



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,

September was a productive and exciting month for Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, with much to be celebrated across our campuses and community.

Our students thrived, focusing on their studies and extracurricular activities while connecting with their peers and teachers through various District events.

This month, our campuses held 9/11 Remembrance services, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, sporting events, school dances and much more. The festivities continued when we received the great news that the District had been honored with not one, but four National Blue Ribbon School Awards! We are so proud of our entire District community and the students, educators and staff who made this possible. Hacienda La Puente Unified School District continues to be an exemplary destination for our students' educational journey.



Our school leaders worked with Associated Student Body groups and the District's Equity and Access Department to create Suicide Awareness Month campaigns consisting of informational presentations, teen wellness workshops and wearing yellow ribbons to raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. Please visit our District [website](#) for more information on our mental health and wellness resources.

Many of our educators and staff continued their deep learning during various professional development opportunities, including our Site Based Leadership Meeting and the 21 CSLA Summer Institute, designed to provide high-quality leadership coaching rooted in student and educator needs.

During a ceremony before the regular Board meeting on Sept. 26, we recognized our 2022-23 Teachers of the Year and Los Altos High School Principal and Administrator of the Year Jeff Hess, for their outstanding achievements, inspiring our students daily and fostering a sense of community inside and outside the classroom. At the ceremony, we also celebrated our classified employees of the year, including Mechanic III (CSEA) Jaime Gonzalez, Rehabilitation Program Assistant (CSEA) Kristine Licon, La Puente High School Plant Supervisor (SEIU) Tim Patton and Workman High School Plant Supervisor (SEIU) Cynthia Contreras. We also attended the Los Angeles County Office of Education Teacher of the Year Awards Luncheon to recognize our District Teacher of the Year recipient, Perla Granados-Ordaz. Thank you to all our extraordinary employees for all you do for our students.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who completed our community input survey and attended our virtual and in-person meetings regarding potential school reconfiguration. We look forward to continuing our conversations and working together to ensure the success of our entire District community.

I am excited to see what October has in store for our students, teachers, staff and community! As always, we are **#ProudtobeHLPUSD**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Superintendent

La Puente High Expands VAPA Programs with New CTE Pathways in Dance, Graphic Design



La Puente High School announces its dance captains for the 2023-24 season with a team celebration during the first day of school on Aug. 9.



Youth Cinema Project student Angel Millan discusses the success of La Puente High School's new film program and goals for the 2023-24 school year during an exclusive interview.

La Puente High School students have an opportunity to immerse themselves in dance and nurture their creative talents through the school's popular and dynamic dance program, which has expanded and transformed into a three-year career technical education (CTE) pathway – one of three exciting new visual and performing arts (VAPA) programs making their debut in the 2023-24 school year.

La Puente High has also rolled out a three-year Graphic Design CTE pathway, which will teach students how to create their own products and learn what it takes to become a professional entrepreneur. The new CTE pathways are joined by the Youth Cinema Project, which comes to La Puente High after its successful implementation at select Hacienda La Puente Unified elementary and middle schools.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I first started high school, but graphic design has been an out-of-this-world experience and I've learned so much," La Puente sophomore Calico Lopez said. "The teacher not only shows us various ways to bring things to life but also encourages us how to successfully operate a business."

Click [here](#) to read more!

Celebrations Spread Across the District as Four Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Awards



Wedgeworth Elementary School students and staff celebrate being named a National Blue Ribbon School during a nationwide video announcement released on Sept. 19.

Four Hacienda La Puente Unified schools were named 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education on Sept. 19, recognizing public and private elementary, middle and high schools' academic excellence and success in closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez and Board of Education President Christine H. Salazar rejoiced with the community at Glen A. Wilson High School during a video announcement viewing party and FaceTimed administrators at Los Molinos and Wedgeworth elementary schools and Mesa Robles School to



(From left: Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez, Glen A. Wilson High School Principal Dr. Danielle Kenfield and Board President Christine H. Salazar congratulate other award-winning schools via Facetime during a viewing party on Sept. 19.

congratulate them on their accomplishment as their school's names also flashed across the screen.

