

Perris Union High School District
Newsletter

THE "SUPES" ON.....



October 2015

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

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Superintendent's Message

by Dr. Jonathan L. Greenberg



OK, I must admit in advance that I am a very proud Superintendent, and who wouldn't be? We have a great District in which we provide 21st Century curriculum opportunities delivered by teachers who are constantly challenging themselves and their colleagues to find new and creative ways to reach all of our students using today's latest technology. None of what our teachers are accomplishing could have happened without the help and assistance of a talented and caring support staff. In other words, it does take a village.

Our students have done reasonably well on standardized tests for a number of years. Now, we are in the Common Core era, in which students are being tested not on how much they know, but how they apply, analyze, and solve real world problems. While we believe we have been on the right track, like everyone else we were (are) concerned on how well our students would fare on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. So, while we have a lot of data that will help guide curriculum, instruction, course offerings, and professional development, how did our students do as a group on last spring's assessment?

As most of you know, standardized assessments (even the new Smarter Balanced ones) are a zip code directory to student achievement. In other words, you would expect Temecula, Murrieta, and other affluent communities to do better than lower socioeconomic communities with high percentages of English Learners, and that's exactly what happened.

Yet, a closer look at the data reveals some incredible information. As a District, we are ranked 17th in the County out of the 23 Districts in terms of the percentage of students in poverty and parent education. Based on my previous statement that standardized testing is a zip code directory to student achievement, you would expect us to be 17th in the County on Language Arts and Mathematics on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The 2015 testing indicates that at 11th Grade, our students were sixth in Language Arts and seventh in Mathematics. In other words, our students are achieving significantly more than anyone would expect.

While none of us are satisfied, the data indicates we are on the right track. It validates sound instruction focusing more on what students can do and less on what they can memorize. It validates our 1:1 technology implementation, AVID implementation District-wide, teachers using technology as a tool to increase student engagement, and on-going professional development, mostly delivered by our own staff. Finally, it validates our on-going focus on collaboration and Professional Learning Communities. We fully expect that our District-wide Wednesday collaboration time will improve instruction, which will result in increased student achievement, increased graduation rates, and, most importantly, make school more relevant for our students whether they are going to college, entering the military, or securing jobs in the 21st Century.

Thank you for doing your part to make all of this happen!

Educational Services

by Grant Bennett, Assistant Superintendent



Kick Off to College

October 14, 2015 marked the first annual Perris Union High School District Kickoff to College event. Students in all grade levels from all schools participated in activities that focused on preparing students to be college and career ready. Our students' college and career readiness is more important now than ever before. Approximately 90 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in this country require post-secondary training. The benefits of educational achievement directly translate not only into meaningful careers, but also into higher future incomes for our students. For these reasons, it is one of the top priorities in the Perris Union High School District to ensure that ALL students graduate ready for college and/or the 21st Century workforce.

Bringing awareness to our students about college and career readiness is the motivation for this District-wide event. It is imperative

that our students have the knowledge and tools to navigate their way through the many career paths and college choices that are available to them as they transition into young adults. There is not one single path that suits every student. We want to ensure that every student has a plan for success upon completion of high school. This means we will continually engage students in activities that expose them to the tools and resources available that support planning for their future.

On the day of the event, students in all grade levels participated in specific activities that prepare them for post high school success. Below are listed the activities that took place for each grade level. We are excited to have this opportunity to bring focus and awareness to our students about the importance of preparing for their future!

7th & 9th Grade Students

- College and Career Interest Research Assignment
- 4-year Plan (9th grade)
- 6-year Plan (7th grade)

8th & 10th Grade Students

- PSAT-Preliminary SAT
- College and Career Interest Research Project

11th Grade Students

- PSAT-Preliminary SAT
- College and Career Interest Research Project
- CTE Certificate Program Presentations
- Military Opportunity Presentations
- Community Member Career Presentations

12th Grade Students

- UC/CSU Applications
- Community College Applications
- US Prompt Writing
- Financial Aid/FSA ID
- Scholarship Applications
- Military Opportunity Presentations
- Practice College Entrance Assignments

HUMAN RESOURCES

by Steve Swartz, Assistant Superintendent



Apart from the 2013-14 year which brought in the advent of 1:1 Technology, this year brings in a significant shift in the "way we do business" in the Perris Union High School District.

