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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know staff has access to emergency information and updates?

Staff Hotline for Emergency Announcements and Updates:  
(951) 92-ALERT (922-5378)

*(Please note this line is not monitored)*



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# District Newsletter

## THE "SUPE'S" ON...



### Superintendent's Message by Grant Bennett



The Perris Union High School District believes that our students deserve a world-class education and that we must provide a variety of opportunities for them to succeed in today's changing world. In recent years, we have undertaken great efforts in planning and implementing innovative and relevant programs to increase student success and achievement. It is the people within the District that make these innovative programs possible and successful. Our students benefit from the expertise of our teaching staff and classified staff alike.

At the forefront of these endeavors, the District created the Scholar+ teaching and learning initiative. This initiative provides Chromebooks to all students, tablets to teachers, the use of a robust Learning Management System (LMS) for teachers to post course content and for students to learn, interact, collaborate, submit work, take assessments, and create innovative projects. With our I:1 program, we offer opportunities for students in and out of school as students take the devices home daily including summer. The Scholar+ program also laid the groundwork for the creation of makerspaces and new computer science/engineering programs using the Code.org and Project Lead the Way framework.

The District is committed to college and career readiness. We have greatly expanded its offerings of Dual Enrollment college credit courses and Advanced Placement courses. The District is committed to its large AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program and promotes AVID teaching and learning strategies. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides a vehicle alter-

ative to some District students and the District has added new, high quality CTE programs such as the Automotive Technology program at Paloma Valley High.

The District has greatly expanded and modernized facilities with Measure T funded construction projects. More than simply providing space for future growth, the wide-ranging projects have been planned to accommodate collaborative learning spaces with cutting-edge STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) facilities.



- ✓ June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Perris Lake Graduation  
@ Perris High Stadium – 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Pinacate - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
@ Perris High Stadium – 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Perris High Graduation  
@ Perris High Stadium – 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ June 8<sup>th</sup>  
Paloma Valley Graduation  
@ Paloma Valley Stadium – 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ June 9<sup>th</sup>  
California Military Institute – Graduation  
@ Rough Rider Field – 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Heritage High Graduation  
@ Heritage High Stadium – 6:00 p.m.

# Educational Services by Dr. Marilyn Saucedo, Assistant Superintendent

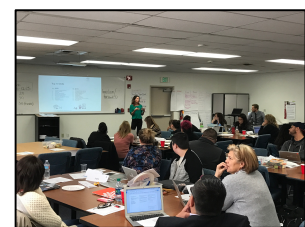


## Educational Services

The District's vision and mission are standard and critical elements of our strategy. As such, they need to be revisited periodically to ensure that they continue to align with our values and objectives. Beginning in the fall, we began the work of redefining our district vision and mission by conducting research through feedback from our educational partners: students, parents, and staff.

With assistance from the University of San Diego Mobile Learning Technology Center (USD/MTLC) and to develop a comprehensive understanding of our core values, our purpose, and our needs, a 360 Needs Assessment was conducted. This assessment is a research-based tool designed to examine seven factors that influence the effectiveness of our current systems and impact of the desired student outcomes. The factors assessed include vision, systems, pedagogy, community resources, strategy, physical resources, and human capital.

Feedback was solicited through surveys, interviews, and classroom observations. To assist in analyzing the results, we created a committee from each of the educational partner groups. Participants on this Vision and Mission Cross-Sector Committee included parents, students, Perris Secondary Educators Association (PSEA), California School Employees Association (CSEA), school site administrators, and Cabinet. The committee dedicated two days to analyzing of the research data and developing drafts of vision and mission statements based on feedback and input from the assessment.

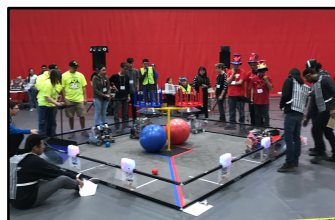


Based on the work of the Vision and Mission Cross-Sector Committee, two draft vision and mission statements will be presented to the Board of Trustees in March for final selection. Next steps include creating value statements and building graduate profiles also based on results from the 360 Needs Assessment.

We would like to thank our parents, students, PSEA, CSEA, and administrators for giving of their time and input to this process.