The Hacienda La Puente Unified schools were four of only 33 schools in California and 353 schools nationally to be recognized as 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

"I'm incredibly proud to see not only Wilson but our local elementary and middle schools receiving this award," senior Hannah Esguerra said. "It's cool to be a part of something bigger and I have so much pride knowing that I am a Wildcat and member of the HLPUSD family now and forever."

Middle School Student-Athletes Compete in First Cross-Country Meet of the School Year

Cedarlane Academy cross-country students, coaches and staff welcomed Mesa Robles School, Newton and Sparks middle school student-athletes to participate in their first meet of the 2023-24 season on Sept. 25.

During the event, runners showed off their strength, endurance and perseverance as they raced to the finish line. Students who placed will return to Cedarlane Academy for the finals on Monday, Oct. 16. Please contact your school's cross-country coach or principal for further details.

"The first event of the year was great and made me want to strive to improve," Sparks Middle School seventh-grader Justin Espinoza said. "I am looking forward to continuing to run. It stirs imagination and fun and generates friendly competition that the entire school can enjoy." The Sparks Middle School community thanks the La Puente High School Kiwanis Club for consistently supporting their cross-country and track teams by donating running shoes and gear to ensure the Spartans are set up for success.



Sparks Middle School students and Coach Eric Lopez attend their first cross-country meet of the season at Cedarlane Academy on Sept. 25.

Los Molinos Community Celebrates Winning Second National Blue Ribbon School Award

Los Molinos Elementary School's students, teachers and staff dressed in blue attire, bedecked the campus with extravagant blue decorations and welcomed the Wildcats community to attend a special celebration in honor of winning a National Blue Ribbon School award for the second time on Sept. 28.

The energy was electric as students and families lifted their noise-makers and shook their pom-poms, eagerly awaiting the ceremony to begin. The crowd grew wild, with amplified roars from family members chanting "Blue times two!" as Principal Erika Terrazas waved to attendees while leading the Los Altos High School band toward the festivities.

As she approached the podium, Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez, Board President Christine H. Salazar and HLPUSD administrators stood to applaud her grand entrance and keep the liveliness going.

During an emotional opening speech, Terrazas thanked her community for



Los Molinos Elementary School Principal Erika Terrazas rejoices with Wildcats community during a National Blue Ribbon School celebration on Sept. 28.

all their hard work and expressed her overwhelming pride and joy in being the principal.

"It takes a village," Terrazas said. "We are all National Blue Ribbon School award-winners!"

The event closed with a bang, as Terrazas

and various teachers surprised students by setting off blue powder cannons and streamers across the stage while the band played energetic music.

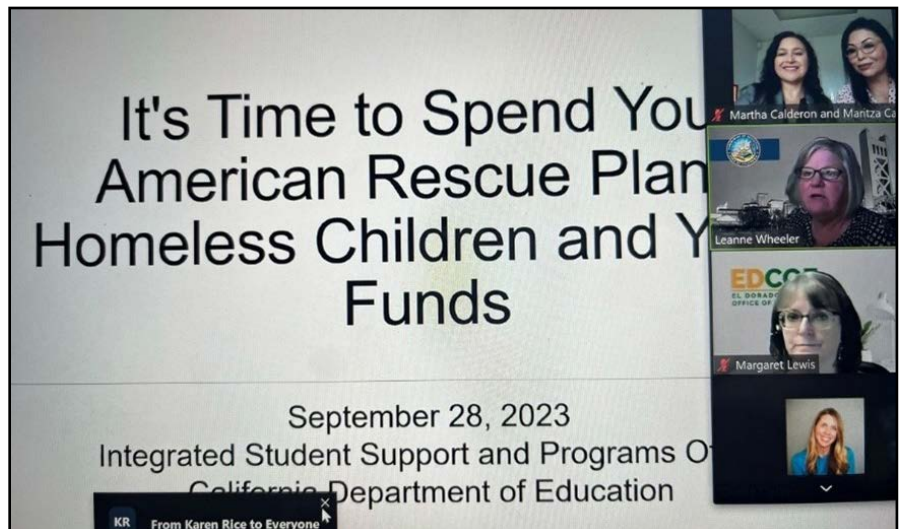
Click [here](#) to watch a video recapping the school's festivities!

