Issue 9
August 2023

STAFF NEWSLETTER

HJUHSD
HANFORD JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's World

In this issue:

- Remembering Mike Taylor
- Superintendent's Message
- New Roles & Admin
- CrisisGO
- New DO/HOC Building
- New FSA Plan
- Mission, Core Beliefs, & Focus Areas
- New Staff

Coming Up:

District PD Days
Begin August 14th for All Certificated Staff
See Schedule Here

Back to School Nights
August 23rd - 6:00PM
Hanford High
Hanford West High

August 30th - 6:00PM
Sierra Pacific High

September 6th - 6:00PM
Earl F Johnson High

Hanford Education Foundation (HEF) Bourbon Trail Fundraiser Event
October 7th, 2023

PD Days begin August 14th!
First Day of School is August 17th!

Remembering our Colleague, Michael Taylor

We lost a great man, a great friend, and a great teacher this summer. Michael Ray Taylor passed away on July 16th following a short illness at the age of 55. Mike joined our district as an Ag Teacher at Hanford High School five years ago and began to leave his mark of caring and positivity on his students and all of the rest of us. Mike came into teaching a little later in his life, but there is no question that teaching and leading kids is what he was meant to do.

For those of you who may not know, Mike was a great musician and played 14 instruments in a variety of bands and at church. Mike is survived by his wife of 26 years, Tammy, and five children. He will be missed by us all.

His Celebration of Life will be held on Aug 5th at 10am at Exeter Church of God, 246 W Chestnut Ave, Exeter, CA. Condolences may be sent to the family at: www.evansmillerguinnchapel.com

Superintendent's Message

I would like to welcome you all back for the new school year and thank all of those who worked tirelessly all summer to prepare us for a successful start and arrival of well over 4,000 students in a couple of weeks. There has been a ton of work done over the summer and some will be highlighted in this newsletter. In addition, we have had a very large amount of staff attend trainings and professional development in preparation for the new year and years to come.

With so many retirements this last year, we have an unprecedented number of new staff members to welcome. This newsletter highlights those who submitted information for the newsletter, but there are many more in addition to what you will see as you continue to read. We will also introduce some new roles, new administrators, new programs, and a new building. Needless to say, we have been very busy and all of these news implementations mean we will continue to be busy for some time to come.

There is some important information in this newsletter about our new CrisisGo implementation and please make sure you pay attention to the HJUHSD Professional Development Days Schedule to ensure that you are back at work when and where you are supposed to be. This is going to be a great year, but with so many new team members, we will need all veteran and semi-veteran staff on hand to help guide our new educators through.

New Positions and Administrators at HJUHSD

HJUHSD welcomes some familiar and some new faces into administrative positions. The first is Darin Parson who is the new District Coordinator of Safety & Activities. This position was developed to implement and maintain our new CrisisGo system along with all of the required drills, coordination with first responders, safety plan compliance, and ALICE training just to name a few. In addition, this position is charged with ensuring that students and families fully understand their ability and our desire for them to participate in everything from athletics, to band, to school clubs. Over the past 10 years and especially after COVID, we have seen a steady decline in participation in extracurricular activities. Often, we come to find that students and parents choose to not participate due to perceived barriers such as cost, health insurance, etc. The goal of this position is to change those perceptions and increase participation at all sites. Keeping students involved, leads to higher enrollment and higher attendance rates. And yes, that means more revenue for our district which is always important. Darin was asked to provide this following bio:

I was born and raised in Long Beach, CA. I spent the first eleven years of my educational career in the Long Beach Unified School district as an English Teacher, Varsity Head Football Coach and Athletic Director. My family moved to Hanford in 2005 and that is when I began working at Hanford West High School as an English Teacher and coach. In 2008 I moved into administration and started as a Learning Director at Hanford High for two years and then moved to Hanford West to serve as Learning Director there for two years. In 2012 I became Principal at Hanford West and I just completed my eleventh year as Principal in our district at both Hanford West and Sierra Pacific. I feel fortunate to have worked at all three of our comprehensive high schools.

In my off time from work, I enjoy woodworking projects and traveling with my wife. My favorite thing to do currently is spend time with my granddaughter who is soon to be two years old.

James Jay - Intervention Specialist (EFJ & CDS)

My name is James “Pepper” Jay. I live in Hanford with my wife Charmaine and our three children Asher (12th HHS), Haddon (9th HHS), and Lincoln (6th Jefferson). I moved to Hanford in August of 1998 from Texas to serve as the youth director at a local church. I eventually left the vocational ministry for teaching and began my career at Kings River Hardwick Elementary. I was a classroom teacher for eleven years, the final nine at the middle school level. This is my seventh year as an administrator. Before joining HJUHSD I served in Corcoran at Mark Twain Elementary and John Muir Middle School. The foundation of my social philosophy is that all people are capable of finding fulfillment and success in life given opportunity, tools, and support. Individuals who trade in compassion, empathy, and self-sacrifice help reveal and nurture the unique contributions that are possible in others. I am inspired and motivated by those who experience joy in their work, contribute positively to the culture around them, and take the time to pour themselves into healthy relationships. I strive daily to do the same and am looking forward to serving the students, families, and staff of HJUHSD.

