

**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: MVLA Announces Teacher of the Year, Leo Florendo of Freestyle Academy

**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 2:42:57 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** Isnard, Carole



Contact: Dr. Barry Groves, Mountain View Los Altos High School District  
(650) 940-4669 [Barry.Groves@mvla.net](mailto:Barry.Groves@mvla.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 24, 2015**

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## **MVLA Announces Teacher of the Year, Leo Florendo of Freestyle Academy**

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA – Leo Florendo of Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts and Technology was named this year’s Teacher of the Year for the Mountain View Los Altos High School District. He will be honored at the annual Santa Clara County Office of Education’s Teacher of the Year celebration to be held at the Heritage Theater in Campbell on October 1. The Teacher Recognition Celebration is the oldest and largest celebration of teachers in California, representing the most prestigious local award given to classroom teachers who have been selected by their respective school districts.

Leo is the Program Coordinator and also the WebAudio Teacher at Freestyle Academy (<http://www.freestyleacademy.rocks>), an alternative program for Junior and Senior students in the Mountain View Los Altos High School District. In 2006, Leo and three Freestyle Staff members helped to establish, develop and grow the unique integrated and technology leveraged project-based curriculum that challenges students in a non-traditional method to combine their creativity with

modern technology to produce sophisticated digital media productions such as websites, podcasts, blogs, animatics, animations, storyboards, screenplays, digital and acoustic music productions, documentary and narrative films, music videos, books, magazines, photographic art, and illustrated art. At Freestyle, they believe passion drives success. They also believe 21st Century communication skills with and without technology are necessary for success in any workplace, organization or institution. They believe that school should be a fun and rewarding place to learn these skills. In essence, Freestyle Academy provides students a unique, relevant and challenging, but fun opportunity to find or enhance an artistic/technical passion and develop their communication skills that are applicable to most any field of study or work.

Leo has been a teacher at Freestyle Academy since its inception in 2006 and Program Coordinator since 2011. Leo is also the System Administrator for Freestyle Academy managing all 70 Apple Computers and servers of various models and is the school Webmaster. Leo is proud of his work at Freestyle Academy. He has two children, a nine year old girl, and a nine year old program named Freestyle Academy. Examples of student work are viewable at <http://www.freestyleacademy.rocks/galleries>

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