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**New
Haven**



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NEW HAVEN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cheers *for the* Years

Celebrating Employees of the Year and Retirees!

20
26



CSEA Hesham "Mo" Moussa
Classified Employee of the
Year Site Winners

NHTA Casey Rodriguez
Teacher of the Year
Site Winners



**Charlotte
Britain**



**Chris
Zapata**



**Magdalena
Castillo**



**Joe
Reyes**



**Stephanie
Rodriguez**



**John
Sowell**



**Dionne
"Jamila"
Williams**



**Alma
Angeles**



**Esmeralda
Rubalcaba**



**Jamie
Wu**



**Sandra
Sharp**



**Kisha
Marks**



**Lenora
Matthews**



**Maria
Ramirez**



**Sylvia
Raanes**



**Jennifer
Vera**



2026

CSEA Hesham "Mo" Moussa Classified Employee of the Year Dionne "Jamila" Williams



2026

NHTA Casey Rodriguez Teacher of the Year John Sowell

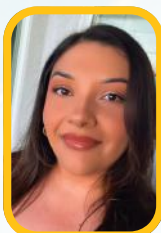


JOHN SOWELL
JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL



CSEA Hesham "Mo" Moussa
Classified Employee of the
Year Site Winners

NHTA Casey Rodriguez
Teacher of the Year
Site Winners



**Erika
Ramírez**



**Hilda
Silva**



**Roy
Miller**



**Wajma
Ahmadi**



**Martha
Utley**



**Nahida
Feroz**



**Roohi
Syed**



**Margaret
Herring**



**Elaine
Onodera**



**Stephane
Barile**



**Victor Guzman
Benitez,
District Office**



**Junelle Mallari,
District Office**



**Hollie Carcallas,
Student &
Family Services**

**Rolando Puertas,
Corporation Yard**

**Suzanne Gonzalez,
Student Nutrition Services**

New Educator Impact Award Winners



Tamika
Tolbert



Julissa
Morelos



NHAA Administrators of the Year



Stella Castillo,
Principal



Anthony Pava,
Co-Administrator



Daryl Christian,
Classified
Management



Mikey McKelvey,
District Wide



Zetha Nobles,
Valuing Diversity



Angelique Langi,
Confidential
Employee of the
Year



Union City Family Center
Partners in Education



HAPPY RETIREMENT

NHAA Retirees



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER
Mikey McKelvey, 34 YOS

Derek McNamara, 34 YOS

*Years of Service (YOS) are rounded

HAPPY RETIREMENT



NEW HAVEN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CSEA Classified Retirees



Alvarado
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Marivic Galang, 21 YOS



Eastin
Elementary School

Pam Stringfellow, 13 YOS



Hillview Crest
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Benita Morano, 9 YOS



Kitayama
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Irma Birkendahl, 25 YOS

Amy Niehuis, 27 YOS



Searles
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nicolasa Gonzalez, 18 YOS



César Chávez
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Emerlinda Fernandez Ramos, 13 YOS

Suzanne Gonzalez, 14 YOS

Carolyn Senf, 5 YOS



James Logan
HIGH SCHOOL

Theresa Garcia, 23 YOS

Tabassum Inamdar, 19 YOS

Maryanne Nilsen Kennedy, 20 YOS



NEW HAVEN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BARNARD-WHITE CAMPUS

Anthony Zamora, 33 YOS

DISTRICT WIDE

Dina Padilla, 26 YOS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

James Hampton, 30 YOS



HAPPY RETIREMENT



NHTA Retirees



Alvarado
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cathaleen Hampton, 38 YOS



Emanuele
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Donna McCaffery, 20 YOS



Kitayama
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Charlotte Evans, 32 YOS



Kimberlee Mason, 25 YOS



Searles
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dawn Townsend, 24 YOS



César Chávez
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kelly Chock-Mao, 7 YOS

David Goldt, 26 YOS



Itlliong-Vera Cruz
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Richard Higginson, 32 YOS

Neil Schwartzfarb, 32 YOS



James Logan
HIGH SCHOOL

Hazel Carrasco-Spooner, 30 YOS



Don Heinsohn, 30 YOS

Brenda Moreno, 41 YOS



Angela Higginson, 29 YOS

Wilbert Richberg, 34 YOS



New Haven Academy

Tina Bobadilla, 36 YOS



NEW HAVEN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT WIDE

Rachel Campbell, 2 YOS

Eric Endow, 25 YOS



THURSDAY, MAY 14TH



HONORS CON

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!