Rachel Salgado - Learning Director (SPHS)

Greetings! My name is Rachel Salgado, and I will be starting my 19th year as an educator, sixteen of which I spent in the classroom at Lemoore High School teaching English and advising the yearbook. It was while serving as the English department chairperson that I found a passion for educational leadership. During the past two years, I have been serving as an academic coach within this district and have absolutely loved my time in that role. I am excited to use that experience to support both the staff and students of Sierra Pacific High School.

I am married and have two boys. My husband, Isaac, works for the City of Hanford as the Waste Water Plant Supervisor. My oldest son, Gabriel, will be studying psychology at CSU Monterey Bay, and my youngest, Caleb, will be starting 7th grade at Woodrow. I was raised in Lemoore and currently live in Hanford and have much love for the Central Valley. When I’m not on campus, you’ll likely find me tending to my garden which is a hobby that provides calm and clarity.

Jamie Rogers - Principal, Sierra Pacific High School

I am excited to join the HJUHSD team! This is my 23rd year in education. I began my career as a History Teacher at Reef-Sunset Unified, I then transitioned to an Intervention Coordinator where I worked with our Counselor to increase A-G completion rates as well as post-secondary enrollment. From Reef-Sunset I joined the Lemoore Union High School District team as an administrator. I had the opportunity to serve as an administrator in every school in the district, starting with the alternative programs (Jamison, Yokuts, Adult School, Community Day School, and Lemoore Middle College High School), after four years, I was placed at Lemoore High as an Assistant Principal, where I remained until 2016. At that time I then transitioned to the Pioneer Union Elementary School District as Principal of Pioneer Middle School. Working at Pioneer provided me the opportunity to see the full continuum of student learning from TK through 8th grade. I also was provided the opportunity to work with HJUHSD as we transition our 8th graders to 9th grade. One area I'm especially excitied about, is the opportunity to continue to support some of my prior students now as their high school Principal. It's such a unique opportunity to see these students grow from 6th graders to high school graduates!

On a personal note, I've been married to my wonderful husband Jason for 26 years. We have three children, all graduates of Sierra Pacific High School. Jillian (c/o 2020), who is working on her LVN certificate, with plans to become an RN. Jarrett (c/o 2023), who will be attending West Hills College Lemoore, studying Mechanical engineering. He plans to transfer to UNC Charlotte, where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis in Motorsports and Joshua (c/o 2023) who will be attending Cal Poly, studying BioResource Ag Engineering.

I'm also a proud dog mom to three, yes three, adorable teacup Yorkies.

CRISIS GO

Our district has implemented an emergency communication system named CrisisGo for staff at all sites and facilities. As part of the district's implementation of CrisisGo, an application has been installed on all district-issued devices. CrisisGo will allow teachers, staff and administrators the ability to report and respond to emergency situations. All members within the school or facility group, will receive an alert and a checklist of information of what to do in each emergency situation.

CrisisGo also provides a means of enhancing communication between faculty and administration in the event of an emergency. Accessing and using the emergency and reporting features of CrisisGo will be made easier with Single Sign On (SSO) through Google. CrisisGo will be on all district staff devices and we strongly encourage everyone to download the application to their phone to expand on our desire to provide the safest learning environment for both students and staff.

CRISIS GO

Downloading the CrisisGo app onto your phones is your fastest means of getting alerts and responding. This is optional as the app will be on your desktop and Chomebook, but it is recommended.

Please keep in mind, the system is active and once you log in with your Google Account information, you are officially in the system. Please do not attempt to send out alerts or “test” the system until you have been trained on site in sessions that are scheduled for the first couple weeks of school. The system is fairly simple, but we don’t want to have alarms going off unnecessarily. Also, remember that the emergency alerts override your sound and silent mode settings much like an Amber Alert. Although this can be changed in your phone settings later, please wait for training before altering settings. Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we implement something that is new, but also very much needed in our district.

HJUHSD
HANFORD JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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LINQ Connect

School meals are not only for students! HJUHSD Food Services offers a variety of breakfast and lunch meals at low cost for adults on campus. Multiple options are available daily including yogurt parfaits, fresh salads, or a hot burger with fries. Pay with cash or sign up for an online account using your staff ID at linqconnect.com. Just go to “register” and use your staff ID to proceed. See you in the cafeteria!

