



RANCHO PICO JUNIOR HIGH TEAM DISCOVERY

http://www.hartdistrict.org/ranchopico/discovery
661-284-3260

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Rancho Pico Junior High School. Our team is dedicated to providing an excellent learning environment for each of our students, based upon the core values of Rancho Pico Junior High and the William S. Hart Union High School District.

Class Expectations

- ❖ Do what is expected.
- ❖ Do what is right.

Respect our instructional time. Be in your seat with required materials, ready to work when the bell rings. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. Texting during class is **NOT** allowed. Earphones must be put away in pocket or backpack.

Be Prepared. Have all materials ready at the beginning of class. If your pencil needs sharpening during class, please do so quietly without disturbing others around you. Be respectful of the learning atmosphere while sharpening your pencil.

Ask! One way learning takes place is through questioning. Please raise your hand and wait to be recognized if you have a question or comment. You may also come up to the teacher's desk with a question if the class is doing independent work.

Respect our classroom and campus. Eating, drinking and gum chewing are not permitted in class. Gum is not permitted at Rancho Pico at any time. Water bottles are welcome and encouraged in the classroom. Gatorade and other sport drinks with sugar are not allowed in class.

Respect property. Writing on or damaging school property or the personal property of other students is unacceptable. Respect all people. Rudeness, profanity, obscene gestures and put-downs of any kind will not be tolerated.

Be Prepared. Students should make sure they use the restroom before class begins. Students will only be permitted to leave class for an emergency. Any student leaving the classroom during class time must sign out on the classroom pass log and sign in upon return.

- ❖ Do your best!
- ❖ Respect yourself and others

Take Pride in your work. All course work will be expected to be the student's own work. (Group work will have specific instructions) Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be treated seriously. The work will receive 0% credit and cannot be re-taken. Parents will be notified. A repeat offense can result in sanctions that are more serious.

In addition, all William S. Hart High School District and Rancho Pico handbook policies will be enforced on our team. If a student fails to meet these expectations any of the following consequences can occur:

- *Warning*
- *Private discussion with teacher and/or parent contact*
- *Detention*
- *Referral to Administration (severe infractions can result in immediate referral to the Administration)*

Teacher Contact: Please feel free to contact us to discuss your concerns or questions at any time. Since Rancho Pico will be on a rotating block schedule the easiest and fastest way to contact us is through e-mail which we check regularly. There is an email link to each of us and a link to contact us as a group, found on the Team Discovery website. You can access the team website with the link found on the Rancho Pico homepage. Our contact information is:

Science	Mrs. April Carey	ext. 1404	acarey@hartdistrict.org
English	Mrs. Nancy Durham	ext. 1407	ndurham@hartdistrict.org
Math	Mrs. Christy Foster	ext. 1405	clfoster@hartdistrict.org
Social Studies	Mrs. Rebecca Martin	ext. 1408	rmartin@hartdistrict.org
Resource	Mrs. Julie Marchuk	Ext. 1607	jmarchuk@hartdistrict.org
Counselor	Mrs. Shannon Ford	Ext. 1413	sford@hartdistrcit.org

Grading Policy: Student grades will be determined based on an average of points earned on assignments, tests, quizzes, and projects. The Rancho Pico Math Department follows a uniform grade weighting system. Please see the math syllabus in this packet for more specific information. Each Team Discovery Teacher will maintain an online grade book using *SnapGrades*. This system allows students and parents to view student progress using the internet. Instructions for setting up parent accounts are included in this packet.

Team Discovery will use the following grading scale for the four core classes of English, Math, Science, and History.

- A = 89.5 and above
- B = 79.5 – 89.4
- C = 69.5 – 79.4
- D = 59.5 – 69.4
- F = 59.4 and below

Homework Policy: Homework will be assigned to support the academic lessons being learned in class. Meeting deadlines for assignments is part of personal responsibility development and aids in the academic progress made during the year. All homework assignments will be assigned a due date. Work that is turned in late will be accepted by Team Discovery teachers, but is only eligible to earn up to ½ credit. Team Discovery teachers meet regularly to coordinate timing of large projects and major tests (including benchmarks) to spread out core subject due dates.

Make-up work after an absence: Students must check with their teacher to discover what work was missed. Students are strongly encouraged to stop by the classes missed the day after an absence to plan make-up. If a student is absent on the due date for an assignment or project, that work is then due the class period the student returns. The William S. Hart School District Student Handbook addresses made-up work timelines. Please contact your teacher with special concerns or situations.

Headings: All work turned in should include First and Last Name, Date and Period in the upper right hand corner of the paper. Each teacher will be grading 170+ student submissions for each assignment. This heading policy will be strictly enforced. See sample below:

Monte Mustang 8/23/2010 Per. 5

Opportunities for Extra Help: Team Discovery teachers are committed to providing students with opportunities to get extra help or clarification. Teachers are available before school on most school days (after the bell rings to admit students to campus), and at Brunch to provide extra help to students. Students can come at these times without an appointment. Students can also check with individual teachers for additional opportunities.