The James Logan High School Honors Convocation is an annual tradition celebrating the outstanding achievements of the graduating senior class. The ceremony recognizes students for excellence in academics, leadership, service, career and technical education, athletics, and the arts through departmental awards, scholarships, and special honors.

Students are also recognized for prestigious distinctions such as Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Principal's Award, and those graduating with a Magna or Summa Cum Laude Grade Point Average (GPA). This year 151 seniors earned Magna Cum Laude for their 3.50 - 3.99 GPA and 139 seniors earned Summa Cum Laude for their 4.00 and above GPA. Finalists of the Seoane-James Memorial Award as are announced. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon a James Logan student.

Honors Convocation reflects James Logan's commitment to recognizing the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of its graduating seniors as they prepare for their next chapter. Congratulations to all seniors honored this evening!







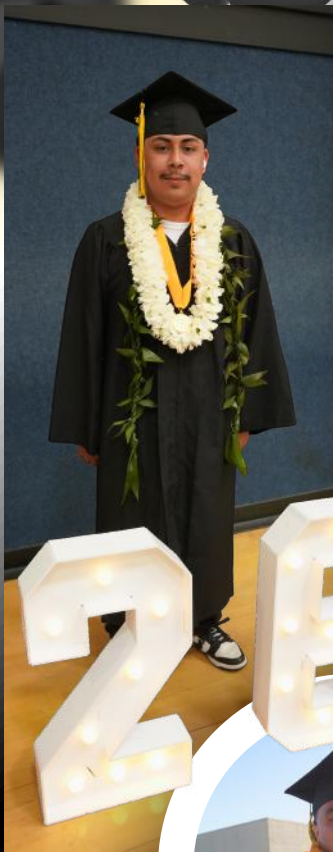
MONDAY, MAY 18TH

GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!







Alumni Focus **Class of '20**
Oliva-Claros

From Colt to Campus Leader

Jacob Oliva-Claros
Builds Connections
at James Logan





For Jacob Oliva-Claros, walking the halls of James Logan High School feels familiar, but his perspective has changed.

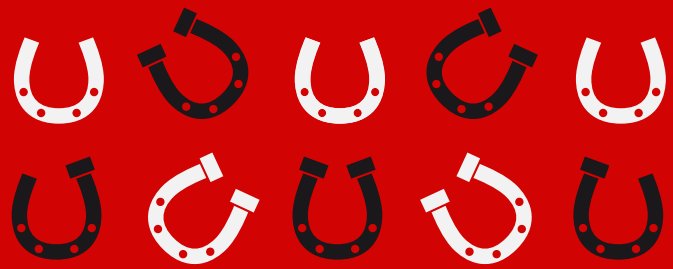
A 2020 graduate of Logan, Jacob has returned to campus as a Campus Safety Technician, where he helps ensure that students and staff feel safe, supported, and connected. What might seem like a straightforward safety role has become something more meaningful for Jacob. It is an opportunity to build relationships and support students during some of the most important years of their lives.

“It was a little different at first,” Jacob said of returning to his alma mater. “I still saw teachers who knew me as a student, and now I am working alongside them. That took some getting used to.”

Jacob’s journey through New Haven Unified began at Delaine Eastin Elementary and continued through Itliong Vera Cruz Middle School before arriving at Logan. As a student, he balanced academics and athletics, maintaining strong grades while playing varsity baseball for two years. He later went on to play baseball at the collegiate level, an experience that continues to shape how he connects with students today.

One of the most impactful parts of his time at Logan was his involvement in the Puente program, which supports students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, in preparing for higher education. For Jacob, Puente offered more than academic support. It created a sense of belonging.

“I loved the community,” he said. “Being in classes with a group of students over time, going on college visits, and having teachers who really knew you made a big difference. It helped me understand what was possible.”



That understanding is something Jacob now works to pass on. In his role as a Campus Safety Technician, he interacts with students from all backgrounds, including those who may be struggling academically or personally. Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, he focuses on meeting students where they are.

“Everyone has different experiences,” he said. “I try to get to know them as people. At the same time, I make sure they understand expectations. It is about creating a space where they feel comfortable talking, but also helping them stay on track.”

Jacob often encourages students to think about their future in concrete terms, including where they want to live, how they want to support themselves, and what steps they need to take to get there. Drawing from his own experience, he emphasizes that success is attainable with focus and effort.

“Sometimes students do not see the bigger picture yet,” he said. “If you can help them start thinking about their goals, it can change how they approach school and life as a whole.” Jacob credits several educators with helping him develop that mindset, including Puente teacher Thomas Mijares. He remembers Mijares as someone who consistently checked in with him, recognized shifts in his energy, and held him to high expectations.