New Provider Coming to HJUHSD for FSA & Other Benefits

ALL EMPLOYEES MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

Hanford Joint Union High School District has selected a new partner for our **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Dependent Care (DCA) benefits** and for some new benefit programs for the new school year!

HJUHSD has partnered with American Fidelity to be our new Section 125 provider for FSA and DCA and, for the first time ever, voluntary benefits through American Fidelity will be available! American Fidelity will be visiting school sites starting August 7th to provide an opportunity to meet prior to school starting to avoid the Fall rush.

During the first-year transition, all benefit eligible employees must schedule an individual appointment and meet one-on-one with an American Fidelity Representative to confirm their 2023 Section 125 benefits.

Early Bird Special - If you complete your meeting prior to August 17th, you will be entered into a *raffle for a chance to win a $50 gift card!*

What is Section 125?
Section 125 is an Internal Revenue Code that allows employers to offer eligible benefits to their employees on a tax-sheltered basis. During the initial year, an election form must be completed to determine what benefits will be tax-sheltered. Things like Flexible Spending Accounts, Dependent Day Care Accounts, Cancer, Accident, and Hospital protection benefits are benefits that are eligible.

What is next?
Soon you will begin receiving communications from the district and from American Fidelity regarding how to complete your enrollment. These communication pieces will provide more details on the options available to you and information to help you prepare for your enrollment.

In-Person meetings at our District Office will be offered starting on **August 7th, 2023 .** The appointments may take up to 30 minutes depending on your benefit plan needs.

You may schedule your appointment a few different ways:
https://enroll.americanfidelity.com/9DD83895

Call 1-866-504-0010

Email: afes-fresnobranch@americanfidelity.com

To provide a better understanding of what is expected of you during this enrollment period, the below FAQs will provide a brief overview.

FAQs:

Open Enrollment to Complete Compliance Paperwork
American Fidelity's salaried, career account managers will help you understand how your total benefits package fits together. Because benefits can be confusing, your account manager will walk you through all available options, answer any questions you may have, and help you build a package that is perfect for you. Whether you elect to maintain your current benefits or make any changes, it is essential that you schedule an appointment and complete your enrollment to ensure accuracy and complete compliance documents.

Flexible Spending/Dependent Daycare Benefits
As the new Flex and Dependent Daycare Provider, you will be provided information prior to your enrollment that will help you budget how much money you should place in the account, if applicable. By participating in this benefit, you will be able to pre-tax out-of-pocket medical, dental and vision expenses, which will lessen taxes paid. You will have a Debit Card available for the Health Flexible Spending Account. The Dependent Daycare is reimbursement only. American Fidelity offers an online portal to manage your account as well as Mobile App.

American Fidelity also offers supplemental benefits, including:
Health Flexible Spending Accounts (Section 125 eligible)
Dependent Daycare Accounts (Section 125 eligible)
Disability Income Protection
Life Insurance
Accident Protection (Section 125 eligible)
Cancer Protection (Section 125 eligible)
Hospital Assist Protection (Section 125 eligible)
Group Critical Illness Protection
Retirement Savings Accounts

AMERICAN FIDELITY™
a different opinion

These benefits help provide protection for you and your family in addition to your medical insurance. Benefits are paid directly to you and can help offset out-of-pocket expenses or any gaps in coverage. There is no obligation to participate in these supplemental benefits.

HJUHSD Purchases the Sentinel Building

Construction Updates!

The HJUHSD purchase of the current Hanford Sentinel Building is well underway and plans have begun to convert the building into our new District Offices and likely, Hanford Online Charter. The goal is to consolidate the current district office and the district office annex under one roof. We would also then have a much larger space to double as both a board room and a training facility were we can comfortably seat a large number of staff members.

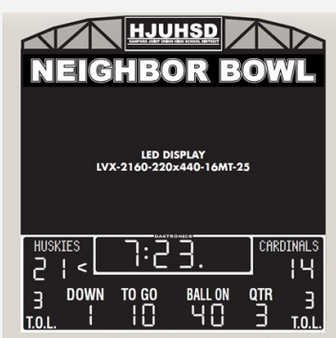
In addition, Hanford Online Charter continues to grow and is taking up valuable space at Hanford Adult School. It is also not the best situation having HOC and HAS students together on one campus. Therefore, we plan to either move HOC directly to the new building or have them take over our current district office space. That decision will be based on costs and projected growth for HOC and board approval, but either way, HOC will be moving off of the Adult School Campus after this school year. Remodeling the new building will take at least one year, so you won't be seeing any packing or movement in the short term, but we are excited about consolidating and the ability to have a district space that allows us to not always rely on site facilities to hold larger meetings and training.

