano Trey Childers ⦿ ⚡
Isabella Love Chitwood
Alexis Nicole Christopherson ⚡
Lian Ulises Cisneros Connell
Abriana Clark
Julia Reese Clark
Ben Jay Claw
Kearin Lei Clement
Brody Michael Paul Coatney
Hunter Jay Collins
Angel Adelena Compian 🇺🇸
Alejiah Brielle Cook

Ailed Cota Montoya ⚡
Kaitlyn Ann Crean 🏆
Caden Dean Cross
Alida Marie Cruz
Destinee Cruz 🏆
Tristan Gage Cuevas-Ingeneri
Morgan Rylee Cutrara ⚡

D

Anabelle Marie Dayley ⚔ ⚡
Makenna Rose Leah Decker ⚔
Madison Elisabeth Delap
Ashlee Nicole DelBianco ⚔ ⚡
Joshua Phillip Delemos
Celeste Allison Delores
Reginald Victor Delores
Jenna Victoria Dial 🇺🇸

Jacob y Dials
Elizabeth Claire Dickerson ☞
Kyra Fatim Diop ☞
Sebastiano Salvatore Dorsch

E
Haleigh Dawn Edwards
Mackenzie Santana Edwards
Marisela Elizalde ☞
Astraya Michele Ellyson
Breeanna Lynn Epplen ☞
Meghann Nicole Epplen
Alexis Rene Esparza
Abby Christine Estrada
Alyssa Rae Evans ♦ ♣

F
Coral Villa Ferreira
Alec Bryan Fields
Priscilla Mia Figueroa
Raven Kennedy Fletcher
Jovanni Luis Fontes ♣ ☞
Hailey Lynn Forbis
Alexis Isabella Foreman ♀ ♣
Steven Forester
Savannah Nizhoni Forkum
Airen James Fortunato ♀ ♦ ♣
Antanique Cashmere Ailayah Fortune
Erin Susan Foutz
Nina Alyssa Francisco
Alyssa Claire Frack
Christopher Douglas French
Colon Carlos Ivan Freytes
Fallon Pacific Fruchey ♦ ♣
Tauva'a Alejandro Fuaga ☞

Filiorosa Gabriella Fuiava
Blake Daniel Fullmer

G
Tatiana Renee Gallegos
Flores Kimberly Francel Gallo
Nicolas William Gambino ♣
Aliyah Marie Garcia
Patrick Jeremy Garcia
Gillian Lucia Gardner
Laila Ann Gardner
Alondra Joanna Garfias ♣
Elijah Jordan Garivay
Hector Angel Serrano Garza
Tayler Marie Gianopoulos
Eric Rashad Giles
Karlina Margie Jo Gillespie ☞
Shakira Eliza-Ann Gillespie
Nicole Kaitlyn Gilmore
Taschawn Oneal Gladden II
Morgan Donovan Godfrey ♀ ♣
Aubree Lorynn Goettl ♣
Joseph Michael Durval Goncalves
Robert Jack Gonzales
Marco Antonio Gonzalez
Montserrat Gonzalez ☞
Yadai Gonzalez
Ebony Maria Griffin
Lance Grayden Grist
Dylan Mason Guaderrama
Saleena Chesakian Monee Guerin
Mariela Marie Guerra
Francisco Gutierrez Bandin
Amelia Nicole Guzman ♀ ♣

H
Emily Rose Lavonne Hadder ♣
Megan Joan Hahn ♦ ♣
Austin Wayne Hall
Ronald Lee Hall
Jacob Earl Hammans
Cody William Handwerk
Katie Hanks ♀ ♦ ♣
Nathan Kenneth Hanna
Anthony Michael Hansen ♣ ☞
Nickalas Dale Hardenbergh ☞
Aries Harper
Stephen Perry Harris
Megan Ryan Hart
Asia Baker Hassan
Jared Hawthorn
Trinity Rose Heckadon
Dalton Reed Herbert
Luin Joshua Herrington
Samantha Bailey Herron
Erin Leigh Hildick ♀ ♣
LeeAnthony Michael Hill
Christian Joseph Hinz ♦ ♣
Jacob Maxwell Hitchcock
Taylor Marie Holtz ♀ ♣
Garrett Scott Hopper
Jessiah Kentrell Hopson
Inaya Nichelle Hughes
Tyler Ryan Hunt ☞

