

# HERRERA SCHOOL

## FOR THE FINE ARTS AND DUAL LANGUAGE



Herrera School of Fine Arts & Dual Language is a preschool through grade eight school that focuses on academic achievement with a special focus on fine arts and language. Students have the opportunity to engage in dance, drama, choral music, instrumental music, visual arts and physical education. The fine arts enrich and expand the academic experience.

The school radiates with a welcome feeling that respects the balance of creativity and academic performance. Students express and present their creative talents on stage throughout the year.

In addition to the focus on fine arts, students are engaged in each of the core subject areas. Students at Herrera achieve academic, artistic and linguistic success.

With the grand opening of the Herrera Performing Arts Center in October of 2010, the students and staff of the school look forward to moving their program to new heights. The Center was designed by ADM Group and the construction was lead by RY-TAN Construction. The Center boasts over 26,000 square feet for a combination auditorium/gymnasium, four classrooms for dance, drama, music and band, a fly-loft, stagecraft area, ticket booth, raised control booth and a stage with complete

rigging. The building will be Gold Certified with the United States Green Building Council under the LEED for schools criteria. This incredible facility enables the school to further their unique programs in the performing arts for the students of Herrera.



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### Silvestre S. Herrera 1917 - 2007



Herrera was born in the Mexican city of Camargo, Chihuahua, and not, as he once believed, in El Paso, Texas. His parents died when he was only a year old, and the man he

had always thought was his father was really an uncle who had brought the 18-month old Herrera to El Paso to provide him with a better way of life in the United States. This fact was unknown to him until he was 27 years old. Herrera worked as a farm hand in El Paso. He soon moved to Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Ramona and three children, Mary, Elva, Silvestre, Jr. and the uncle he believed to be his father. Herrera was a member of the Texas National Guard, 36th Division. When the United States entered World War II, his unit was to be one of the first to land in Europe. When he broke the news to his family, he was told the truth about his parents' death and his place of birth.

On March 15, 1945 Herrera's unit found itself engaged in combat in a forest in the vicinity of Mertzwiller, France. His platoon came under heavy enemy fire from the woods, forcing most of the men to seek cover. Herrera charged the enemy stronghold and ended the threat, resulting in his single-handed capture of eight enemy soldiers.

Later that same day, his platoon came under fire and was attacked by a second enemy stronghold. The platoon found itself pinned down and the situation was difficult because there was a mine field between the platoon and the enemy. Herrera entered the mine field with the intention of attacking the enemy stronghold while drawing enemy gunfire away from his comrades. A mine exploded and shattered his leg. Then another mine exploded, severing his good leg below the knee. Herrera continued to fire upon the enemy with his own rifle, an act which allowed the members of his platoon to skirt the mine field and capture the enemy position.

As Herrera lay in the Army hospital recovering from his wounds, President Truman was not sure that Herrera would be well enough for a formal presentation of the Medal of Honor. However, on August 23, 1945, Silvestre wheeled his wheel chair across the White House lawn so that the President could present him with his award.