VIDEO GAME APPRECIATION

Do you love video games? Join Sam for a week dedicated to sharing our passion for gaming. In addition to having daily gaming tournaments, we'll explore video games as an art form and a mode of storytelling, create game reviews, hear from guest speakers who work in the video game industry, discuss video game addiction and mental health, and even collaborate on a pitch for a new video game of our own. This experience is open to both experienced gamers and those who are new to gaming.

Leaders: Sam Stump Estimated No Fee

VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY

Earn responsible citizenship credits towards graduation while learning about service organizations in our community. Each day we will volunteer in a different place and learn about how they help the community. Volunteer opportunities might include the Food Bank, the Humane Society, and other service organizations based on student interest.

Leaders: Meghan Miller Estimated $50

E-Lab EXPERIENCE

Repair things, build things, experience all that E-Lab has to offer. Construct your dream computer from parts, install a bumping stereo in your car, design a robot to do your chores! E-Lab Experience is driven by what you want to accomplish. No experience necessary, learn the skills you need as you go. 3D printing, electronics kits, soldering skills, and more can be found in the E-Lab. The "E" stands for an Excellent Electronics Engineering Experience for Everyone!

Leader: Francis Rutherford Estimated $10 for group lunch on last day

DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Interested in obtaining your driver's permit? Road Runner Driving School is pleased to bring their Driver's Ed course to MHS. This course is DMV certified and satisfies classroom training for new drivers. The training involves videos, reading material, lecture and discussion. The classroom course requires successful completion and attendance in order to receive the valid Certificate of completion. If you want to obtain your driver's permit, this is the activity for you.

Leader: Mark James, Road Runner Driving School Estimated $150 (Possibly Sponsored by MCCF)

SEW WHAT?!

Discover the art of sewing in this hands-on workshop designed for beginners! Students will learn beginner sewing skills, from attaching buttons to mastering a sewing machine and exploring upcycling and patterns. Join us to start creating and styling with your own hands.

Leader: Diana Dominguez Estimated $40

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students grades 10-12 may design their own educational experience, but specific independent study guidelines will apply and deadlines for application and submission must be met. 30 hours of educational activities need to be planned, scheduled, and clearly described on your IS proposal; no more than 5 of the 30 hours can be attributed to travel time. Evidence of completion of your AE Week experience must be submitted by the end of April.

Leader: Alex Fosse

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Mendocino High School's 34th Alternative Education Week 4/5/2027 - 4/9/2027



Photo credit: Megan Perry, Yosemite AE Week 2026 Trip

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart" - Confucius

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION WEEK
APRIL 5 - APRIL 9, 2027

AE Week provides students a unique opportunity for learning beyond the classroom. This year will mark Mendocino High School's 34th Alternative Education Week. The longevity of this program is a testament to its educational value. Students are encouraged to make their selections based on their interests. No student will be denied participation based on an inability to pay. While some fundraising may be necessary, Site Council has set aside funding to help support AE Week programs and students. Alternative Education Week is a two credit course. Students will receive Credit (2 credits) for participation and No Credit (0 credits) for no participation, which will appear on student transcripts. Students who violate the school's drug and alcohol policies in the second semester will not be allowed to attend overnight trips. Citizenship may also dictate eligibility for trips. All students must participate.

Friday, November 6: Brochure featuring activities is distributed to students. Students will be emailed a google form to sign up.

Thursday, November 12: Google forms are due. Students must select their top 4 choices by this date.

Students are responsible for attending all trip meetings and returning all paperwork to participate. While seniority is a factor in determining trip rosters, there are other considerations. We try to get everyone in one of their top 3 choices, but if trips are impacted, there are no guarantees.

ACTIVE EXPERIENCES:

YOSEMITE

Bask in the glory of the amazing Yosemite Valley. Join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit this national park and discover its hidden gems. This trip is a longstanding Mendocino High School tradition and it is reserved for 9th grade students. We will have the opportunity to participate in hikes, take in the natural beauty of the park through art and exploration, play and do team building experiences as well as see parts of the valley many don't know are there. This year we will be staying on the valley floor in Curry Village in heated tent cabins. Students who choose to join should be excited to hike and will need hiking and cold weather equipment (we will help provide equipment as needed). You should also be prepared to help with fundraising.