All this was accomplished through the collaborative efforts of each of the bargaining units at the table as we worked through the mandates of increased funding tied into providing direct services to students. Through those collaborative efforts, a historic increase in employee compensation was tied into providing increased opportunities for our students with the addition of instructional minutes and a 7th period day.

A by-product of that increase to the student day and the additional period was, of course, the hiring of additional staff to provide these opportunities. On the certificated side alone we have either hired, or are still in the process of hiring, 22 new positions. All together, we have 66 certificated staff who are either new to the district, or are in new positions due to promotions or transfers.

While these changes bring about wonderful opportunities, they will also bring about challenges; challenges that we will work through together. Through this process, we always need to keep in mind that all of us don't work through changes in the same way, and certainly not at the same speed. This is true with other staff members, our students, parents, and the community we serve. Awhile back a wise person shared something with me the following story that I hope will put a smile on your face when you are having to deal with someone who may be challenging to you, and perhaps you will recognize like I did that, at times, I could be on either side of this.

Law of the Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport.

We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And, I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck".

He explained, "I used to drive a garbage truck. Now I find that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it; and sometimes they'll dump it on you, me, or anybody that is nearby. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets."

"The bottom line is: successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets; so love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't."

The story concludes with:

Life is ten percent of what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a garbage-free day (year)!

Business Services

by Candace Reines, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

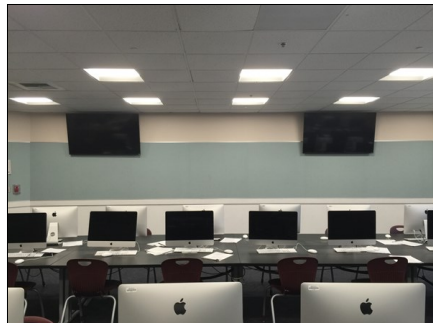


Innovative Facilities and Classroom Spaces

Perris Union High School District is an innovative district and is fostering and leading a change in culture in which digital learning and tools are available to help drive improvement. This change can be seen on our campuses in which teachers are transforming education through innovative lesson design and delivery where students are actively engaged in developing critical thinking skills and higher order thinking. PUHSD has lead the way in the region with Scholar+ and our 1:1 initiative and this same dedication is evident in the direction of our innovative facilities and classroom spaces.

STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) is gaining traction at PUHSD. Great programs deserve great facilities that contribute to student achievement. At Paloma Valley, the "B" building has undergone reconfiguration to support instructional programs. Digital photography classes have a fully functional lab to include flat panel monitors to display vibrant images, engineering classes have both a flexible classroom space and manufacturing space, a dedicated engineering computer lab has been outfitted in the



building, and a new art classroom was configured. This STEAM wing at PVHS has an interesting arrangement in which classes like ceramics and art are adjacent to engineering and manufacturing. These innovative spaces that commingle science, technology,

engineering and art affirm that the arts have a clear place in engineering and technology coursework.

Makerspaces

Alongside STEAM education follows Making in Education and Makerspaces. Makerspaces, Hackerspaces, Tinkerspaces, are terms that might be new to many educators. But the educational philosophy behind those terms is not new. Makerspaces and the Maker Movement is about hands-on learning that is project/problem based. Making in education relies on



Design Thinking with students following design and engineering principles. Our Makerspaces, Hackerspaces, Tinkerspaces will be locations where students and staff can come together to design, explore, craft, draft, create, hack, and to grow. "Makers believe that if you can Imagine it, you can make it."

Some Makerspaces at sites are already up and running. By the end of the winter break, Makerspaces on each campus will be ready for students and staff. Each campus Makerspace will have a different feel and unique layout that is dependent on the location. Your site Educational Technology Council (ETC) meetings will cover how a Makerspace can work on your campus and can even take you on a tour.