J
Brendon Letrell Jackson
John Treyman Jackson ♣
Nyah Camille Jackson
Gannon Wayne Jaeger

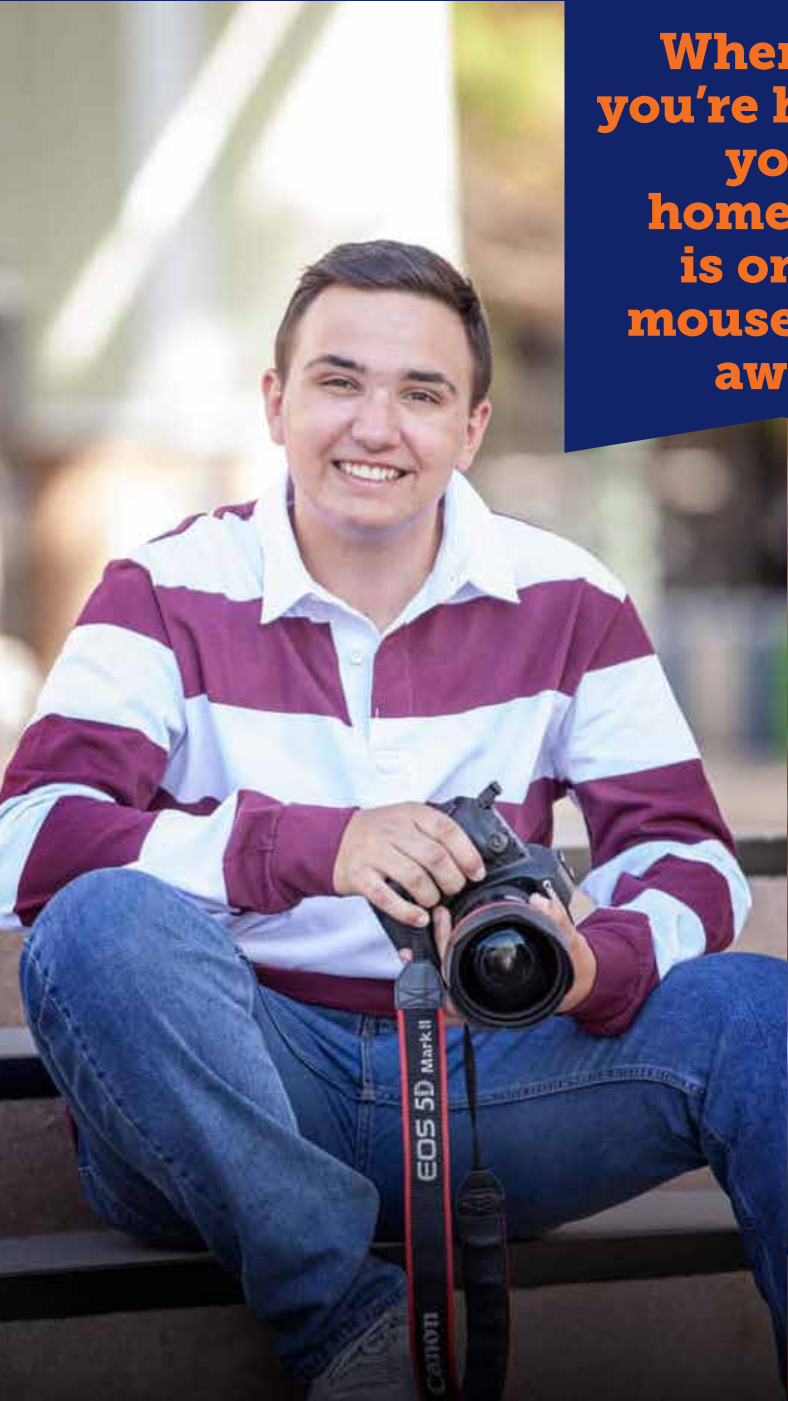
Daliah Acasia-Ashley James
Emilee Virginia Janssen ♣
Skylar Makenzie Jean
Erika Hanna Jennings
Marco Justin Jensen
Anthony Jimenez
Carlos R Jimenez
Cade Elias Johnson ☞
Carisma Morgan Josalyn Johnson
Racellus Alexander Johnson
Taya Hope Johnson ♀ ♦ ♣
Jasmine Marie Jones ♀ ♦ ♣
Samuel Devale Jones
Kerianna Kristen Justin

