

My Name My Story

What If We All Chose to Make a Difference?

"This club is more than just community service. It's about your intention, your motivation. My friends are inspired, and I'm giving to others." Makayla

What if we all chose to 'be the change we wish to see in the world'? MNMS Founding Leaders Christian, Ally, Simran and Makayla did just that last month when they kicked off their holiday season with "What If Week" at Esperanza High School. They partnered with ASB (Associated Student Body) and PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) at their school to pioneer a weeklong event that beautifully embodied teamwork, leadership, and service.



To begin the week, student leaders made a motivational [video](#) that introduced the school to the idea "What if" we all decided to make a difference? The video was directed and filmed by MNMS leaders and was shown by teachers at the beginning of the day. It was a call to action, asking each student to consider what a difference would be made if they each took a stand against bullying, violence, and careless decision-making.

The next day was themed "What if you really knew me?" Students were given strips of paper and asked to write down: their name, one thing they like about themselves, one thing they would like to change about themselves, and how they want to be viewed on campus. These strips were then collected and stapled into chains that were displayed all over campus, lifting campus spirit while sharing hundreds of stories!

To get the whole student body involved in this project, the MNMS @ Esperanza team held a school-wide Mix It Up Luncheon for their Wednesday activity representing the question "What if everyone knew my name?" Students were seated according to their birthdays, and so they met and talked to people they had never spoken to, despite going to school with them every day. *"You heal while helping others," Ally said. "Maybe its not your favorite memory, but it's good to share our stories because our struggles lead to togetherness."*

On Thursday, the message "Inspire Empathy" was really brought into focus with the theme "What if everyone cared?" Students were shown the music video "One Day" while writing compliments about someone they knew on mailing labels. Student leaders collected all of these labels and put them all together on a Compliment Wall that was displayed on their quad, so that everyone could read them throughout



the day.

The week closed with an assembly on texting-and-driving, urging teenagers to make the commitment to make positive choices while driving, and to encourage their friends to do the same. The MNMS team was pleased to make the trip out to Orange County to recognize the leaders or MNMS @ Esperanza for their work!



"It's an incredible feeling to know that we are making our MNMS team proud... we started a fire in the leaders of tomorrow that will help change our school, or community, and our world, even if it's just one story at a time."

Despite being such a young club, these leaders have displayed incredible drive and initiative. They began the year with a Pass a Smile Week and then used the all-inclusive MNMS model to partner with other student leaders at their school to produce a weeklong event that created unity and Inspired Empathy in their school! Keep up the great work MNMS @ Esperanza!

By Ra'idah Noohu, MNMS School Club Advisor



MNMS SPOTLIGHT

11-year-old Founding Leader Lauren of MNMS @ Viewpoint School has already done Faculty Appreciation, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and just organized an Inspire Empathy event with over 350 students in attendance!



Congratulations to MNMS @ El Camino for a successful "Pass a Smile Week" and Book Drive!



This holiday season when you give, we would like you to consider supporting My Name My Story.

Your gift will directly benefit projects and support youth leaders that Inspire Empathy in your community.

For more information on how you can create an impact in your school and community visit:

www.mynamemystory.org

Register Your MNMS School Club

Connect with MNMS
Facebook & Twitter