California Standards: All Team Discovery core content classes are taught with lessons based on the State of California’s adopted course content standards. You can find these standards on the California State Board of Education’s website. (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss>) The student textbooks used in each of these four core subjects also have a copy of the standards for your reference in the front of the text.

Tardy Policy: In order to make the most of the academic time allotted each subject, students are expected to be on time to class. The following tardy policy will be in place for the 2011-12 school year. The policy is enforced on a quarter basis. At the beginning of a new quarter tardy counts start over.

Team Discovery Tardy Policy – (per course each quarter)

First Tardy	Warning
Second Tardy	Parent Notification
Third Tardy	Brunch Detention with teacher
Fourth and additional Tardies	Office Referral

TEAM DISCOVERY: ADVISORY

Advisory is a 20 minute period all students at Rancho Pico Junior High attend each regular school day. Students will be scheduled into an advisory class with one of their team teachers. During this time Rancho Pico TV will air with a student-led news crew who will give daily announcements and special event information. Team DISCOVERY will utilize the additional advisory time for a variety of activities throughout the year. Students are required to have with them each day a book for silent sustained reading (SSR). We will also participate in team building events, puzzles and logic games and special mini-units. Special advisory topics will include units on careers, basic life skills (sewing on a button, personal finance, etc.). At the end of each quarter we will take a few advisory periods and view a movie which focuses on a particular motivational theme (self-confidence, hard work, courage, respect, helping others, etc.). Listed below is a synopsis of each movie that may be potentially used this year. We will not be showing the same video in all advisories, rather each advisory teacher will chose each quarter's topic movie from the list. (This way we can share videos with each other.) Each of the following movies is rated PG and has been reviewed as a "family movie". Note: All advisories will use *The Gift* at the end of 2nd quarter before winter break

Theme: goal setting; determination; overcoming obstacles

Movie: Rudy - Based on a true story, *Rudy* stars Sean Astin as Rudy Ruettiger, a blue-collar kid whose father (Ned Beatty) worships Notre Dame football but who would never dare to dream that any of his sons could be a part of the team. The film is entirely about Ruettiger's ceaseless if sometimes wavering commitment toward that goal, despite tremendous obstacles in physical stature, education requirements, the dismissiveness of coaches, poverty, his father's envy, and endless delays of one kind or another.

Theme: self-confidence, friendship, fair play

Movie: Akeelah and the Bee

Eleven year old Akelah Anderson's life is not easy. She's smart, but her environment threatens to strangle her aspirations. She participates in a spelling bee to avoid detention for her many absences. Much to her surprise and embarrassment, she wins. Although reluctant at first (and fearful of being labeled a "brainiac" by classmates at her under-funded middle school in South Central Los Angeles), Akelah grows determined to win the district, regional, and ultimately the Scripps National Spelling Bee, aided by the able coaching of an English professor (Laurence Fishburne) who, like Akelah's overworked single mother (Angela Bassett) is slowly recovering from a devastating personal loss.

Theme: courage; respecting developmental differences

Movie: Radio

Cuba Gooding Jr. stars as Radio, a mentally challenged young man, whom South Carolina high school football coach Harold Jones (Ed Harris) takes under his nurturing wing. This does not play well with the school's patient but questioning principal (Alfre Woodard); the school's biggest athletic booster, who views Radio as a distraction; the man's son, the team's star player, who plays cruel pranks on the trusting Radio; and the Coach's teenage daughter, who feels neglected. Almost all will be won over by Radio's trusting and good nature.

Theme: believing in something; friendship; looking through another person's perspective

Movie: Secondhand Lions

This comedic and touching family film follows the adventures of a shy young boy (Haley Joel Osment) who is sent to spend the summer with his eccentric uncles (Michael Caine, Robert Duvall). At first shocked by his uncles' unconventional behavior that includes ordering

African lions through the mail, the boy soon becomes enthralled with unraveling the mystery that has followed the uncles for years. Hearing tales of their exotic adventures involving kidnapped princesses, Arabian sheiks and lost treasure, not only brings him closer to his uncles but also teaches him what it means to believe in something.

Theme: never give up; work hard and anyone can succeed; triumph over adversity; family

Movie: Racing Stripes

A travelling circus accidentally abandons an adorably helpless zebra in the middle of Kentucky on a stormy night. Fortunately, the wee zebra is found by Nolan Walsh (Bruce Greenwood, *The Sweet Hereafter*), a brilliant horse trainer who's given up his calling after a riding accident that killed his wife. His daughter Channing (Hayden Panettiere, *Raising Helen*) names the zebra Stripes and, before you know it, Stripes has grown to young adulthood and is aching to race at a nearby track.