## What is FIRST Tech Challenge? It's way more than building robots

The District's *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. Students call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have!" Guided by adult Coaches and Mentors, students develop STEM (Science,



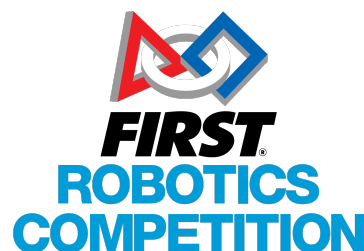
Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills and practice engineering principles (like keeping an engineering notebook), while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. The robot kit is reusable

from year-to-year and can be programmed using a variety of languages, including Java. Teams also raise funds, design and market their team brand, and do community outreach for which they can win awards. Students have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships. Each season concludes with Super-Regional Championships and an exciting *FIRST* Championship.

Perris has been participating with FTC for five years now and has grown from 3 teams to 15, with over 150 students participating district wide. Every year our teams compete in hopes to make it to the World Championship in May. On February 4th, teams across the district competed in the League tournament resulting in 10 of our teams advancing to quarterfinals- LA/SoCal Regional Championship!



The advancing teams compete in Monrovia, February 26th and they are: 7832-Gear Gurus (HHS); 7835-Victrix Aedifex (CMI); 6371-Machine Kings (HHS); 9433-Twisted Metal (HHS); 6372-Patriotic Robotics (HHS); 5827-Robo Hazard; 6179-Titan Apex; 9431-Elemental Madness (PHS); 7831-Titan (HHS), 8635; and 9432- Blood Sweat & Gears (HHS).





### Facilities Update February 2017

The best day for any school construction project is the first day the facilities are opened and occupied by students. This milestone happened recently at Perris High School where another step in the campus-wide transformation occurred with the

opening of the new two-story classroom building as part of the Phase 2A project. Students and staff know this building as the 4000 building which opened on January 9th, when everyone returned from the Holiday Break. The 4000 building is the final part of the 2A project which also included a new Boys and Girls Locker Building, and a Satellite Kitchen which had previously opened in August of this school year. The 4000 building includes 16 new classrooms which house Media Arts, Ceramics, Photography, Yearbook, Medical Assisting, ASB, Art and Drama classrooms, as well as a new teacher work room and a collaboration room. Construction of the 2A Project began in 2015 and is the first part of the plan to replace the buildings which used to exist in the center of campus. A total of 13 buildings, originally built in 1962, were demolished to make way for Phase 2. Completion of Phase 2A is a major step in transforming Perris High into a new, modern campus that our students, staff and community can be proud of for many years to come.



Those who have been to the Perris High campus know that construction for Phase 2B is well underway. Phase 2B includes a new cafeteria/student union (formerly called a multipurpose room), new state of the art kitchen facilities, engineering classrooms, a full auto shop as well as a new home for the Perris High

ROTC Program. Construction of Phase 2B began in spring of 2016 and is expected to be completed during the summer of 2018.

Along with the construction of Phase 2B, construction of what will be the new home of the Perris High Agriculture Program. The Perris Agriculture Center for Excellence (PACE) project includes a two-story building that is located across from the Boys and Girls Locker room towards the sports fields. Included in the PACE building are Ag classrooms, Ag laboratory facilities, a Floral program classroom as well as an upstairs terrace with planters. Construction on the PACE Building is also scheduled for completion during the summer of 2018.

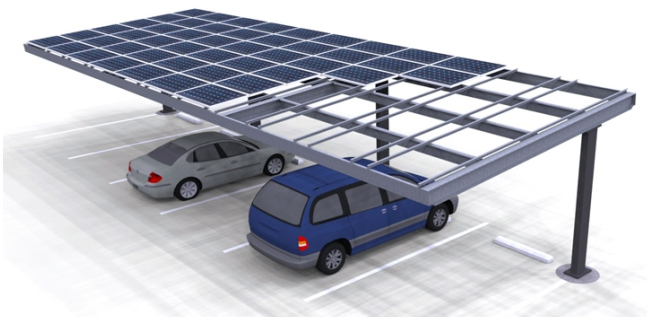
Perris High School is not the only campus that is undergoing changes. Paloma Valley High School is set to undergo construction on two projects to expand the learning opportunities on campus. Currently in the design and planning stage is an expansion of the facilities that house the Auto Shop Program. This project will include alterations to the existing facility that will allow the program to grow and provide opportunities for students to work with full size vehicles. Equipment such as a vehicle lift, tire rotation machine, brake lathe, and other equipment associated with vehicle repair will be installed as part of this project. Paloma will also see the addition of a 2,400 square foot Career Technical Education classroom/shop building.