“That stood out to me,” Jacob said. “He noticed when something was off and took the time to check in. He also pushed me to do my best work, even when I did not feel like it.”



“I try to get to know them as people. At the same time, I make sure they understand expectations. It is about creating a space where they feel comfortable talking, but also helping them stay on track.”

Those lessons now influence how Jacob interacts with students every day.

Outside of his role on campus, Jacob remains deeply connected to the Logan community through baseball. Having played the sport for most of his life, he now mentors and supports student athletes, including his younger brother, who is currently a senior at Logan. His experience playing in college allows him to guide students through both the athletic and academic expectations required to continue competing at the next level.

“I understand the process a lot more now,” he said. “I can help them see what they need to do if they want to keep playing and go to college.”

For families considering James Logan High School, Jacob believes the school’s strength lies in its ability to offer something for everyone.

“There is a place here for every student,” he said. “Whether it is a club, a sport, or a program, you can find your group. And the teachers really care. They take the time to get to know students and support them.”

For Jacob, returning to Logan is about more than coming back to a familiar place. It is about giving back to a community that helped shape who he is and helping the next generation of Colts find their path forward.



TUESDAY, MAY 19TH

PROMOTION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!





WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

PROMOTION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!







NEW HAVEN

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



ENROLL NOW



Learn here. Succeed anywhere.

- ✓ Two-Way Dual Language Programs
Spanish and Mandarin
- ✓ WASC-Accredited Independent
Study Program
- ✓ Now Accepting
Inter-District Transfer

**Serving Union City
& South Hayward**

mynhusd.org



**OFFERING
FULL DAY
TK AND
KINDER!**

Class of 2026

LOGAN HIGH
VEN UNIE



Miles

Chan-Welch

Threads of Passion, Voice of Purpose



From the stage to the volleyball court, one Logan senior is weaving creativity, leadership, and resilience into his future.

At James Logan High School, where opportunity meets community, senior Miles Chan-Welch is leaving a lasting mark, one defined by creativity, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to growth. With a 3.52 GPA, leadership as captain of the volleyball team, active involvement in the school's nationally recognized Logan Forensics Speech and Debate Team, and Logan Live broadcast production team, Miles represents the very best of what it means to be part of the New Haven Unified School District.

Yet, what makes Miles truly stand out isn't just his résumé; it's the originality and authenticity he brings to everything he does.

"Something about myself that's unique or surprising is that I am very into making my own clothes," Miles shares. "I've always been into fashion... but I don't think many people know that I actually make the clothes that I wear sometimes."

This passion for fashion is more than a hobby; it's an expression of identity and creativity. Whether he's designing garments or exploring thrift shops for inspiration, Miles is constantly refining his craft. His artistic interests extend beyond clothing, connecting seamlessly with his aspirations in acting and performance.

Miles' journey at Logan has been shaped by exploration: trying new things, embracing challenges, and building meaningful connections. He describes his friend group as "very odd," but in the best way possible. "A lot of us have different tastes or different hobbies, but I feel like that's what really brings us all together," he explains. "It makes us all want to try new things."

That openness to new experiences is something Miles credits, in part, to the unique environment of the New Haven Unified School District. "What I like most about attending a New Haven school... is that it allows for you to meet a lot of different people," he says. "It allows for a lot of opportunities on this campus."

"What I like most about attending a New Haven school... is that it allows you to meet a lot of different people. It allows for a lot of opportunities on this campus."

As one of the largest high school communities in the region, James Logan High School offers students a wide range of pathways, from athletics and performing arts to academic and career-focused programs. For Miles, one program in particular has been transformative.

“I think what makes New Haven and James Logan High School special to me is the forensics program,” he says. “It has allowed me to meet a lot of really good people and learn a lot of new skills, speaking, acting, and more.” He credits Dr. Tommy Lindsey as a key mentor in his journey, adding, “He has helped me a lot throughout my journey... there’s always a family there for people who are trying to find where they belong.”

That sense of belonging has had a profound impact on Miles’ academic and personal growth. One of his most meaningful memories at Logan is the day he joined Speech and Debate. “I think that day is what changed my academics, as well as how I view people,” he reflects. “It helped me continue to push through.”

Outside the classroom and stage, Miles has also found purpose through athletics. A dedicated volleyball player for the past five years, he now serves as captain of the Logan team. “Volleyball has shaped my life,” he says. “It’s given me an outlet to really have fun and figure out where I stand.” Through the sport, he’s developed leadership skills, resilience, and a deeper understanding of teamwork; qualities that extend into every aspect of his life.





