SPECIAL EDITION:
In an era of high school choice, why our students choose Rio.
Contents

PAGE

SPIRIT 4
COMMUNITY 6
ACADEMICS 8
SPORTS 12
ARTS 14
NEW ADDITIONS 18
MAP OF RIO 22

The Mirada Magazine is produced as a special edition of the Rio Americano Mirada newspaper. Read the Mirada online at riomirada.com

Rio Mirada
Rio Americano High School
4540 American River Drive
Sacramento, CA 95864

Newspaper Editors in Chief
Ted Giberson and Sophia Morton
riomirada2016@gmail.com

Adviser
Mr. Mahoney
mmahoney@sanjuan.edu
(916) 971-7494 x80

Mirada Magazine Staff
Nathan Rubinoff
Marissa Britto
Eddie Muallem
Sandhya Bhaskar
Parisa Anderson
Garrett Gardner
Sophia Morton
Spencer Summehayes
Nathaniel Bearson
Nic Wilson
Jane Nathan
Valentina Makovey
Cole Ramazzini
Alex Muegge
Jake Vujovich
Laurel Newland
Jacob Gerigk
Ted Giberson
Mary Sorenson
Letter from the editors

Welcome to Rio Americano High School

We are so excited that you have taken the time to come visit our school. Rio has been a home to both of us for the past three years of high school and we are so excited that you may be joining the raider family next year.

Rio has so many wonderful opportunities for incoming students. From the Civitas program, which prepares students to be active, responsible, knowledgeable citizens who accept their role as civic minded adults, to AVID, which ensures that all students will succeed, Rio inspires students to succeed. We have the most AP classes offered in any San Juan Unified School District High School, with a total of 15 ranging from US History to Art.

Academics span much further and delve far deeper than the core curriculum classes offered at just any public high school. Whether you pave your path to college or a career in one of our many Advanced Placement courses, experience entirely new breeds of learning in visual or interactively-oriented classes, Rio Americano will prepare you for your future and help you achieve your goals.

Outside of the classroom, Rio has an active Mock Trial team with a history of county titles and takes home medals in Science Olympiad each year. We also produce a nationally recognized student-run, newspaper, The Mirada, as well as produce our acclaimed yearbook, The Tesoro.

Our magazine was produced in our newspaper class. We cover the good and the bad in the Mirada, and students express themselves on controversial issues. This magazine is a little different. We wanted to share what Rio has meant to us. We adopted the We Choose Rio slogan to explain why we chose this school.

Rio is one of the leading high schools in the Sacramento area. We hope that you enjoy your time on campus and choose Rio as the place to spend some of the greatest years of your life. We know that they were for us.

Sincerely,
Natalie Rochman and Kaia Anderson
Editors-in-Chief
School pride is a big part of Rio. When walking down the hallways, there is no shortage of green and gold Raider gear. From sweatshirts to t-shirts to lanyards, nearly everyone has something showing support for our school.

On game days, the Rowdy Raiders advertise what color they will be wearing that night to the game (white out, green out, black out, 'Murica out). There is excited chatter in the halls about who will win, especially if the game is against rivals like Jesuit or El Camino.

The five rallies that we have each year are half-hours of intense Raider pride. Social Commissioners Hayden Rountree and Andrew Finney lead the rally with games while the cheerleaders and song team preform.

Rountree said, “My favorite part of being Social Commissioner is making the whole school laugh at once.”

At the GALA (Girls Ask, Lads Attend) rally, a squad of 20 boys performs their own routine.

The cheerleaders are at all football games, home basketball games, as well as an assortment of other games throughout the year. They are there to help support the team and bring spirit to not only the team-members but the people in the stands.

Rio’s spirit goes beyond just wearing school colors, having Raider pride means that you support our school 100 percent.
Soaring through the air in the large gym, junior Maya Silva waits for the optimum height of her basket toss to hit her toe touch during the rally routine. She lands in the arms of her bases, smiles at the crowd, and walks to her next spot in formation. The excitement and glee takes over her as she performs the routine that took weeks of practice to perfect.

While cheer is a large time commitment, being on the team has many advantages and is thoroughly enjoyed by all members.

