



JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

LEADING THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY



13719 White Heather Drive
Houston, TX 77045 – 4421

Katelyn Garza, MHS Agriculture
Teacher & FFA Advisor
Tel: 713-433-9801 Ext. 010256

Howdy Marlin Parents and Guardians,

I am excited to connect with each one of you throughout this year! We have many exciting things going on in the Agriculture Department. To give you all a brief introduction of myself, my name is Katelyn Garza. I teach three different agricultural science subjects at Madison including Livestock Production, Veterinary Medical Applications and Advanced Animal Science. I have shown livestock most of my life and have experience in handling and care of all sorts of animals, both small and large! I graduated from Sam Houston State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Agricultural Business. I have a blue heeler named JoDee that you may even get to meet in the classroom someday! I participated in FFA in high school and wore a blue jacket just like some of you! The FFA is one part of a 3 circle model that is used to frame the curriculum and activities for all students enrolled in an agriculture pathway course at MHS. The other two parts of the model are Classroom/Lab Instruction and SAE Projects. An SAEP or Supervised Agricultural Experience Project is an essential part of students taking the leap into finding their own passions and interests within agriculture. This project is planned, operated and documented 100% by the student with some time spent in class for me to serve in an advisory role and help them to understand how to keep accurate records of their experience. These projects are a graded component of our class although the majority of time spent completing the project takes place outside of the classroom. Each class offers unique experiences, and opportunities for projects in either Ownership/Entrepreneurship, Placement/Internship, Research, School-Based Enterprise, or Service-Learning.

In Livestock Production this year we will be utilizing grant funding from the National FFA Organization to build and operate a fully functioning poultry operation during class. The funds received will allow us to purchase building supplies for our coop, feed and supplies needed to raise 25 laying hens on campus. We are very excited to offer a great way for students to get their feet wet in the process of raising and showing livestock animals on their own. The egg laying operation will serve as a school-based enterprise where students will sell the eggs produced by their hens to local community supporters, and even get to take some home for their own use.

In the Veterinary Medical Applications Class, our students will be eligible to apply for a selective set of paid and unpaid placement opportunities to obtain hours toward their CVA licensing process. This process is comprised of 200 in class hours supervised by an Ag Science Teacher and 300 outside of class hours supervised by an LVT (Licensed Veterinary Technician) or DVM (Dr. of Veterinary Medicine). Students will receive an application the first week of school and instructions on how the process works in detail. This is a great opportunity for those interested in working in the Veterinary Industry or for those going into the Animal Science Field.

Our Senior Advanced Animal Science course is taught on a basis of 40% Lab Instruction with the other 60% of class made up of lecture or advanced animal science literacy projects. This course is an enhanced version of principles taught in previous Animal Science Pathway courses where students will receive a more in depth look at the animal science industry, breeding and genetics, animal harvesting and marketing of animal by products.

I am excited to facilitate a year of smiles, agricultural advocacy and literacy for your student! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone or email at Katelyn.garza@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,



JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

LEADING THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY



**13719 White Heather Drive
Houston, TX 77045 – 4421**

**Katelyn Garza, MHS Agriculture
Teacher & FFA Advisor
Tel: 713-433-9801 Ext. 010256**

Katelyn M. Garza