Theme: caring; friendship; responsibility

Movie: October Sky

An inspirational story of a fairly conventional sort—four boys stuck in a West Virginia coal town in 1957 begin playing around with rockets and compete for a science prize. The boys, expected by their elders to sacrifice their lives to coal mining when they graduate from high school, escape by sending up the little projectiles they've made, which sometimes explode, sometimes whirl about in circles, and occasionally soar straight up. The little rockets become the poetry of a depressed community

Theme: friendship; courage; bullying; realizing people are not always as they seem; stereotypes

Movie: How to Eat Fried Worms

When bullies put worms in his thermos, Billy fights back—and only gets in deeper trouble when he makes a stomach-churning bet that he can eat ten worms. Though many story elements are changed from the book, *How to Eat Fried Worms* treats the situation and characters with intelligence and integrity. There are a few cartoonish moments (including some inventive animated sequences), but overall the movie is down-to-earth and sincere, delivering some simple and unforced messages about courage and friendship.

Theme: Giving to others to connect with friends and family, and help those in need.

Movie: The Gift

When his wealthy grandfather dies, trust fund baby Jason Stevens anticipates a big inheritance. Instead, his grandfather has devised a crash course on life with twelve tasks – or “gifts” – designed to challenge Jason in improbable ways, sending him on a journey of self-discovery and forcing him to determine what is most important in life: money or happiness.

Theme: never give up; work hard and anyone can succeed; triumph over adversity

Movie: Hoosiers

One of the most rousing enjoyable sports movies ever made, this small-town drama tells the story of the Hickory Huskers, an underdog basketball team from a tiny Indiana high school that makes it all the way to the state championship tournament. As the drama unfolds we come to realize that many of the characters are recovering from disappointing setbacks, and this depth of character is what makes the otherwise conventional basketball story so richly rewarding.

Theme: overcoming tragedy

Movie: We Are Marshall

In November, 1970, virtually the entire football team and coaches of Marshall University die in a plane crash. That spring, led by Nate Ruffin, a player who was ill and missed the fatal flight, students rally to convince the board of governors to play the 1971 season. The college president must find a coach, who must find players. They petition to the NCAA to allow freshmen to play and coach Jack Lengyel motivates and leads young players at the same time that he reexamines the Lombardi creed that winning is the only thing. Can Marshall win even one game in 1971.

Theme: fighting prejudice and the hatred it produces

Movie: Remember the Titans

In the early 1970's, two schools in Virginia integrate forming the T.C. Williams High School. The Caucasian head coach of the Titans is replaced by an African American coach from North Carolina. Tensions arise when players of different races are forced together on the same football team. The city falls into turmoil as a result of the forced desegregation of the high school. As the season progresses the team's success causes the community to accept the changes.

Theme: fighting prejudice and the hatred it produces

Movie: Glory Road

40+ years ago, Don Haskins went on the recruiting trail to find the best talent in the land, black or white. 7 blacks and 5 whites made up the legendary 1965-66 Texas Western Miners. They were mocked and ridiculed for their showboating and flaunting of black players on the court. Yet, in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, Haskins and his Miners came together as a team united to reach

the National Championship game against powerhouse Kentucky.

Theme: Trust in others, the importance of family bonds, taking responsibility for your actions, standing up for what you believe in.

Movie: Flicka

A headstrong 16 year old Katy McLaughlin desires to work on her family's mountainside horse ranch; although her father insists she must finish boarding school. Katy finds a mustang in the hills near the ranch. She then sets her mind to tame a mustang and prove to her father she can run the ranch. But when tragedy happens, it will take all the love and strength a family can muster to restore hope.

Theme: Believing in yourself

Movie: The Greatest Game Ever Played

The year is 1913, and Francis Ouimet is an amateur golfer from a working class family. He dreams of playing in the U.S. Open, but encounters obstacles at every turn. But Francis doggedly pursues his dream, with the help of a wise-cracking 10-year-old caddie. This is the true story of a boy who knows what he wants and goes after it, despite incredible odds.

Theme: Loyalty and friendship

Movie: Because of Winn-Dixie

10 year old India Opal Buloni moves with her preacher father to a small southern town where she feels sad and lonely because her mother abandoned them. Then she finds a cute dog in a Winn-Dixie supermarket, and together, they bring the quirky townsfolk together to celebrate friendship and joy. This gentle, touching movie is a wonderful story about life, love, loss and friendship.

Theme: accepting the uniqueness of individuals, acceptance

Movie: Happy Feet

When Mumble is born into a colony of Emperor penguins, he finds himself unable to be accepted by all other penguins, lacking the ability to sing a heartsong – a song all penguins can perform from an early age. He does however have a talent for tap dance which is derided by his peers and scorned by the penguin elders. Mumble's gift of dance is blamed for the possible cause of their food shortage, which is really caused by nearby fishing trawlers. After being virtually outcast by his colony he goes in search of the humans in an attempt to reason and communicate with them.

Theme: fighting prejudice; overcoming adversity

Movie: The Express

Based on the incredible true story, The Express follows the inspirational life of college football hero Ernie Davis, the first African American to win the Heisman. Following his draft by the NFL, tragedy struck the star athlete and he

was never able to take the professional field. But his tale

would forever change the face of professional sports.