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**NEW BEGINNINGS IN
2022**

Written by Sarah Quevedo

Dear Parents,
I hope that the new year has been treating you and your family gently. I have been meaning to introduce myself officially and keep you updated on what your student has been learning in the 8th FoodCorps classes I teach once a month. My name is Sarah (she/her/her) and I am the FoodCorps service member at SVP for 2021-2022. I graduated from UNM last year with my Bachelors degree in Chicana/o Studies and Native American Studies. In my undergrad I worked at Los Jardines Institute, a community garden, here in the South Valley. For four years I was taught by Dr. Sofia Martinez and Richard Moore about farming, environmental justice, systemic racism, and how they affect the South Valley. I hope to share the knowledge I have learned with your students so we can learn together why things like Food Justice



and Environmental Justice are important to our communities. As we know, the past few months have been difficult with many transitions happening at South Valley Prep. There is no doubt that these transitions, the pandemic, and other personal things have been affecting the students. I feel as a teacher and mentor it is important to provide a listening ear to young people so that they feel seen at the very least. Getting to know your student(s) the past 3 and a half months has been an absolute honor.



What is Food Justice?



'The Food Justice Movement works to ensure universal access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food for all, while advocating for the well-being and safety of those involved in the food production process. The movement aims to address disparities in food access, particularly for communities of color and low-income communities, by examining the structural roots of our food system. Food Justice addresses questions of land ownership, agricultural practices, distribution of technology and resources, workers' rights, and the historical injustices communities of color have faced. Food Justice is closely intertwined with environmental justice and sustainability movements.'

(Boston University)



Image by: Meredith Stern

What have the students have been learning about?

The past couple of months all three 8th grade classes have been learning about why acknowledging Indigenous lands of New Mexico is important before we talk about Food Justice. 8A had the opportunity to visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center back in October to learn about the 19 Pueblos and the culture and traditions that have continued to survive colonization. We had a Culture Share in which students brought in an item that is important to their culture. I planned this activity with hopes of helping the students to see that although we come from different cultures there are many similarities between us. I hope to take the other classes to IPCC as soon as possible. The students have also been learning about the definition of Food Justice as mentioned above. I have broken down the definition into two classes so that each class has a chance to understand each of the terms and why they are crucial in understanding the bigger picture of Food Justice. I encourage you to ask your student what they have learned so far because they are always impressing me with their thoughts during our classes. Our next couple of classes will be focused on defining Environmental Justice and how it affects the location of the school as well as the South Valley community.

I will talk to you all soon in the next newsletter. If you would like to contact me my email is:
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Best,
Sarah

