

In Partnership with  
NVUSD | Serving  
Grades 6–12 Since  
2008

# MARIPOSA



**Empowerment, Belonging & Leadership**  
A Napa County Office of Education Youth Development Program

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in **2010** through the Napa County Office of Education, Mariposa began as a prevention-based initiative responding to community needs around youth empowerment, leadership, and wellness.

Today, Mariposa serves approximately **150** middle and high school students annually across all NVUSD secondary sites — with each participant accessing layered and coordinated supports designed to deepen impact over time.

Mariposa provides a culturally responsive, safe space where students build confidence, strengthen identity, develop leadership skills, and feel deeply connected to school.

**At its core, Mariposa is about belonging, voice, and future readiness.**

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- Weekly 60 minute small-group sessions of 10-20 students at each site
- Sessions are held during lunch, advisory, or after school
- Runs throughout the school year + summer engagement opportunities
- Led by trained facilitators in restorative practices, trauma-informed care, and social-emotional learning
- Operates within a coordinated youth development ecosystem, allowing participants to engage in multiple reinforcing services throughout the year.

## CORE PILLARS



### HEALTHY CHOICES

Substance use prevention & peer violence awareness



### THE POWER WITHIN

Self-esteem, identity, confidence



### RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Communication, boundaries, conflict resolution



### PEER ADVOCACY

Student-led wellness & prevention campaigns

Students attend leadership conferences, spearhead school-wide prevention initiatives, and serve as role models across campus.

## WHY MARIPOSA MATTERS

### FUTURE-READY LEADERS

- **88% | Future Focused:** Reported the program helped them reflect on college and career goals.
- **87% | Student Leaders:** Feel like leaders or role models as a result of the program.
- **90% | Healthier Connections:** Learned how to form more positive relationships with others.
- **83% | Emotional Resilience:** Improved their ability to deal with stress and tough situations.

*“I learned how to be a better leader and to focus on what’s important for my future and those of people around me.”* — Mariposa Participant

## THE “BELONGING” DIFFERENCE

**86%** of Mariposa students report feeling connected to school, compared to 59% across the NVUSD student population as a whole; based on 24-25 CHKS data.

**Belonging is one of the strongest predictors of attendance, academic persistence, and mental health. Mariposa is helping close that gap.**



## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL THRIVING

- **90%** learned how to form healthier relationships
- **83%** improved their ability to deal with stress and tough situations
- **94%** reported no tobacco use in the past 30 days



*I was struggling with my emotions, and the Mariposa program helped me realize I’m not alone.*

— Mariposa student

*One thing I’ve learned, that I’m proud of, is how to say no in difficult situations.*

— Mariposa student

*The program promoted healthy choices, enhanced student self-awareness, and encouraged friendships among students who would not have sought each other out.*

— School Social Worker



# ALIGNMENT WITH NVUSD STRATEGIC GOALS



Mariposa directly advances NVUSD Goals:

- Rigorous Real World Learning Experiences
- System-Wide Approach for Family & Community Engagement

By strengthening belonging, leadership capacity, prevention education, and family engagement, Mariposa supports academic success and healthier campus climates — particularly for students who benefit most from culturally responsive mentorship and structured peer support.



## LAYERED SUPPORT MODEL: DEEPENING IMPACT THROUGH COORDINATED SERVICES

Mariposa is increasing the depth and coordination of services each participant receives. Students now access varying combinations of services based on eligibility, need, and interest. Some engage in Mariposa + TUPE + Expanded Learning; others participate in TUPE + Ballet Folklórico or additional leadership programming.

Partnerships	Mixed-Dosage, Protective Environments Students now engage in varying combinations of services, including:
<p><b>TUPE</b> (Tobacco Use Prevention Education)</p>	<p>This flexible, mixed-dosage model allows students to experience multiple protective environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepens cultural identity</li> <li>• Expands access to prevention education</li> <li>• Increases positive peer relationships</li> <li>• Reduces isolation</li> <li>• Reinforces leadership development</li> <li>• Strengthens resilience</li> </ul>
<p><b>NCOE Expanded Learning</b></p>	
<p><b>Ballet Folklórico</b> (Grupo Quetzalén)</p>	<p>Intentional Program Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69 new Mariposa student referrals from counselors, social workers for 25-26 school year.</li> <li>• 58 returning Mariposa participants from 24-25 school year</li> </ul>
<p><b>Puertas Abiertas</b> (mental health workshops)</p>	<p>The depth of impact has helped ensure high-need youth receive meaningful, sustained support.</p> 

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Mariposa partners with Puertas Abiertas and Grupo Quetzalén to extend learning beyond campus and strengthen family connections.

- Ballet Folklórico participation increased from 28 to 44 students over the last year
- Students performances provide confidence-building experiences and support leadership growth

“It was a wonderful experience for my daughter. She learned to interact with others and present herself in public with confidence. The program gave her much more security and self-confidence. — Parent

My daughter developed skills and deepened her understanding of the Hispanic culture she belongs to. — Parent