K
Jacob Donald Keel
Jessie Ruben Kisto
Caden Michael Klasa
Kylie Marie Kniola
Xander Albert Knox
Geric Joseph Kramarczyk ☞
Breeja Breeze Koren Krella ♀ ♣
Jackson Robert Krup ♣
Hunter Mathew Kruse
Guy-Liliane Love Kuete ♀ ♣
Bailea Rianne Fitzgerald Kunkel

L
Kayleigh Marie Labye
Joseph Gabriel Lambert ♦ ♣
Julia Virginia Rayne Lebron
Paris Nicolette Leftenant
Isabella Jean Leger
Saul Alexander Leon

Congratulations Amelia Guzman, Brian Petersheim Jr. and the entire Class of 2021!

Wherever
you're headed,
your
hometown
is only a
mouse-click
away.



Angel Leon Martinez
Johnathan Alexis Leyva
Kateri Laine Lopez
Rebecca Lynn Lopez
Brianna Nicole Lostritto
Allison Shay Lovell
Mercedes Cristina Lucas
Andrea Lugo
Fredrik Tobias Lundberg
Anthony Williams Lynn

M

Jillian Nicole MacPherson-Miller ☞
Amaya Chere Maddox
Valerie Madrid Orduno
Jezelle Mia Magallanes ♀ 🏆
Madison Gabrielle Maldonado
Liam Patrick Malone
Derek Jalen Manuel
Adrian Orlando Manzanares Rodriguez 🏆
Zariah Grace Marsh
Jacarri Martae Marshall
Danya Maria Martin Cruz
Cameron Isaiah Martinez
Gabriel Yovanni Martinez
Joanna Marie Martinez 🏆
Sosha Marie Martinez
Evan Mata
Kassandra Mazon
Anais Mazon-Acuna
Darien Joshua McClellan
Henry Robert McCloskey 🏆
Ashley Deanne McDaniel
Brianna Marie McDermott
Darrius Elisha McGaughy

Sabrina Brooklyn Hope McKnight
James William McNelly
Karyn Taylor Meier
Evan Adid Mendez Torres
Taryn Marie Meyers
Mike Iribe Meza ☞
Alyse Mackenzie Miller
Lola Jane Miller 🏆
Taniesha Reanne Miller-Gomez
Braiden W Moffat 🏆
Ayde C. Montero Gutierrez
Dante Zachariah Montes
Tylek Lamont Mooney
Nwah Jhabryl Moore
Zion Lamar Morgan
Krystal Louise Muder 🏆
Erik Saul Muniz
Kevin Nicholas Murdock

N

Kameron Michael Napier
Luis Navarrete
Gabriel Carlos Negrete
Alexa Christine Negrón ☞
Tatiana Amaia Nelson 🏆
Angelica Nicole Nevarez
Joy Lynne Newey 🏆
Ngan My Ngo ♀ 🏆
Julie Nhu Nguyen ♀ 🏆
Matthew Hy Nguyen
Hailey Evelyn Nichols 🏆
Avery Nieto
Jorge Alejandro Noriega 🏆
Amber Rose Norquist
Joseline Gabriella Nowell ◆

O

Madison Nicole Odell
Jacob Frank Ortiz
Alexander Francisco Osorio Herrera

P

Rory Kian Pack 🏆
Victoria Melissa Padilla
Aaron Manuel Pagan
David Miguel Pallares Sanchez
Israel David Palm
Jamison Zachary Lee Parker
Cameron Patton-Scott
Hannah Wutidyeanyi Paul Gindiri ◆ 🏆
Johnny Ray Payan
Alan Andrew Peng
Ivee Li Penunuri
Andrea V Perez 🏆
Andrew Michael Perez
Cindy Perez
Miguel Orian Perez ☉ ◆ 🏆
Nicholas Anibal Perez ♀ ◆ 🏆
Omar Frank Perez
Isaiah Andrew Peters
Brian Petersheim
John Edward Piech
Miquela Sofia Pino
Kole Lewis Placer
Ashley Heather Platzgummer Gutierrez ☞
Alton Lee Polacek
Abigail G. Poland ◆ 🏆
Tyrese Lamar Poynter
Kaivon Jesiah Pross
Jasmine Renee Pulsifer

