

AND SHE JUST CALLS ME MAMA

Janessa Madera '22 raises daughter Leilani while finishing high school requirements

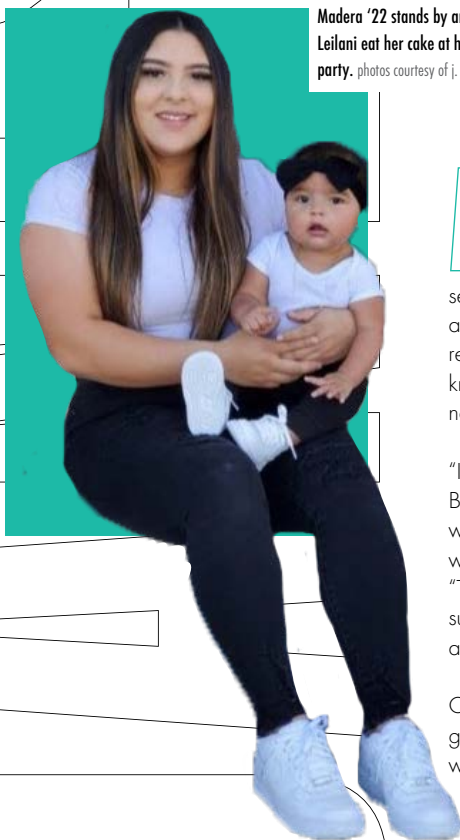
design & story by t. qourles



JANESSA MADERA '22

"When I found out I was pregnant, I was terrified because I had to figure out how to be a mother so young. But, as the months passed, the fear turned into joy, and I can't imagine my life without my daughter."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Janessa Madera '22 stands by and watches Leilani eat her cake at her first birthday party. photos courtesy of j. madero



AS JANESSA MADERA '22 STARED AT THE PREGNANCY TEST,

she was shocked to see it was positive. At 16 and a sophomore, she feared the reaction of her parents, but knew she had to break the news to them.

"I was terrified to tell them. Being my mom and dad, they were shocked and surprised with the news," Madera said. "They were so helpful and supportive over the pregnancy and my choice to have her."

On December 17, Madera gave birth to Leilani. She was a virtual-only student her junior year, so she was able to be at home with her

Leilani while going to school during the pandemic. Being a mom at a young age hasn't stopped Madera from being a teenager. She found a balanced schedule of being a teenager but also a mother.

Madera got up at 5 a.m. so she could get herself ready and then Leilani at 6:30 a.m. Then, she would drop her off at a babysitter to go to school.

"There are some days where I have to work at Walmart after school, so I'll drop her off at home with my parents. On those days, I make sure I'm home in time to get her ready and into bed, and the cycle may change depending on the day," Madera said.

"Even with the baby now, I still try to be a teenager, whether it's going to football games or parties with my friends. I'm still able to have fun but also go back home after the night ends and take care of my daughter."

According to Madera, she wouldn't change a thing about being a teen mom. Being young herself, she can grow up with her daughter.

"My favourite part about being a mom is watching her grow up and how she changes over time. She just had her first birthday. I love watching her become a person. I love her so much," Madera said.



DULCE CARBAJAL ESQUIVEL
SARAH CARDILLO FFA 9-10, Girls Soccer 9-12, Student Government 9-12, Young Life 9-12
CHRISTINA CASTANEDA
IRMA CASTRO MENDOZA
ROMINA CHAPARRO

ISAIAH CHATMAN
ADAM CHAVEZ AVID 9-12, AVID Extended Family 12, HOSA 11-12, LINK 11-12, NHS 11-12, Talent Search 11-12, Track & Field 9-10
PEDRO CHAVEZ
ANAY CHAVEZ GRIJALVA
KRIZETH CHAVEZ-CARRILLO

RYAN CINTORA
MAXSON CISNEROS
MICHAEL CLARK
ABBY CLINTON
KAIDEN COCHRANE

CHANDLER RAY CONNER
AIDEN CONNOR DECA 10
JOSEPH CONTE
NALLELY CORREA DURAN
KAYLE CORWIN

CASSIAH COSTIGAN Student Government 10-12, Track & Field 9-12
BRITTANY COVARRUBIAS DIAZ
BRIANNA CRANMER
KEILA CRESPO-SALGADO
ASHLEY CRUZ AEF 12, AVID 9-12, Girls Tennis 9, HOSA 11-12, LINK 11-12, NHS 11-12, VOIHC 12

NATHAN CRUZ
FRANCISCO CRUZ GONZALEZ
ANNIKA CUNNINGHAM DECA 9-12
NOAH DAVENPORT
JAMES DAVIS

IF YOUR LIFE WAS A MOVIE, WHAT ACTOR WOULD PLAY YOU?

NATHAN CRUZ '22

"I really love Megan Fox, so I would want her to play me in a movie. I like her acting and I think she can tell my life story really well."

TAYLOR WEBER '22

"I would want Adam Sandler to play me. We literally have the same fashion sense, just big shorts and shirts. I love his movies. I think he's hilarious."

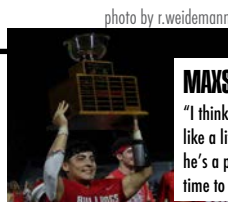


photo by r.weidemann

MAXSON CISNEROS '22

"I think I would have Paul Rudd be me. He's like a little bit funny in an un-ironic way and he's a pretty brave guy. He knows when it's time to be serious or not."

FIONA MACKENDRICK '22

"I would want Tara Strong, she's a voice actor and plays Timmy Turner. She's so fun and I think that she can get into every character. She brings her roles to life."



photo by t.qourles

LEAH DAY '22

"I love Jennifer Aniston, so I think I would want her to play me in a movie of my life. We have like a similar hair color and have similar characteristics."

ANAHÍ BACA-CHAVEZ '22

"I want Steve Carell to play me. The Office is one of my favorite shows, and I love him as Michael Scott. I think we're both pretty funny."

CONNOR BROWN '22

"I would want Kevin Hart to be me. He's so funny and I think I'm pretty funny. In contrast he's like 5'2 and I'm 6'2 so we're a foot apart. I think that would be so funny."



photo by t.qourles

OUR PEOPLE WILL CONVINCE YOU
 LIFE CHANGES AND SO DO WE
 Janessa Maestas, Seniors