Technology

The Information Technology Services Department has been hard at work with a number of projects over the summer. Our overall goal with these projects is to ensure the continued success of Scholar+ and to prepare the network to support the ever increasing bandwidth demands. These

projects have been in the works (in various stages) for almost one year. We have worked closely with the Purchasing Department to draft RFPs, perform site walks, evaluate bids, and ensure regulatory and legal compliance as these projects are primarily funded through the Federal Government's eRate program. We have three major projects currently underway:

- We have completed our installation of upgraded WiFi Access Points. The new access points from Meraki allow for greater overall WiFi performance and simplified management.
- We are in the process of upgrading the fiber optic cabling from the classrooms to the Network Operations Center at the District Administrative Center. Once complete we will be able to support internal connection speeds up to 10 Gigabits per second to the classroom buildings.
- After we have the upgraded fiber optic cabling in place we will be installing new networking equipment at every school to take advantage of the newly available bandwidth provided by the new fiber.

Once these projects are complete we will have significantly upgraded and improved our overall network architecture and capability.

Perris High School Facilities Improvements

Phase 2 of the Perris High School Transformation is going full steam ahead. Currently, the first phase of two phases is under construction. As part of the first phase, Phase 2A, a new boys and girls locker room building, a new lunch kiosk and a new two story classroom building are included. Phase 2A includes instructional spaces that support innovation and flexibility. Included in the current project are a combination of flex labs that are designed to be configured to many different uses. These flex labs include

More from Business Services....

open collaborative teaching spaces and have power and natural gas connections, as well as a great deal of counter space for lab work. A lab classroom that is dedicated as a Medical Assistant lab facility, is also part of this project. In addition to the flexible, collaborative teaching spaces described above, Phase 2A has spaces dedicated to photography, ceramics and computer aided drafting. Phase 2B, which is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016 includes applied engineering classrooms, and an auto tech classroom. Beginning at the same time as 2B is the new Perris Agricultural Facility, which has been named the Perris Agricultural Center for Excellence (PACE) Building. This new building will be the new home for the Perris FFA program. Included in this building are Ag science labs, floral classroom and flexible use labs, as well as a second story terrace garden for support of horticulture instruction. A goal for the design of the Perris High School Transformation project is to link the design of the campus to technology and provide a facility that helps bring innovative classroom design and the PUHSD Scholar+ initiative, together. Phase 2 and PACE will provide modern, functional facilities to the Perris campus that include innovative teaching areas, up to date locker rooms and a satellite kitchen. The boys/girls locker room is scheduled for completion during the spring of 2016. The remainder of Phase 2A, the two story classroom building and lunch kiosk, will be completed during winter of 2016, Phase 2B and PACE begin construction in the late spring of 2016.



(New Satellite Kitchen)

Pinacate Middle School



Phase 3 of the Pinacate campus modernization was completed over the summer. With the beginning of school in August, students at Pinacate moved in and began using the new two story classroom building that is the final phase of the complete campus modernization that was begun close to five years ago. Phase 3 includes special education classrooms which include life skills facilities, such as a kitchen and laundry area. Also included in the Phase 3 building at Pinacate are new science labs along with other classrooms that all have access to open collaboration spaces within the building. Over the past summer, the Facilities and Purchasing departments were busy ordering furniture for this new building. This furniture was chosen to facilitate the flexible and collaborative nature of the Phase 3 building. With the completion of Phase 3 at Pinacate, student and staff are left with a totally redone campus. The Pinacate campus now has a functional, open layout that includes the latest technology to support the PUHSD Scholar+ initiative, with wireless access available throughout the campus. The new campus also provides students with

outdoor spaces dedicated to sports for use during PE and also an area to be used during lunchtime activities.

New Heritage Stadium Turf

The Perris Union High School District recently wrapped up installation of a brand new AstroTurf field at Heritage High School. The Patriots' Varsity football team will have its first opportunity to defend its undefeated record on the new field on October 16, 2015. The District chose the AstroTurf system for its technology, performance, aesthetics, player protection, and durability. The District selected the same turf system (AstroTurf 3D3) that was installed at Paloma Valley High School last year.



(New Boys and Girls Locker Room)

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela