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# Taking a look at new FHS ag teachers



**Mrs. Correia and Mr. Torres**

New Year, New Beginning is the famous saying. Well this year, our chapter is definitely a new beginning to the officers, students, and staff, two in particular. This year, our program has two amazing new ag teachers. They are Mrs. Correia and Mr. Torres.

Mrs. Correia is teaching Ag Earth Science this year. On her personal time, Mrs. Correia enjoys watching her boys play baseball and going hunting. When Mrs. Correia was in high school herself, she was involved of course in the FFA, 4-H, academic decathlon, and played softball.

Now, it's not an everyday thing when you meet someone with FFA history. Mrs. Correia was a chapter officer her four years in high school and was also the regional vice president for the South Coast Region. Her freshman year, she was the sentinel and the rest of her three years, she was the vice president. After high school, she attended

California Polytechnic State University, aka Cal Poly, and was apart of the FFA through CFFA, or in other words, Collegiate FFA. There she would help set up for sectional and regional meetings. She even helped at state conference because state conference used to be at Cal Poly instead of Fresno.

Mrs. Correia knew she wanted a career in agriculture and part of her influence to become an ag teacher was her old ag teacher, Steve DeRose. After college, she taught ag and then later became a 5th grade teacher. I asked her, "Why did you decide to come back?" She responded, "I wanted to get back to my dream career of being an ag teacher. The ag department has amazing students which I am ready to work with and help to cultivate future leaders." Her goal for the year is to get as many students involved in the FFA as possible and to make connections with some of the more established FFA members.

Mr. Torres is this year's ag mechanics teacher. He grew up here in Firebaugh and attended Firebaugh High School. He graduated from high school and then attend California State University, Fresno.

During his time at Firebaugh High School, Mr. Torres was also a part of the FFA program and did it all four years. He had swine projects specifically two per year. Besides FFA, Mr. Torres was also involved in many sports. He was safety freshman year on JV and the rest of his years on varsity also as safety. He was also on varsity baseball all four years, as well as participating in wrestling.

One of his influences to become involved in the FFA was his old FFA teacher, Mrs. Sisil, who is now actually an administrator in the Madera Unified School District. He also states that Coach Mag was a very big influence in his life. He decided to teach here at Firebaugh High School because it was a way of growing in the community and form of giving back leverage of understanding of what it was like to be a student at FHS.

On his personal time he likes to workout and go for runs. He says, "I like running here in town because in the city you don't get to see the beautiful sunsets, something we take for granted." Mr. Torres plans to stay in Firebaugh and return to teach next year.

We are very excited to have them here at our FFA program and can't wait to see what we all accomplish as well as, the memories made.

## Ice cream social

Every year the Firebaugh FFA hosts a special meeting at the beginning of the year to welcome incoming FFA members, the chapter's Greenhands. It something we like to call the Greenhand Ice Cream Social. This meeting enables the freshman to familiarize themselves about how our monthly meetings are run, and all the opportunities FFA has to offer them.

At this meeting, we also showed them a few videos of seniors who have been in the FFA program and they watched as they explained why they got involved in the FFA program. But it wasn't just all about the information; after that, we played minute to win it games and at all the games, had no trouble with getting people to participate.

Now that the games were over, and everyone having learned something new, it was time for some ice cream.

Earlier that day, Greenhand officer applications went out, but not many got one. After attending the meeting, a lot of them would ask, "Do you guys still have applications?" Hearing this question over and over again was just incredible.

Its amazing to know that they are willing to become leaders in the FFA and made us officers very glad to see future leaders grow in our program here at Firebaugh High School.

**By Paola Gonzalez  
Firebaugh FFA**