Being a cheerleader at Rio teaches responsibility, commitment, and time management while providing a sense of accomplishment and spirit to the school.

“I like being on cheer because I feel like we lift everyone’s spirits and bring happiness to our school,” said junior Allston Segale.

On top of attending all football games and home basketball games, cheerleaders take a summer trip to UC Santa Cruz every year for cheer camp and have bonding parties throughout the year. The varsity team travels to Tahoe for retreats and goes to Disneyland in the spring.

The three team levels account for approximately 50 cheerleaders each year with 10-15 freshman cheerleaders, 10-15 junior varsity cheerleaders, and 20 varsity cheerleaders.

By Sophia Morton

The rowdiest of Raiders

By Natalie Rochman and Spencer Summerhays

Game day. The crowd goes wild as number 52 dunks the ball. In front of the screaming crowd dressed in one solid color of white, black, or green, stands a group of boys wearing shirts declaring them royalty. The Rowdy Raiders.

The tradition of the Rowdy Raiders has been around for years. Every year, they design a new shirt available for purchase that can be customized with your name or nickname and year of graduation. At nearly all of the games, they will come out, showing their school spirit by yelling chants and leading the student section. The Rowdy Raiders spirit is infectious.

A new spirit section has been added to campus this year: the Rio Ultras. Seniors Mackenzie Harrington and Tomas Buchmiller founded and lead it to support the soccer team. They come out to support them at nearly every game.

Aside from the motivation and intensity it gives players, these cheering sections allow fans to have a place to come together with other students and cheer on our school.
School is a community where students come together for a common purpose: to learn, to grow, to evolve from childhood into adulthood, and move out from the shelter of their homes into the real world. While they pursue their individual goals, students can feel connected to the school by joining one of Rio's many clubs.

The club experience begins with Rush Week, an opportunity for students of all types to find their niche. From Ping Pong Club to Speech and Debate, there is a club for everybody.

Clubs are not only just a place to socialize or hone in on your ping pong skills, but also offer a chance to get together. For example, Rio Recycles President Molly Milligan advocates for the importance of recycling and being environmentally conscious.

Meanwhile, other clubs serve to enrich students' education beyond the textbooks. Science Olympiad, Mathletes and Mock Trial help students to learn science, math and civics while honing skills in speaking and critical thinking.

Some student-created clubs also add a fun element to learning. “Rio Investment Club is broadening horizons on economics, more specifically, the art of investing,” said senior president Alex McMurry.

Part of what it means to be part of the Rio community is connecting with the world from neighborhood organizations to service groups in foreign countries. Our students have raised funds to supply schools in Africa, sent gifts and letters to U.S. troops overseas and gathered books for the barren library of a local elementary school.

Interact Club helps the local charities in many ways. “We try to help out the community,” said club vice president Mary Westover. “We help out at Sacramento Food Bank and volunteer at races. Last year we organized a book drive.”

These clubs connect students to the community and may help students as they enter the real world. “I have learned leadership skills,” said Westover. “And some of my classmates have discovered what they want to do after college.”

we choose
COMMUNITY
Sometimes getting an education means giving something back.

Rio’s Avid student conduct an annual toy drive in which they collect hundreds of toys from students and then pass them out to every student at the low-income Howe Avenue Elementary School.

Civitas students do long hours of community service and in their senior projects look for ways they can improve the world. The projects have ranged from sending supplies to schools in Africa to collecting and fixing bicycles for people in Sacramento to organizing community forums.

Students who are not in these programs also contribute.

And for many of them the Key Club turns the key to giving and success.

Key Club President Michael Tan invites students to join and improve their leadership as well as serve their community.

“It’s a great investment in your future,” said Tan, a junior. “We have weekly community service events that provide a plethora of hours. We’re also the largest high school community service organization in the world; we are active in over 30 countries.”

Key Club members volunteer at Del Dayo Elementary School for the annual Fall Festival and book fairs. Around holidays the club puts on an event called Just For Kids, where they do crafts or go to arcades, such as Chuck E. Cheese, with children who have a family member with cancer.

Key Club Vice President Madison Alcalay loves playing with kids at the pizza restaurant.

“This is my favorite event because Key Club members get to interact with the kids,” said Alcalay, a junior. “We also help at crab feeds, runs, and other community events.”