Behind Miles' drive and determination is a powerful source of inspiration: his father. "He's a man who has been through a lot," Miles shares. "No matter how hard the hardship, he has never quit... It's given me a way of seeing that even if something is hard, that doesn't mean I shouldn't do it."

Looking ahead, Miles plans to attend the University of San Francisco before transferring to a school in Southern California or New York to pursue his dreams of acting. He also hopes to one day launch his own fashion brand, bringing together his passions for storytelling, design, and performance.

Miles Chan-Welch embodies the spirit of James Logan High School: bold, creative, and resilient. His journey reflects the strength of a school community that encourages students to explore their identities, find their voices, and support one another along the way.

As the Logan community celebrates this remarkable senior, one thing is clear: Miles is not just preparing for the future; he's designing it, one stitch, one performance, and one meaningful connection at a time.



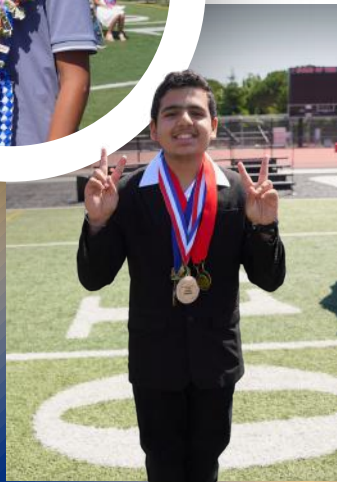
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

PROMOTION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!





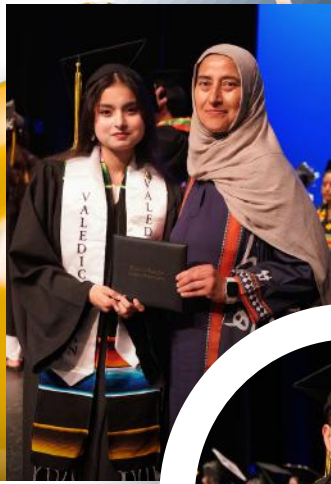
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!





SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST



Natalie

Capps-
Jenner

Progress Not Perfection: How Natalie Capps-Jenner Brings Heart Hope and Hands On Support to New Haven

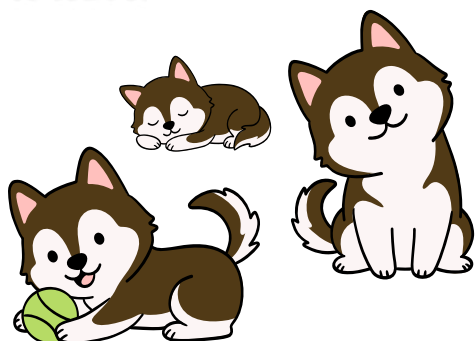
If you have visited Hillview Crest in the past six years, chances are you have met Natalie Capps Jenner. You might have seen her moving purposefully between classrooms, huddled in a quiet corner with a student, or offering a supportive ear to a busy teacher. As a school psychologist who splits her time between Hillview Crest and Searles Elementary, Natalie is a constant, calming presence in the New Haven Unified School District—a role she fills with a rare blend of professional expertise and genuine, heartfelt dedication.

Deep Roots and a Global Perspective

Natalie's journey to New Haven is as unique as her approach to student care. After spending time in England working in substance misuse counseling and children's services, she returned to the States looking for a way to merge her passion for crisis response with long term community impact. It was her mother, a veteran of the school system herself, who suggested school psychology.

It turned out to be the perfect fit. Now in her sixth year with the district, Natalie has found more than just a job; she has found a home.

"I just literally love it, just would not trade it for the world," she says with a smile. "This is my sixth year in New Haven. And I love it and have no plans to leave."



The New Haven Difference

What keeps Natalie so energized?

She attributes it to the "New Haven Way"—a unique district culture where staff retention is high and the sense of family is palpable.

She points out that many of her colleagues are actually New Haven alumni who returned to their old hallways to teach and lead. This continuity creates a stable, trusting environment where families and staff are deeply invested in one another's success. In Natalie's eyes, the district is not just a collection of buildings; it is a living, breathing community that shows up for its members.

A Philosophy for the Modern Student

In an era where students face unprecedented academic and social pressures, Natalie's professional philosophy is a breath of fresh air: **"Progress, not perfection."** It is a line she shares frequently with students and parents alike. In a world that often demands "all or nothing," Natalie advocates for the "baby step."



“Let’s just try and do a little bit better where we can,” she encourages. “Little baby steps towards personal growth—that’s a success.”