Q

Timothy Noel Quiroz ☞

R

Richard Lewis Raffaele 🏆
Mariah Ramsey
Elijah Cleveland Rayford ♀ 🏆
Jordan Ashley-Rayne Reed 🏆
Troy Kenneth Reiling
Cindey Isabel Reyes
Matthew Abraham Reyes
Josiah M. Reynolds
Karis Dawn Riley
Ashley Melissa Rivera
Makaila Vasha Robbins
Valeria Robledo Ortiz
Abel Daniel Rodriguez
Kaila Rodriguez ♀ 🏆
Eduardo Ramon Rodriguez Jr
Marc Anthony Rodriguez Montoya
Matthew Shayne Roman
Angel Alazea Romero
Jose Antonio Romero 🏆
Dylan Douglas Romo
Hunter Orion Roos
Nicolle Rosales
Anthony Michael Ross
Alexander Andrew Ruiz
Madison Sage Russo ♀ 🏆

S

Matthew Alan Sabetta
Ibrahim Osama Salah
Anthony Joseph Saldana ☞
Brianna Saldivar
Marisol Salinas

Congratulations Graduates.
Today you stand at the edge
of your future, jump in with
both feet!

**Councilmember
Wade**



**CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2021**



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Isaac James Salter
Luke Javier Sanchez ☒
Daois Sanchez Mora ♦ ♣
Lily Ruth Sanderson
Cristofer Michael Medina Sandoval
Evone Octavia Santiago
LeeAnn Santos
Cristian Adam Santos-Gonzalez
Osiel Sarabia Vidana
Logan Savage
Emma Christina Schrader ♀ ♦ ♣
William Thanoun Schroeder
Zachary Triken Schroeder
Abby Maria Schulz
Morgan Christine Schwartz ♣
Zippy Elaine Seeley ♣
Zalayah Tylerrie Selph
Irving Shakaiya
Kyron Jontevies Shields
Lawrence Raymond Shipley
Kaitlyn Nicole Shively ♣
Jose Piedad Silerio
Bintou Sillah
Brooke Josephine Smith ♀ ♣
Jayla Aienaj Smith
Ryan Joseph Snyder
Uriel Solis
Zaida Denay Soliz
Kassidy Kevisha Ayana Sprauve
Kyle Edward Stahr
Brendan Scott Steele ♣
Deborah Elizabeth Stenzel
Justice Ra Mir Stephens
Taylor James Stolle

Justin Michael Stovall
Jonathan Paul Strickengloss
Katelyn Michelle Stroschein ♀ ♣
Damaya Sturdivant
Jade Alexis Swanson

T
Jasmine Aliah Tafolla ☒ ♣
Mike-El Jontay Tanguay
Ethan Ryan Tate
Alec John Taylor
Hunter Lee Taylor
Sebastian Teran Monge
Logen Kristopher Thomas ☒
Emilee Nicole Thompson
Mikayla Amarissa Thornton
Autumn Ann Tischauser
Diego Eduardo Torres-Barrera
Emily Morgan Trast
Jose Luis Trevizo
Katelynn Nadene Tuschmann
Simon Christopher Ty
Madison Christine Tyler

U
Alexandra Lisbeth Urbina ♣
Diana Uriarte
Genesis Uriarte Sandoval ♣

V
Roberto JR Valdez Mendez
Martin Israel Valencia Granda
Damian Ahrmond Valenzuela
Thomas Valerio

Jordan Maria Van Dunk
James Chandler Vance
Harmony Melody Vargas ♣
Pedro Vasquez
Luis Angel Vasquez Venegas
Seth-Fire Anthony Vazquez
Miriam Alexandra Velasco Munoz
Dylan Michael Verlander
Tristen Douglas Vernon
Alex Nathan Vickers
Kevin Moises Villalobos
Maria Isabella Villaseñor
Estefania Villegas Lopez ♀
Julia Yvette Vollmer