All seniors in Civitas have to organize a senior project that benefits the community. This community can encompass the entire Sacramento area or just the school.

Senior, Hannah Green, put together and executed a river clean up at the American River Parkway. Students were able to make the environment down there cleaner and more sustainable for all the wildlife.

Orr Toledano held a forum on sexual abuse to inform people of the situation and how to prevent it.
Rio offers 15 Advanced Placement classes that offer college credit to students who pass the exam. The number of students taking AP has put Rio on Newsweek’s list of the best high schools in America.

- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- United States History
- Government
- Comparative Government
- Macroeconomics
- Psychology
- Art
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics (1 and 2)
- Environmental Science
- Spanish Language
- French Language and Culture
we choose
ACADEMICS

By Marissa Britto and Eddie Muallem

Rio Americano offers demanding and comprehensive academics in every subject including a wide variety of AP and Honors courses.

Starting freshman year, rigorous academic classes are available to students who are prepared for a challenge. Rio offers over 20 AP and Honors courses that allow students to experience college-level academics and even receive college credit.

Additionally, many students choose to participate in nationally recognized programs exclusive to Rio. Rio Americano's Civitas program allows civic minded students to engage themselves within their community and become politically and socially active citizens. Civitas students study political science, focusing specifically on the workings of government, speech, and philosophy, propelling them to success in their future careers.

The school's AVID program helps students prepare for college. The four-year program teaches study skills, encourages community service and focuses students on getting into a four-year college.

Students can explore their creative side in a variety of visual and performing arts classes, ranging from ceramics to photography to drama. The band program is recognized as one of the best in the country. Yearbook and Newspaper have also won national awards.

Rio’s renowned academics have been nationally recognized by Newsweek’s list of the best high schools based on the multitude of Advanced Placement tests Rio students take. Moreover, Rio Americano consistently ranks in the top 10 in the metropolitan area in SAT scores and completion of University of California A-G requirements. Many students feel prepared to attend the nation’s best colleges and their dreams.

Civic Minded

Adam Wong, 12

What made you decide to join Civitas?
I joined because I wanted to be a part of a program that was rigorous and challenging.

What kind of influence has Civitas had on you academically and socially?
It has forced me to learn time management skills, text analysis skills and taught me to become comfortable with public speaking. I’ve gained a lot of friends in Civitas it’s a close knit community and we all share an interest in politics and doing good for the community.

What is your secret to academic success?
Having a strong work ethic and keeping a goal in mind like going to a good college.

I also contribute a lot of my success to my parents and siblings because they gave me the work ethic I have today.

How do you manage being a student and a basketball player and still maintain a social life?
I don’t get a lot of sleep.

Do you have any advice to freshmen who are looking to excel academically?
I recommend you take advantage of every resource given to you. If you’re struggling in a class speak to your teachers or go to the library for tutoring.

Interview by Nathan Rubinoff
On an afternoon in room D2, pre-calculus teacher Todd Freund projected a graph depicting the evolution of global warming over time. With a simple equation used to calculate the rate of ice melting, Freund related a massive environmental issue to a pre-calculus class in a comprehensible, interesting manner.

From environmentalism to baseball statistics, Freund’s expansive knowledge of mathematics and trivia make it one of the many fun, interactive classes at Rio.

Freund’s knack for teaching derives from the certainty he had when choosing his career.

“I wanted to be a teacher from the beginning,” Freund said. “I was an engineer for twelve years before, but when I enrolled for my teaching credentials I knew I wanted to teach.”

Having taught at Rio for almost 14 years, Freund has noticed one specific attribute of Rio students.

“I really believe that there are respectful kids here, I love that the student body here on the whole is mature.”

Beyond athletics and academics, Freund believes that high school, especially at Rio, is a chance for enrichment.

“There will be a lot more opportunities to enrich your lives through various outlets. With any academic experience, you can make anything you want out of it. Your experience will be great if you come to Rio.”