Leaders: Lora Barnett-Tuomala, Tobin Hahn, and Erik Rain Estimated $450

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Mountain Biking AE Week adventure will take advantage of the awesome local trails, where we will hone our mountain biking skills. Depending on weather and trail conditions, we will also travel to Humboldt County and experience "Paradise Royal," a mountain bike trail in the Kings Range above the Lost Coast or head to Annadel State Park in Santa Rosa. Students will ride every day, participate in local trail building, and learn some basic bike maintenance. The school has bikes and helmets to borrow. Participants need to be comfortable riding a bike and some trail or dirt road riding experience is highly recommended. If you bring your own bike it needs to be a mountain bike in good working condition.

Leaders: Derek Hutchinson and Marshall Brown Estimated $50

FIRST RESPONDER ACADEMY

For this AE Week experience, participants will engage in a week-long fire academy that prepares you for a career in first response and gives you the knowledge to save someone's life. These skills will stay with you for the rest of your life. Participants should be prepared for hands-on practice where you are pushed to the limit and reap the benefits. All participants will receive a uniform, medical bag and a whole lot of pride.

Leader: Noah Gold and Tyler Grinberg Estimated $100

PERSONAL EXPLORATION & ENRICHMENT:

ASHLAND, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Travel to Ashland, Oregon to watch world-class theatrical performances! We will see three plays: typically a modern comedy or drama, a period piece or musical, and one by the Bard himself, William Shakespeare. We will stay at a hostel in the charming mountain town of Ashland OR, take walks in beautiful parks, visit shops and bookstores, and have excellent restaurant meals in the evenings. We plan to attend a prologue or two, hopefully get a backstage tour of the theaters, and visit the local college Southern Oregon University.

Leaders: Tom Sosnovec, Angel Lou Liwagon, and Taimi Barty Estimated $600

EXPLORING CA STATE PARKS

In a unique collaboration with California State Parks and CalFire, we will take day trips to various locations including Fort Ross, Salt Point, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Montgomery Woods, MacKerricher State Park, Point Cabrillo Lighthouse, Hendy Woods, Russian Gulch State Park, and Van Damme State Park to explore their unique beauty and histories. We will also meet a wide range of personnel and learn about the work that they do as public servants. We will hear about career opportunities from Trail Crews, Park Rangers, Maintenance Operations, Natural Resources Staff, Lifeguards, Office Staff, Park Interpreters, even the Superintendent of Mendocino-Sonoma Park District.

Leader: James Gilbert Estimated $50

MIND SURVIVAL

The trip's guiding question is this: How does one protect and train the mind in the 21st century? To answer that question, we'll be exploring the unique ways the 21st century distorts our minds, as well as thinking strategies and philosophies that can guide us through those challenges. We'll also visit local spiritual centers and engage in diverse spiritual practices in order to reconnect with and strengthen our capacity for attention, reflection, and gratitude. What this is not is a "wellness" trip.

Leader: James Eastman Estimated $75-$300

COLLEGE & CAREER TECHNICAL SCHOOL TOURS

Visit and explore postsecondary options which may include UCs, CSUs, private universities, community colleges, and trade schools focusing in the Bay Area. This trip will include 1-2 overnights.

Leader: Anna Yanez and Laurel Sheard Estimated $300

COZY CORNER

Books + journals + comfy clothes + hot drinks + crafts + learning new things + projects + walking + staying local = the perfect low-stress, low-tech, low-cost AE Week.

This AE Week experience is for people who want a week to really slow down while having the chance to learn new skills and discover new hobbies. We're looking for people who crave quiet time and love being in small groups; we want to embrace the introvert in all of us. We'll spend the first part of the day reading, drawing, writing, or journaling - whatever speaks to you - with pastries and hot drinks, with the goal of having a sweet, slow start to our mornings. After that, we'll focus on learning something new each day. These activities will be determined by the group ahead of time but could include things like crochet, knitting, mandalas, baking, tie-dye, block printing, and more. We'll bring in experts to share their talents. By the end of the week, we'll have a greater sense of self and a more diverse toolbox of things to enjoy on our own or with others.

Leaders: Kamala Lance and Anna Levy Estimated up to $100