

The Montgomery AVID classes/ club would like to take all AVID students to Reno, NV to tour the University of Nevada at Reno and understand the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program. **Our departure date is Monday, March 6, returning Tuesday, March 7.**

Many MHS AVID students apply to the University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) each year. UNR offers a bevy of unimpacted programs that students have difficulty applying to in California due to impaction. Since the pandemic, the emphasis on post-secondary education has declined as institutions focus more on “learning loss”. However, asking students to keep an eye on their future is equally important.

Touring UNR is an opportunity for students to understand that colleges out-of-state should also be considered. As it is within a four-hour drive, UNR is as viable as Humboldt, UCSC, or Fresno. The student population diversity closely matches the colleges and universities that our students apply to each year. UNR has an 88% acceptance rate and an 80% freshmen retention rate adding to its attractability. It boasts a bevy of Health Sciences & Services, biology, psychology, and business majors. Our trip will begin at MHS and we will drive straight to Reno, stopping for a tour and lunch at Sacramento State University. Students will have a 90-minute guided tour of Sac State. We then plan to stay at the Best Western in Sparks. We are specifically choosing this hotel because of its lack of a casino and proximity to UNR. As we are maintaining a student-to-chaperone ratio of 9:1, we plan to attend the Midtown Reno together for dinner and shopping (weather depending). If we experience inclement weather, we will dine and shop at the outlets at Legends in Sparks. After breakfast at the hotel the next morning, we are going straight to UNR and will attend a 90 minutes tour of their campus. Afterward, they will attend a financial aid presentation explaining how to take advantage of the WUE. UNR is the closest out-of-state university to take place in this tuition reduction program. For many of our students, staying close to home is very important, however, the more immediate programs suffer impaction. So, seeing a university that offers both tuition reduction and program availability is a critical opportunity for our AVID students. Upon our return, students will be asked to compare the two and discuss the many pros and cons of each institution.