By Sandhya Bhaskar

Mr. Freund teaches his pre-calculus class

Universities attended by class 2015

American University
Arizona State
Azusa Pacific
Brigham Young University
Brown University
Cal Maritime Academy
Cal Poly San Luis Bismo
Claremont McKenna College
Cornell University
Creighton University
CSU Chico
CSU Fresno
CSU Fullerton
CSU Humboldt
CSU Long Beach
CSU Los Angeles
Cal Poly Pomona
CSU Sacramento
CSU San Diego
CSU San Francisco
CSU San Jose
CSU San Marcos
CSU Sonoma

Denison University
Eastern Washington University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Lewis and Clarke
Loyola Marymount
Montana State University
Northwestern University
Oberlin University
Ohio State University
Pace University
Purdue University
Reed College
Southern Utah University
St. Mary’s University
Stanford University
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Los Angeles

UC Merced
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of Colorado
University of Miami
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oregon
University of Pacific
University Of Portland
University of Redlands
University of San Francisco
University of Washington
U.S. Military Academy
Utah State University
Vanderbilt
Western New Mexico
Opening a world

Teachers immerse students in foreign languages and culture

By Parisa Anderson

The school’s department of world languages includes both Spanish and French classes ranging from Spanish and French 1 for beginners all the way to AP classes for aspiring multilingual students.

The world language programs not only teach students to speak, understand, read, and write in the language of their choice, but also educate them about the country’s culture, traditions, and history in the hopes that students will become globally aware citizens.

In addition to language immersion within the classroom through group work, skits, and foreign films and television shows, the students also have the opportunity to travel to a Spanish or French speaking region.

In the past, Spanish students have traveled to Costa Rica and French students will be traveling to France in the summer of 2016. The trips are not organized by the San Juan school district so the classes must do all of the planning and fundraising on their own.

While in a country whose mother tongue is the students’ foreign language, students have the opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom and be fully immersed in the language and culture to put their knowledge into practice.

In a state that is becoming increasingly diverse, speaking a second language is becoming more and more valuable. Through learning Spanish or French, teachers hope that students will be better prepared and equipped to stand out in the workforce.

Through a wide range of activities, the school’s world languages program helps prepare students for the future and fosters not only the expansion of linguistic knowledge, but also a cultural immersion that lends itself to America’s reputation of being a melting pot.

For avid learners

With sights set on college, class emphasizes study skills and community service

By Garrett Gardner

Avid, a four-year course that focuses on organization, study skills, community assistance and getting into a four-year college, has been helping students through high school for years.

Participants are required to provide instructors with community service logs, participate in specialized assignments that target more difficult classes, and look over grades with teachers and counselors. On the less stressful side of things, field trips to the assortment of colleges around California give a welcome break to the work.

Junior Rocco Cable, an Avid student in his third year of the course, is grateful for the qualities that he has reaped from the class.

“I joined Avid to improve my organization skills and to mentally prepare myself for college, and I think it has done that for me,” said Cable. “I really like the camaraderie and the family aspect of the program.”

While community service may not appeal to all, the required total of 80 hours, according to Cable, isn’t as much of a burden as expected.

“The work becomes fun, as it gets us involved in great organizations,” said Cable.

The opportunities Avid provides are difficult things to find in any other class, as it specifies no particular audience and has unmistakable success in helping students. Whether it’s the instructors or the structure of the program itself, it holds the key to a four year university for many students.

One of the most raved about benefits a student receives from Avid is the great organization skills.

Jenna Tracy a junior in the Avid program said, “I have learned how to stay organized and manage my grades better.”

In Avid the students truly develop crucial skills for high school. Jackson Mullen a junior in Rio’s Avid program said, “I learned that it is good to be organized and getting off track can throw you off grade wise.”
we choose SPORTS

From soccer to wrestling, golf to football, Rio offers many sports for all different kinds of athletes. Rio has teams participating in 20 different sports, and there is something for everyone.

Rio's teams have enjoyed great success on the field, on the court, on the track, and even in the pool.

The men's varsity volleyball team won the section title and made it to the Northern California D2 Finals last year. Men's tennis also won a section title.

This year, the varsity men's water polo team finished undefeated in league and looks to defend its section title. Girls tennis is 10-0 in league. The cross country team will compete at the state level in coming weeks.

The list of league championships Rio teams have won in recent years is too long to print here. Despite drawing from a relatively small student population, Rio manages to find success.