This building will be located on the east edge of campus next to the C Building across from the current auto shop. The Auto Shop project will be completed for an August 2017 opening and the CTE Classroom/shop project is scheduled for opening during 2nd semester of the 2017-18 school year.

### Solar Project

Finally, as a reminder, as part of our Solar Project, solar arrays in the form of carports are scheduled to be installed in the parking lots at our school sites beginning as early as late April. The District's Facilities Department will provide an update on the construction schedule once it is finalized and will work with each site to ensure minimal impact to the learning environment during construction.





### Digital Content Aligned to Curriculum

In the fall of 2013, the District started rolling out Chromebooks to students as part of the Scholar+ Teaching and Learning Initiative. Under our Scholar+ plan, we had been upgrading and expanding WiFi, implementing a Learning

Management System (LMS), and providing teachers access to mobile technology tools. Getting devices in the hands of students was the first big step in our goal to provide easier access to digital content that is aligned to our curriculum.

Last year and this year, Subject Area Councils and Curriculum Committees have been evaluating digital resources and working hard to provide rich and engaging material to increase student achievement. Below is a list of these programs.

Content Area(s)	Vendor	Program
Middle School ELD	HMH	English 3D
Middle School Core ELA (pilot)	McGraw Hill	Study Syne
Middle School Core ELA (pilot)	HMH	Collections
EL/RFEP Progress Monitoring	HMH	Reading Inventory
ELA Reading Intervention	HMH	Read 180
High School ELD	Cengage/Nat Geographic	EDGE
Spanish	Vista Higher Learning	Supersite
ELD	Rosetta Stone	Rosetta Stone
Middle School Math	Pearson	Envision 2.0
Middle School Math	McGraw	My Math
High School Math	Pearson	HS Math
High School Math	McGraw	Glencoe
English and Math	Educational Testing Service	SBAC Interim and Summative Assmts.

The Information Technology Services Department understands that implementing new programs can bring some uncertainty. We also know that there are always bugs to work out on each program and we are here to serve. Our techs pride themselves on being able to be in your classrooms and see firsthand what issues or items need to be worked through. Please make sure that you reach out to the Tech HelpDesk to resolve issues or even to just ask questions. The Technology HelpDesk can be reached via email at [helpdesk@puhsd.org](mailto:helpdesk@puhsd.org) or phone at ext. 80250. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, enthusiasm, and all of your hard work to help students succeed.



The Human Resources Department is ramping up for the busiest time of year for our department. Recruiting quality employees for our vacancies is a high priority for the entire HR team. We have created a Twitter account to add another layer of marketing to our recruitment efforts. Please help us get our message out by sharing these posts with

your professional network as well.

### Certificated Staffing for 2017-18

By the time you read this, we will have posted teacher eligibility pools for the 2017-18 school year. In the midst of the worst teacher shortage since the 1990's, it is important to get out in the recruitment waters as soon as possible. As we seek to fill teaching positions, I ask you to share any of our vacancies with other professionals you know who would love to work for the District. We are proud to offer unlimited years of service and 1:1 technology for both staff and students. What better way to highlight the great work that we do here in the District than by encouraging others to join our team of committed professionals!

### Parental Leave

Effective January 1, 2017, all employees are eligible for parental leave under AB 2393. Parental leave replaces all references to maternity and paternity leave and is defined as "leave for reason of the birth of a child of the employee, or the placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the employee." This new leave allows employees to use sick leave during parental leave for up to 12 workweeks during any 12-month period. Please contact Brenda Arenas if you have any questions about leaves at x80303.

The HR staff is committed to our most important tasks of recruiting, training and retaining high quality staff. If we can help you with anything, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Pictured from left: Helene Astorga, Personnel Technician; Brenda Arenas, Confidential Secretary; Juno Fernandez, Personnel Technician; Mayra Chavez, Administrative Assistant; Anjanette Bargas, Senior Clerk and Sharon Cortez, Receptionist.