



September 18, 2026

Dear Mandela community,

We are midway through September! Please remember the first quarter ends October 2. As per IB guidelines, report cards in the MYP only go out at the semester, but we expect grade books to be up to date at the quarter mark. Diploma Programme does post grades each quarter. You can attend the next MYP cafe to understand why!

College Fair

We are hosting our annual college fair in the gymnasium today from 4-5:30 with over 40 universities from around the United States. This is an excellent opportunity for high school families to learn about university options, costs and benefits of an IB education.

PTA BBQ

Our MIMS community BBQ is next Friday, September 28th from 5-7pm. Thanks to all who have signed up to donate to the [PTA's Annual Community BBQ!](#) Your generosity makes this one of our favorite events of the year.

There are still opportunities to get involved!

- [Sign up here to help staff the event.](#) We're especially looking for volunteers to help with serving food.
- [Sign up here to donate food or cash toward event costs.](#) We still need fruits and veggies and hamburger fixings.



We're looking forward to another fantastic BBQ and hope to see you there!

Homecoming Chaperone Request

Mandela's student council is hosting our first ever high school homecoming dance on Saturday, October 3rd from 7-9pm. In order for our students to have a safe and fun experience, they are requesting some parent chaperones. Please email student council advisor, Christina Stanton, at cstanton@sfps.k12.nm.us if you are available to chaperone and/or help set up/clean up at any time from 5pm-10pm that evening.

Please remind your high school students to buy their homecoming tickets if they plan to attend. Tickets are \$10 presale and \$15 at the door. If students intend to bring a high school guest from another school, they must pick up the required guest form from Ms. Christina and return it no later than Wednesday, September 30th.



Picture Day

Fall picture day is coming up on Monday, September 28th. You may pre-order photos at this [link](#) using the code NM446.

9th Grade Camping Trip

The 9th grade camping trip is coming up soon, September 23rd-25th. Payments should have already been made to the front office if your student is planning to attend. If you need to refer to the informational letter or the packing list leading up to the trip, they may be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the camping trip, please contact Anna Taylor at annataylor@sfps.k12.nm.us.

Any 9th grade student not attending the camping trip will need to be at school those days in order to be counted present. We will have a non-traditional schedule for them during those days.

Mandela in SFPS Connect Newsletter

Mandela's efforts in watershed restoration have been highlighted in this week's SFPS Connect newsletter, which can be found [here](#). Additionally, congratulations to Astrid Winterstein for her selection as student school board representative!

Film Prize Junior

Mandela has received a grant to participate in the Film Prize Junior NM Film Competition this year. If your student is interested in participating, please have them review the [rules](#) and contact Ms. M&M at smireles@sfps.k12.nm.us.

Chess Club

Mandela's chess club meets after school on Wednesdays during early release. Please encourage your students to join if they're interested. Students share favorite strategies and practice mini tournaments while enjoying some delicious snacks. Mandela has had a very successful chess team in the past, and we look forward to their first tournament in Las Vegas, NM on October 12th!

Open Art Studio

Open Art Studio meets each Tuesday afternoon from 4:15-5:15pm in Ms. M&M's room. Please contact smireles@sfps.k12.nm.us if you have any questions.

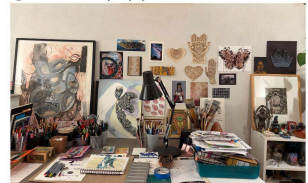
Thank you and have an excellent weekend!



Randy Grillo, Ed.S., NBCT
Mandela International Magnet School
Principal

2026-2027 Mandela Open Art Studio New Day!

Tuesday's afterschool rm #122
Join Ms. M&M after school from 4:15-5:15 for creative open studio time for growing your art practice, bring your sketchbook and imagination to room #122. Students considering the Jr Prize NM competition this is a great time to work on your projects and have extra studio time.



Students will have supervised access to art room materials, tools and teacher support as needed. My contact information, smireles@sfps.k12.nm.us
Hope to see you there!