As four-year men's varsity tennis player Daniel Franz put it, “Looking at our courts, not many would guess that we have won back-to-back Division 2 Section Championships, but we have, and Rio's teams see victories like ours all the time. Rio is always more competitive than most would expect.”

One of the best parts of competing at Rio, regardless of success, is the school spirit. Our Rowdy Raiders rally fans at sports events throughout the year. Competing with your peers behind your back makes the experience more enjoyable. “Playing on the men's varsity basketball team, I get to see the student sections at all the other Sacramento schools. The difference between Rio and anywhere else is unbelievable,” said senior athlete Adam Friedman. “We get a bigger, rowdier crowd on Tuesdays than any other local school gets on a Friday night.”

However for most student athletes, winning is not everything. Playing a sport is a way to stay in shape and challenge oneself. Sports provide an opportunity to connect with teammates.

Varsity water polo captain Meghan Shellooe said, “Playing helps me stay in shape and creates bonds with the girls on my team.”

Playing sports for Rio allows students to mesh with other students through a shared interest. With the many different sports offered at Rio, there is a chance for everyone to find one they love.
With the season coming to an end, Rio Americano boys soccer is poised for another playoff run. They have successfully secured a playoff spot and only have two games remaining.

“It is do or die now, you have got to perform your best or you go home,” said senior starting center back Daniel Franz, in reference to playoffs. “Our goal this year post league is to do our best in playoffs.”

In the past two years, Rio soccer has made it to the second round of playoffs but were knocked out. “I think we have a lot more skill and our team runs pretty deep compared to previous years,” Franz said.

Franz believes that the team has the technical skill and bench players to make it to sections. “People probably doubt us based on our history, but we can go far,” Franz said.

The team has had their fair share of success so far. “We have only lost once in regular season and we beat El Camino at their house.” Currently the team is 6-1-1 along with El Camino and Vista Del Lago, marks a three way tie for first place.

For senior Kody Gardner, baseball isn’t just a game, it’s a lifestyle. He has been playing his whole life.

“I joined a team when I was about six or so,” Gardner said. “But my dad was playing whiffle ball with me since I was two.”

Gardner’s dad has been a huge influence in his life, especially when it comes to baseball. He helped his son begin his love of baseball.

“I think my dad influenced me because he’s played baseball his whole life,” Gardner said. “He was always watching it so he introduced me to it.”

Gardner has been playing varsity baseball since he was a freshman and he enjoys every minute of it.

“We have a pretty good team, the guys are fun to hangout with and we have a fun coaching staff,” Gardner said.

Gardner has had a very successful baseball career at Rio as well.

“I made All-League freshman through junior year, and junior year I was also coleague MVP, all-city and all-state,” Gardner said.

Gardner is a shortstop and pitcher. He plans to attend California State University Sacramento next year, on a baseball scholarship. After he finishes college at Sac State, he hopes to move on to play professionally.
we choose ARTS

“I love being able to turn a pile of clay into something tangible,” said Ceramics student Phillip Adams. Rio Art classes include Beginners Art, Advanced Art, Studio Art, Ceramics, Drama, and Reader’s Theatre.

The Art program gives students an opportunity to express their creative side. Ally Taylor enjoys her ceramics class because “you have the assignment, but then you have the creative freedom to make it your own.” Studio Art student Michael Tan learns about culture and family history through his artwork. “For the Mexican Day of the Dead, my class researched our dead relatives and then made tin engravings of something that represented them,” said Michael.

In Drama and Reader’s Theatre, students can explore different characters in a unique acting experience. Reader’s Theatre actors remain seated for the entire performance, which allows the audience to focus on the acting and less on other distractions. Drama student Hannah Smith thinks that the Reader’s Theatre “experience is so unique compared to traditional theatre and it’s so amazing to watch your classmates transform into a completely different person.” Rio’s art programs gives students an opportunity to try new things and express their creativity.
By Kaia Anderson

Apart from the many other captivating courses we offer here, art is one that allows students to express themselves in a tangible way.

Julia Davis, a senior, is actively involved in her passion of art in and outside of school. She has been involved in the arts ever since she could hold a brush or pencil and plans to continue producing works of art as long as she can.