W
Serenity Desiree Wade
Koby Alexander Wahl
Payson Lane Waldriff
Ashley Lynn Walker ♀ ☒
Bianca Marie Wallace
Derek Granville Ward
Kaycie Ann Washington
Hayla January Wasinger
Destiny Rose Watson
Courtney Lynn Weddle
Mariah Lee Welch
Daniel Joseph Wellington
Ryleigh Danielle Westerfield
Lavena Dana Whitewater
Aaron Michael Williams
Mary Alvarene Williams ♀ ☒
Savannah Jade Willman
Connor Paul Wilson ♣

Aubree Claire Wittemann ♣
Emma Nicole Wrenn
Micheal Edward Wysocki

Y
Lauryn Marie Yazzie

Z
Joshua McAdams Zeising
Angel Luna Zepeda ☒
Leah Isabella Zimmerman
Zeah Elizabeth Zimpleman ♀ ♦ ♣
Sebastian Andre Zuniga

Early Grads – December 2020
Ashley Brown ☒
Shakira Gillespie
Taniesha Miller-Gomez
Jayla Smith
Emilee N. Thompson

Early Grads – May 2021
(juniors graduating a year early)
Danielle Korman ☒
Victor Moreno ♀ ♣
Boston Mooney ♣
Serenity Pineda

Congratulations Class of 2021

Throughout the year, ED3 gives Maricopans helpful tips for:

- Cooling & Heating Savings
- Holiday Savings
- Money & Energy Savings



HERE'S OUR TIP TO YOU CLASS OF 2021:

As you begin climbing the ladder to success, remember your future will always be bright.

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**YOUR LIFE
HAS JUST
BEGUN.
LIVE IT.**

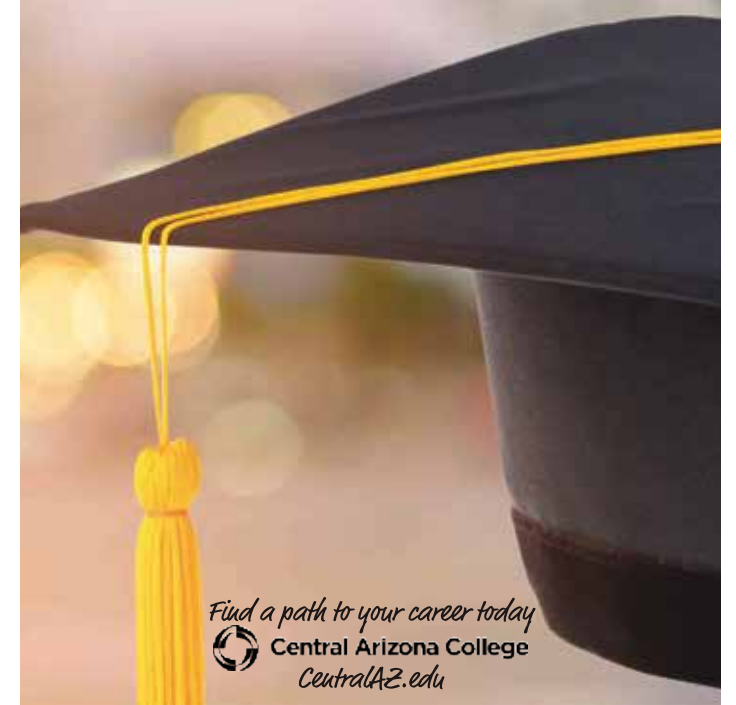


**COUNCILMEMBER
VINCENT MANFREDI**

Go Rams!



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021
From your local Maricopa Campus



Find a path to your career today
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**Congratulations to the
CLASS OF 2021 – well done!**



**2020-2021 has certainly
been a year of change, but
nothing is more meaningful
than celebrating your
accomplishments as a class
and as individuals.**

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M
CLASS OF
2021

Administration



PRINCIPAL
Deana McNamee

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Marlene Armstrong (CTE)
Heidi Lee
William Perry
Evelyn Wynn (Athletic Director)

DEAN OF STUDENTS
Joby Thompson



SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Tracey Lopeman

GOVERNING BOARD
President Ben Owens
Vice President Annamarie Knorr
Torri Anderson
Robert Downey
Jim Jordan

Congratulations, graduates!