HLPUSD Presents Various Ways to Support Families Experiencing Housing Insecurities During State-wide Webinar

Hacienda La Puente Unified's Equity and Access and Family Engagement Departments partnered with California Department of Education's (CDE) Coordinator Leanne Wheeler to present at the CDE Homeless Education Program Webinar on Sept. 28.

During the virtual event, 330 schools and county offices from across the state gathered to learn more about ways to strategically use the [American Rescue Plan](#) grant funds to support students and families experiencing housing insecurities. Equity and Access and Family Engagement Director Martha Calderón and HLPUSD Homeless Liaison Maritza Cabezas presented alongside other District representatives, sharing their involvements, action plans and resources related to housing agencies for crisis housing.

"Our vision is to provide equitable access and support families in crisis due to housing insecurities," Calderón said.



Equity and Access and Family Engagement Director Martha Calderón and Homeless Liaison Maritza Cabezas represent HLPUSD during a state-wide webinar regarding the American Rescue Plan on Sept. 28.

"Students that are provided with the equitable backing have the ability to learn and thrive in schools. Maritza and I would also like to give a shout-out to our partners from Coalition for the Homeless,

California Department of Education Homeless Education, Los Angeles County Office of Education Homeless Education Program and New Horizons for all they do to support our youth."

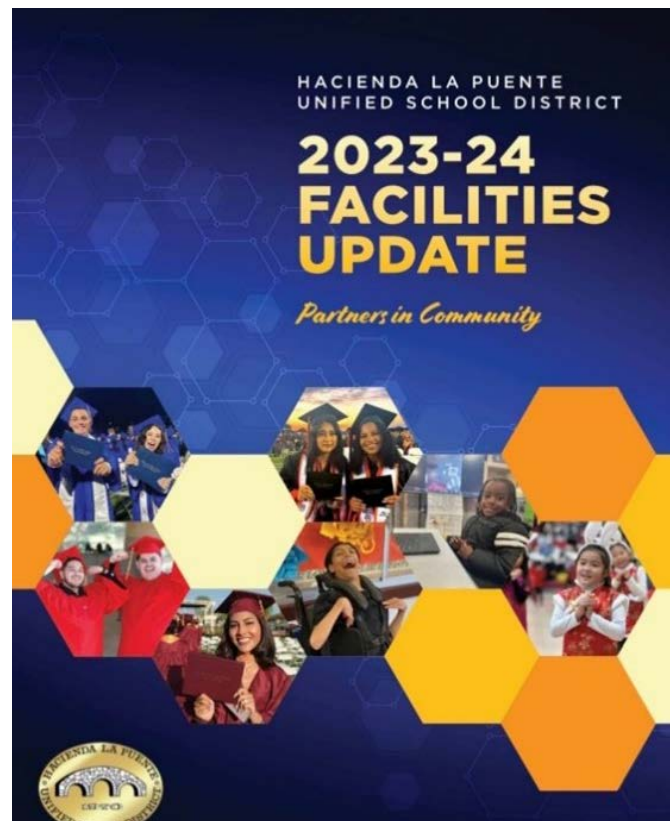
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Reminders

Facilities Brochure

Hacienda La Puente Unified's 2023-24 Facilities Brochure showcases completed and in-progress projects, along with upcoming developments that aim to support students, teachers, faculty and the entire District community.

The update includes various Measure BB-funded plans such as classroom modernizations and the District's "High School Refresh" initiative. The brochure also contains information regarding Wedgeworth Elementary's new campus, roofing and HVAC upgrades, Kwis Elementary School's baseball fields and much more!

Click [here](#) to read more!



Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Reminders

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE: : The in-person/virtual Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12 at the District Office, 15959 East Gale Ave., City of Industry. For more information on the Board agenda, how to address the board and access the meeting, please visit <https://www.hlpusd.org/board>.

Hacienda La Puente Unified encourages the community to stay up-to-date with our Board meetings, including our school site and Bond improvement updates and HLPUSD celebrations. Please visit the Board of Education [webpage](#) to catch up on our District successes.



HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bond/School Improvements and HLPUSD Celebrations!



The graphic features a dark blue background with a gold border. At the top left is the HLPUSD logo. The text is in white and gold. A gavel icon is positioned above the main title. A megaphone icon is on the right side, surrounded by celebratory symbols like stars and confetti.

HLPUSD is Hiring!

Hacienda La Puente Unified is committed to recruiting the best individuals who help promote a culture of teamwork, fairness and an environment dedicated to student success.

The District is currently accepting applications for the Senior Purchasing Technician position and continues to seek additional part-time Bus Drivers, Instructional Aids, Cafeteria Workers, Custodians and Child Development Technicians to join the HLPUSD family.

Please visit the District's career [website](#) to learn more and apply today!



HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED IS HIRING!



HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The graphic has a blue-to-purple gradient background. The text is in bold yellow and white. Below the text are silhouettes of a diverse group of people. The HLPUSD logo is at the bottom center.

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Reminders

College and Career Fair

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon has partnered with Hacienda La Puente Unified for the 2023 College and Career Fair, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Los Altos High School, 15325 Los Robles Ave., Hacienda Heights.

The annual fair provides students and families access to information on community colleges, Cal State and UC schools, private and out-of-state universities and career technical education programs.

The event will also include break-out rooms and workshops covering various topics that prepare students for their future.

In addition, high school seniors are encouraged to participate in the District College & Career Fair Writing Contest for the chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Stay Connected with HLPUSD

Hacienda La Puente Unified is proud to offer various communication methods for our teachers, staff and District to stay connected with our families.

Click [here](#) to watch an English and Spanish video tutorial, demonstrating the downloading process and significance of each resource.



District & School Websites

The District and each school have a website featuring important dates, announcements, celebrations, Board of Education meeting information and much more.

www.hlpschools.org



YouTube

The Hacienda La Puente Unified School District YouTube channel is an excellent resource for watching our HLPUSD Board meetings, District showcase videos and is the home to our annual State of the District event presentations.

bit.ly/HLPUSDYouTube



Social Media

Follow our social media platforms to stay up-to-date on our student, staff and District success stories, resources and upcoming events.

@HLPUSD
#haciendalapuenteusd
@HLPUSD



ParentSquare

HLPUSD provides regular notifications to students, staff and families to ensure convenient communication and engagement between home and the school community. Messages are sent to the email addresses provided to the District. Please visit www.hlpschools.org for details.



Peachjar

The District posts digital flyers on activities, events and resources for our families on Peachjar, as well as sending flyers out to families through ParentSquare. Check the HLPUSD Peachjar website to access recent flyers.

bit.ly/3trJ6yp



Canvas

Hacienda La Puente Unified schools use this learning management system to provide teachers, students and parents quick access to assignments, grading, course announcements and much more. Canvas applications are available on the Google Play Store bit.ly/3Gn7pED and Apple App Store bit.ly/3ANRPDQ. Please visit www.hlpschools.org for details.



Emergency Communications

In the rare instance of an emergency at a school that requires communication with our parents/guardians, the school will contact you directly with the information provided on your child's emergency contact card. Hacienda La Puente Unified also uses Parent Square to communicate with families during school and District emergencies. During an emergency, our main priority is to ensure the safety of our students and staff. As soon as it is safe, we will contact you with the next steps.