“Through taking art here, I have been able to piece together my portfolio for colleges,” Davis said. She plans to apply to colleges as an art major so she can continue pursuing her talent.

At Rio, she has taken both beginning and AP art. She has dedicated a lot of time in order to improve and through the art program, has been able to further her knowledge as well as exercise her talents in many different forms.

“Taking an art class school has given me a period where I can forget about other stresses and put my attention something soothing: my art,” Davis said.

We strive to provide a place where students can feel comfortable expressing their talents and ideas in many different forms.

Art, at any level, is a class that encourages creativity and teaches how to bring your unique style to the table, as well as techniques to enhance your work.
Work hard, play harder

By Valentina Makovey

The Rio Americano Music Program is known for its great kids, high expectations, and world class music. Students come from all over Sacramento solely for the music program and to experience being a part of the family we have created here in the band room. Everyone has a place here in Rio Band as we offer seven unique band classes to ensure that everyone has a class that suits their ability and playing style. Rio offers Honors Concert Band, Advanced Concert Band, Intermediate Concert Band, AM, PM, and FM Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Workshop, and a one of a kind Small Ensemble class where students are able to apply their creativity to original pieces of music.

Being a part of this band program automatically makes you a part of something bigger. The band takes an active role by participating in and encouraging school spirit by playing at school rallies, football games, basketball games, and “smambluches” (the small ensemble class puts together a show for students during lunch). Unlike most typical bands, our students are multi-faceted; we have cheerleaders, football players, basketball players, and Civitas students who are active members of Rio Band. We have roots all around the campus, bringing different groups together to make one, unified band.

Not only does Rio Americano’s Band program have a profound impact on the school itself but they also put their mark out in the community. This band is known across the world for it’s high quality music, traveling everywhere from Santa Cruz and New York, to Italy and Japan. For the past 35 years, band has put on the biggest fund raiser of the year, Playathon. Playathon is a 17-hour program, with music starting from early in the day to late at night and a common goal of bringing the community together to listen and participate in the making of world-class music.

1. Michael Escobar, Chris Harris, and Jefferey Peel play the trumpet, tenor saxophone, and trombone. 2. Freshmen get their turn at Playathon, playing the alto saxophone.
3. Mary McHenry plays the tenor saxophone at Playathon in the cafeteria.
4. Senior Ben Kerr plays a trumpet on the stage at lunch.
Each definition below contains the letters RIO within the word. The number of letters in the answer are in parentheses.

Example: Eager to learn something (7) Curious

1. Different kinds or sorts (7) __________________________________________

2. Having vigorous support for one's country, also a club at Rio (9) ___________

3. An acutely disturbed state of mind or the overjoyed feeling that comes from beating Jesuit (9) ____________________________

4. Unexplainable or strange (10) _______________________________________

5. Higher in rank or status, as in what Rio is to Jesuit (8) ____________________

6. There are six of them every day, except block days (7) ___________________

7. Experienced soldier or yoga pose (7) ___________________________________

8. Disturbance of the peace by a crowd (4) ________________________________

9. British goodbye or one of a breakfast cereal (7) _________________________

10. Opposite of #5 (8) __________________________________________________

11. Extremely amusing as in the Readers Theater production of "Scooby Doo" (9) ________________________________

12. Respected state Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu is an ___________ alumnus of Rio Americano. (11)

13. Exceptionally comfortable, particularly at great expense. (9) ______________

14. A bird or Baltimore baseball player (6) _________________________________

15. Wonderful, splendid and what Rio's new theater will be (8) _____________

Answers: 1) various 2) patriotic 3) delirious 4) mysterious 5) superior 6) periods 7) warrior 8) cheerio 10) Inferior 11) hilarious 12) Illustrious 13) luxurious 14) Oriole 15) Glorious
Architectural drawing show the exterior and stage of the new theater. Work on the theater will begin this summer and the theater is expected to be open before the end of next school year.
This winter the band building will be torn down and construction will begin on a new $11.9 million theater and music classroom complex.

The approximately 350-seat theater will be used for band performances, Civitas presentations and dramatic performances.

Band director Josh Murray said the construction is the culmination of many years of effort to get a theater for a program that has toured the world but never had a home of its own for performances.

Rio bands have played several times in competitions at New York’s Lincoln Center, Reno and the Monterey Jazz Festival. Only a handful of traditional neighborhood high schools in the country can match the program’s success. Now musicians will be able to show their talent on campus.

“We’ve been wanting, for over 15 years, to build a theater here at Rio because this is something that was not included in the original plans with the high school.”

Other uses for the theater were listed as Civitas speakers, class meetings and college information programs. Murray said the building will benefit the entire school. “Band would likely be using it more than anyone else, just because we have more events and performances than anyone else,” Murray said. “But it will be used by every student in the school in some way or another.”
School to get $1.5 million in renovations

The new theater is not the only improvement planned for the school. The San Juan school district will spend about $150 million on renovations to the campus in the coming year. The improvements will be funded by Measure N, the $350 million district-wide bond measure approved by voters in 2012.

PE facilities get upgrade
The physical education locker rooms will get a complete remodel next summer.

The district plans to replace all lockers and paint the facility. The improvements have been a priority of physical education teachers for years.

The changes will make the facilities safer and more inviting.

The gym floor will also be refinished and possibly replaced.

New lockers
The district has reversed its plans to remove hall lockers from the school.

Instead this summer the district will install new lockers in freshman, sophomore and junior halls.

These new lockers are in addition to the new lockers that the district will install as part of a major renovation the physical education locker rooms planned for this summer. (Lockers in the senior hall have been updated relatively recently.)

The district originally planned to take out all of the lockers to conform with the standards of most other high schools in the district where lockers have already been removed. But with all of the other improvements that will be funded Measure N, the cost of lockers was seen as relatively low.

"I personally would not have frowned upon removing the lockers," said Ginter.

Grass is (or at least it will be) greener
You could forgive Rio students of the past few years for thinking that the grass is greener on some other campus. That’s because the school let most of the lawns die to save water in California’s record drought.

But with a wet El Niño winter predicted, the school will reseed areas where students hangout and eat lunch.

“We, as a school, came to the conclusion that our campus needed some beautification,” said Principal Brian Ginter.

Freshmen Ben Baker said that “beautifying the school is a great idea.”

The school will continue to be water conscious, though.

In October, parent and student volunteers spent a Sunday beautifying the campus landscape. One of their projects was planting drought resistant plants in the front of the school.

Other improvements
Rio is scheduled from other improvements such as painting in all classrooms. Workers began installing new LED lights in...
WE CHOOSE RIO
Helping Rio Americano Shine
OneRio
@OneRioAmericano

Like us on
Follow us on
Follow us on

Become a Rio Resource!
Sign up today @ OneRio.org

Notable Alumni

1) David Kravitz (2008) - Co-Creator of Snapchat
2) Doug Ose (1973) - Former California Congressman, you’ve probably seen his signs around town.
3) Debbie Meyer (1970) - Three-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer
4) Jane Sibbet (1980) - An actress best known for playing Ross’s ex-wife, the first one, on Friends.
5) Mike Flanagan (1991) - Professional football player, who was formerly the center for the Houston Texans and the Green Bay Packers.
6) Sasha Victorine (1996) - Midfielder for the Chivas USA team of Major League Soccer.
9) Trevor Mattich (1979) - 12-year NFL lineman.
10) Patty Fendick (1983) - Professional tennis player.

Crazy for Yogurt

20% OFF Purchases of $5 or More
Some Restrictions May Apply

5150 Arden Way • Carmichael, CA 95608
4005 Manzanita Ave • Carmichael, CA 95608
10824 Olson Drive • Rancho Cordova CA 95670
RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL

1. H-Wing
2. I-Wing
3. J-Wing
4. D-Wing
5. E-Wing
6. Counseling Office
7. Theater
8. C-Wing
9. Outdoor Stage
10. Library
11. Senior Lawn
12. Main/Attendance Office
13. A-Wing
14. Cafeteria
15. B-Wing
16. P-Wing
17. Small Gym
18. Locker Room
19. Pools
20. Large Gym
21. Band Rooms
22. Student Parking
23. Tennis Courts
24. Baseball Diamond
25. Football Field
26. Soccer Field