

SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL

A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED AND GOLD RIBBON SCHOOL



Celebrating over 146 years of academic excellence to our community

Dr. Kimberly Johnson-Clissold
Principal

Andy Lieberman
Vice Principal

Norma Vasquez
Assistant Principal

Isaac Estrada
Assistant Principal

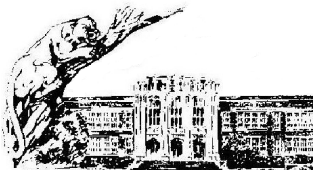
November 18, 2021

Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education:

It is our distinct pleasure to recommend the naming of Santa Rosa High School's track in honor of Coach Doug Courtemarche. Mr. Courtemarche was a coach and mentor for over 25 years, far longer than most other coaches have served at Santa Rosa High. But it is not only his length of tenure, but the impact he made on thousands of students in that time that makes us want to honor him. His role, both on the field and off, was awe inspiring, and he not only affected the students here, but he was an acknowledged leader to the whole community by assisting other track and field programs throughout Northern California.

Generations of students have come through Doug's program, and his impact has been large. Mr. Courtemarche had to regularly ask the school for more uniforms, since his teams drew in so many students, often as many as 90 at a time. Successful programs are built on caring and respect, and students, many of whom never competed before, were drawn to the SRHS track and field program because they knew they were in an environment where they could safely take risks, trying their best at something, and Doug rewarded and encouraged them for their efforts. Coach Courtemarche honored all comers, and regardless of whether they were at the top of the team or not, he always had a smile and a positive comment for every competitor. His teams were so large because he made it fun and rewarding.

Other coaches in the area regularly turned to Coach Courtemarche; in fact, when looking at other teams in the area, you will find that many schools model their practices on the track and field program at Santa Rosa High. He helped foster a cooperative spirit among the coaches, and though they were competitors on race day, they worked together to make sure that all the students were supported. That communal energy came from Doug. In addition, he took the time to help and lead community running clubs. His energy is contagious, and track and field is so



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popular in the whole community partly because of his efforts. Perhaps that is why the invitational meet he created, the “Big Cat”, still draws in over 800 competitors from nearly 25 teams, which has helped put SRHS “on the map” of great track and field schools.

He is more than deserving of this honor. Our committee, made up of Santa Rosa High school teachers, administrators, students, coaches, parents, alumni, and community members, recommend Mr. Doug Courtemarche for this honor without reservation.

Yours.

Kimberly Clissold
Principal SRHS

Brad Coscarelli
Former Principal SRHS
Panther Athletic Boosters

Issac Estrada
Asst. Principal SRHS

Mike Grace
SRHS 1965
SRHS Foundation Founder
Panther Athletic Boosters

Art Horner
Teacher SRHS
SRHS Foundation Liaison

Lisa Piehl
Teacher SRHS
Student Body Advisor
Agriculture Dept.

Bryan Price
Teacher SRHS
Athletic Director

Kassidy Schroth
Student SRHS
Track and Field Captain