Marie Antone
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Desiree Bernal
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Reginald Delores
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Elaina Enos
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Laila Gardner
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Saleena Guerin
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Marco Jensen
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



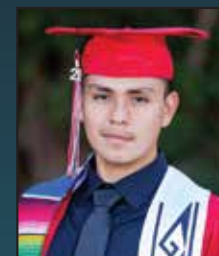
Jessie Kisto
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Kateri Lopez
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Derek Manuel
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Isaiah Peters
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Evone Santiago
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Zaida Soliz
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL



Nicholas Anderson
CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL



Noahli Antone
HERITAGE ACADEMY HS



Jilayne Miguel
BETTY FAIRFAX HS



Joe Miguel
VISTA GRANDE HS



Jose Miguel Jr.
HERITAGE ACADEMY HS



Justin Perillo
DESERT VISTA HS



Cayden Peters
SEQUOIA PATHWAY ACADEMY



Yvonne SantaCruz
PRIMAVERA HS



Jolie Smith
LEADING EDGE ACADEMY



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**We are proud of our
graduating seniors!**

MARICOPA

Maryam Abon
Stephen Allen
Laurellie Azevedo
Hailey Blackwell
Aden Brooks
Jayden Call
Isaiah Campos
Sebastiano Dorsch

Mackenzie Edwards
Asia Hassan
Jackson Krup
Madison Niccoli
Anthony Smith
Nicholas Smith
Robert Stewart
Michael Wysocki

MARICOPA II

Abriana Clark
Logen Keller
Brianna McDermott
John Piech
Timothy Quiroz
Valeria Robledo
Courtney Weddle

Maricopa

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Maricopa II

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graduates on your
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Congratulations Class of 2021!

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Just two months later, she attempted the same swim, and even though a thick fog set in once again, she made it successfully. She later said a mental image of the Catalina shoreline was something that she kept in her head the entire swim that helped her achieve the long record-setting swim.

Friends, parents, teachers, administration and the fantastic Class of 2021, thank you for being here! All of us have gone through a long journey over the last 14 months. The thick fog started rolling in back in March 2020. It made the future difficult to see at times. Friends, we are literally the first class in modern times that I know to live our entire senior year through a pandemic. The fog was thick. Lots of distractions. Lots of uncertainty. Like Florence, we could have lost sight of the shore. We could have quickly asked to give up and get back on the boat. Honestly, we probably would have had lots of sympathy from our friends and family that would have supported that decision. Mentally, 2020 and 2021 have been the most brutal years any of us have ever had to go through. BUT WE MADE IT! WE DIDN'T GIVE UP!

We are an incredible generation of high school students. Each of you went through the same experience of going through your final year of high school with your face half-covered and socially distanced from friends. It was a difficult challenge, but together we got through it. Each day we rose up to take on the world, no matter what it was throwing at us. We did it together, and because of that, we have something special that unites us. We will be talking about this at our 10-year, 20-year, 25-year and 50-year reunions. I'm so proud of all of you!

Have any of you had a chance to visit the redwood forest in California? I once went with my family. The trees that towered over us were enormous! They are literally some of the most giant trees in the world. They are 275 feet tall, nearly 3,000 years old. Something that big — you would think would have a root system that goes deep into the earth to anchor the gigantic tree. But here's the interesting thing. The trees actually only have roots that go down 6-12 feet. Not deep at all. So how do they stay standing? How do they not fall over growing 300 feet, weighing 500 tons with super shallow roots?

It's because their roots, while they don't go deep, they do go out. And the key is they interlock with the roots of other trees. They weave together to support one another. Because of this solid interlocking system, even at their towering record-setting heights, they can help each other through strong winds, floods, California earthquakes and more.

My fellow graduates, we are like those redwood trees. This year our roots interlocked with one another.

We went through one of the most challenging periods anyone here on this field has ever faced, and we are still standing. I look out on this field and see many of you that have been standing right next to me this entire year. Our roots have interlocked. We support one another, and I don't doubt we will continue to do so now that we are turning the next page and beginning to write this new chapter in life.

A massive shoutout to our excellent teachers and administration here at Maricopa High School that have nurtured us throughout this entire journey. You have encouraged us to grow. For that, we are very grateful!

We finish our time here at Maricopa High School; I want to encourage the 2021 graduates to stay interlocked. Stay in touch with one another. Don't try to make this journey alone. We are the strongest group of graduates ever, but it's because we experienced this together.

I would be remiss if I didn't share the wise words of the great Rocky Balboa while talking to his son. (This one's for you, Dad!) "Let me tell you something you already know. The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place, and I don't care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody

is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done! Now, if you know what you're worth, then go out and get what you're worth.

But ya gotta be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers saying you ain't where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody! Cowards do that, and that ain't you! You're better than that!"

We've been proven.
We passed the test.
The fog tried to lick us.
We kept going.
We did it together.

In conclusion, my fellow grads, when life throws more challenges your way, follow the advice of Dory, "Just keep swimming!"

Congratulations, Class of 2021! **M**

F

LORENCE CHADWICK. HAVE YOU HEARD THE NAME before? I want to relate just a brief story about her.

Florence was a talented swimmer growing up, known for long-distance open swims. She swam across the English Channel in just a little over 13 hours. In 1952 she attempted to swim the 26 miles from the California coastline to Catalina Islands. Indeed, not an easy feat. After 15 hours of swimming, she became exhausted, and a heavy fog rolled in. It was difficult to see in front of her, and she couldn't see the Catalina Islands, her goal. She told her mother and trainer riding in a boat next to her that she couldn't continue. They encouraged her to keep going, but all Florence could see in front of her was the thick fog. She gave up on the swim and entered the boat. Once in the boat, she discovered that she was only 1 mile from the coastline. She had swum 25 miles and gave up just one mile short. When she was interviewed, they asked her what made her give up. "Was the water too cold?" "Was it just too far of a distance?" She responded, "It wasn't the temperature of the water or the distance of the swim; I was simply licked by the fog."

CLASS OF 2021
CONGRATULATIONS
ON A HARD YEAR!

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N

OW, I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THE graduating class of 2021 — by no means exaggerating — is a truly unique class. Is it unique in the way we all thought it might have been four years ago?

Probably not. However, for that same reason, I and the teachers and staff at MHS are incredibly proud of all the students graduating here tonight.

While looking back at the past four years we have spent with each other, I realized something: we have had to overcome hardship every single year. Funnily enough, all these hardships happened during springtime.

Freshman year, Red for Ed happened. If you're like me and can't remember past yesterday, Red for Ed was the teacher walkout that resulted in school being cancelled for about a week. While a week may seem like a pretty short time now, this event affected thousands of teachers and hundreds of thousands of students.

Sophomore year, something more localized happened at our school. And by something, I mean mercury thermometers. Yes, the infamous mercury spills. Not the mercury spill, but the mercury SPILLS. That's the kind of thing no one would or will forget about. This isn't to downplay its seriousness because it affected the entire school for days. It was an interesting hardship to say the least.

Lastly, our Junior and Senior year have had to deal with COVID-19. This is an event that the world will never forget about. If we're looking back at all the memories we have as a class, there is no avoiding the truth.

However, no matter how you look back at these years, there is no denying the truth that we are all here — celebrating the end of our high school career. We made it, in spite of all the obstacles, and our joined endeavor is paying off tonight. So, I want you, and I mean all of you, to make a promise. When your name is called and you're handed a diploma representing all of your hard work, be proud. Be proud of yourself. Every single person here has things they will look back at, some with happiness and some with regret. Every single person here has things they will look forward to, some with excitement and some with uncertainty. Every single person here has experienced their own difficulties. Sometimes we as people get caught up in our own mind and forget that we are not alone in our experiences. Just take a look around at your fellow classmates and know that no matter how distant you may feel — we all share this connection.

And we all share tonight. So, let's save all of the worry, the uncertainty, the difficulties for another day and just be proud of our accomplishments. There's no point of dwelling on the what-if's and could-be's. Let us celebrate what is. And we — well, we're graduates. Thank you. **M**

Congratulations!
CLASS OF

2021

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»YOUTH«
»BE AWESOME«



Congratulations Maricopa High School Class of 2021!

As you look ahead and dream of the possibilities your future holds, know that you are extraordinary. Your willingness to embrace change and persevere resulted in an amazing achievement. Use those same principles to reach for the stars and change the world. We are excited to see how you reinvent the future. Thank you for letting us be a part of your journey.

Best wishes,

Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board



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