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## **LOMPOC UNIFIED TAKES HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION**

With school shut-downs, remote learning, hybrid learning, in-person learning and all the uncertainties that have come with the pandemic, Lompoc Unified schools are seeing that they do more than just teach academics to students. Schools are a place where students are learning life-skills, socializing, collaborating, enjoying extra-curricular opportunities and more. LUSD has shown their commitment to approaching educating students in a holistic fashion.

“A school district’s budget reflects its priorities. LUSD’s budget does just that. This year we have invested in adding an additional counselor at each of our school sites to increase our focus on social-emotional learning and assist students in learning these essential skills,” shared Superintendent Trevor McDonald. “In addition, we now have PBIS at all of our sites to help students learn how to better monitor their behaviors.” LUSD did not stop there, they have enhanced their afterschool ASES programs and included a social-emotional learning focus there as well. In working with Sports for Learning, LUSD has also interwoven social-emotional learning into recess time. According to LUSD, they are also working with their school librarians to ensure that the libraries are adequately funded so students can access quality, engaging materials.

Beyond educating, LUSD has partnered with community organizations to provide vaccine and flu shot clinics. When schools shut down, LUSD opened their campuses to serve as first-responder child care centers as well. Deputy Superintendent Bree Valla continued, “The pandemic has really highlighted that our schools serve as hubs for our families and we need to continue to support our students and families alike.”

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