By lowering the stakes and celebrating the small wins, she helps students rediscover the joy of learning and the confidence to keep trying.

Her definition of success is not found in a test score or a trophy. Instead, it is found in the feeling of being seen. For students who might otherwise fall through the cracks or feel like they do not quite fit the mold, Natalie is their fiercest advocate. “If I literally can make a positive impact on a student where they felt supported and seen... that’s how I would want to be remembered,” she shares.

A Relatable Role Model

Beyond the assessments and the counseling sessions, Natalie is a vibrant member of the community who is not afraid to be herself. She is a self proclaimed foodie and baker who loves a good recipe. To balance out the baking, she hits the gym—though she does so with a healthy dose of humor. Whether she is at Zumba, where she cheerfully admits to being “terrible in my coordination,” or a “hardcore” drumming fitness class that involves 30 minutes of squats, Natalie lives her “progress, not perfection” mantra every day.

This relatability is exactly why students and staff gravitate toward her. She is not a distant authority figure; she is a mom of two, a dog lover, and a lifelong learner who knows that showing up and trying is half the battle.

Natalie with her husband and two sons.

Family dog ready for a road trip!



**More AMAZING moments
of Natalie with her family**



A Message for the Next Generation

If Natalie could sit down with every student in the district—and perhaps even her own younger self—her message would be simple: Breathe. “To not put so much pressure on yourself,” she advises. “Kids feel so much pressure in so many regards... this is just a blip on the map.”

In the hallways of Hillview Crest and Searles, Natalie Capps Jenner is doing more than just her job. She is building a legacy of compassion, one connection at a time. She reminds us all that while perfection might be an impossible goal, progress is always within reach—especially when you have a community like New Haven cheering you on.



**Natalie at the 2025-2026 Staff Welcome Back
Cheers for the Years Event in August 2025**

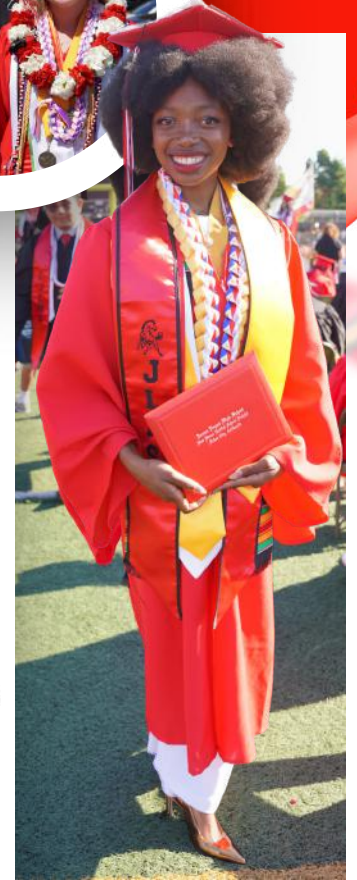
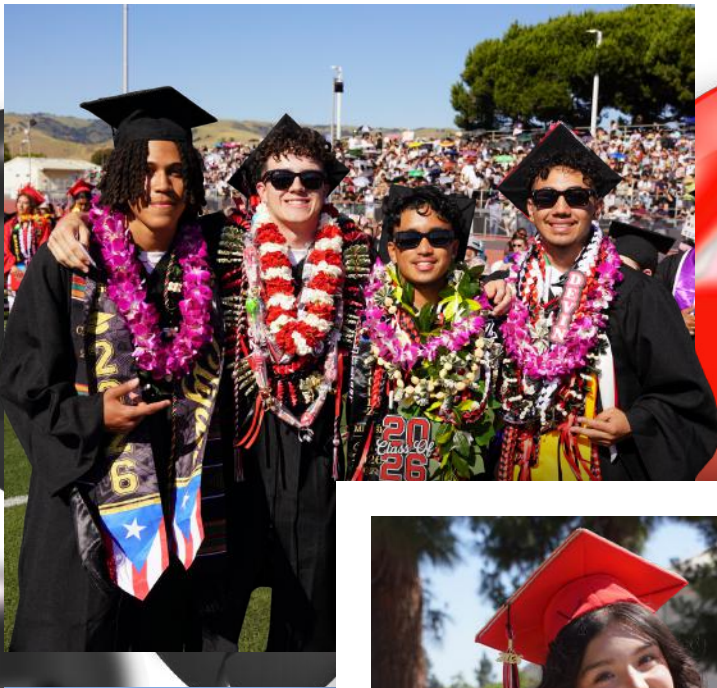
THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!







CLASS OF 2026