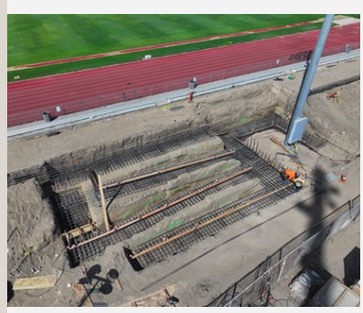
New marquees are installed and functional at HH, HW, SP, EFJ, HAS and the PC.

The portables at Sierra Pacific for interim housing have been installed to handle growth in students and staff. These are temporary units that will be removed once the next phase of classroom buildings is built in two to three years. Because they are leased and will be returned, the exterior will not be painted.

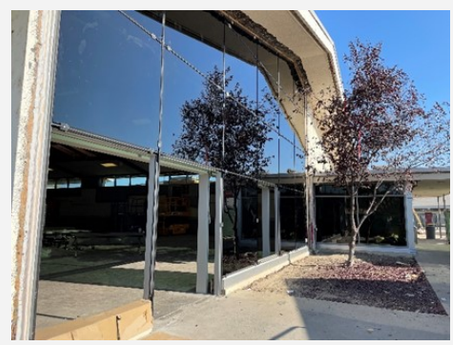
Construction Updates Continued!

The Bowl project has work happening on the Restroom/Concession building and on the backside of the visitor bleachers. The work to the visitor bleachers, with the exception of the added seating, is scheduled for completion prior to start of Football games. The new scoreboard is scheduled for installation mid-season. The work to the home bleachers and replacement of the track will begin after football season. Work on the new entry and Restroom/Concession building will continue through April 2024.





We are at the height of the work in the Hanford High Cafeteria. Windows are currently being installed and the addition of HVAC is nearly complete. The building also received a new roof as well as a remodeled service area to better serve our students.



Addition of field lighting at the football field at Hanford West High and the football and soccer fields at Sierra Pacific is underway with an anticipated completion of this Fall.

Other Recent Projects –
Installation of new carpet in more than 50 classrooms between HH & HW.
Reorganization of Ag Mechanics lab at HW.
Added laundry to Access Program classrooms at HH & SP, with HW addition coming soon.
Improvements to HH Baseball: concrete walkways installed; replacements of and added fencing; painting.

Projects planned within the next 12 months –
Replacement of Tennis Courts at HH
Replacement of Track at HW
Installation of HVAC main gym at HH
Improvements to HH Softball

Welcome New HJUHSD Staff!

Not all team members were able to submit information in time, but please make all of our new staff feel welcomed!

Amanda Nelson

English & ELD Teacher - Hanford High School

I am born and raised in the Valley. I am in my second year of teaching. I graduated Fresno State with my bachelors in English Education. Attend National University and have a Masters in Inspired Education. Love to golf, bowl, and travel to the coast often. Also love photography and volunteering.

Kiara Benavides

Agriculture Teacher—Hanford High School

I just completed my master's degree in Agriculture Education and my single subject teaching credential at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. My emphasis is in ornamental horticulture; I have extensive knowledge in the floral design industry.

I do not come from an agriculture background; however, my passion for the industry was developed through my high school agriculture and FFA organization experiences. I have an interest in hands-on, project based learning as well as sharing non-traditional classroom instruction with students of all backgrounds.

I hope to introduce students to the industry and encourage them to pursue careers in agricultural endeavors. I bring a diverse background to the table and my professional goal is to foster an inclusive environment for future generations of agriculturalists.

Erik Avila Tamayo

English Teacher—Hanford West High School

My name is Erik Avila and I'll be teaching English at Hanford West. I'm extremely excited to start this adventure, to keep growing and absorb knowledge from everyone around me, also to be able to give back to the community that has seen me grow up.

Michael Rondon

History Teacher—Sierra Pacific High School

Hi, I'm Michael! I am beyond excited to join Hanford Unified and get to know all of you! I grew up in Visalia, went to Fresno Pacific University, and have been working the majority of my career in Youth Ministry, but I'm excited to serve our students in this new role. I have a huge love for exercise and sports – particularly soccer – Go Manchester United! My wife, Jessica, and I have been married for 9 years and we have two boys, Theo (6) and Jude (1).

Taylor Lund

English Teacher - Hanford High School

I was born and raised in Fresno, CA, then went to school, played golf, and met my husband in Salem, Oregon at Corban University. We got married in 2020, and welcomed our daughter Lillien October 2022. We moved to Hanford last September, and I am going into my 3rd year of teaching.

Micah Rice

Art Teacher - Hanford High & Earl F. Johnson High

I am very excited to join the district as an art teacher! I have previously worked at an art center for adults with developmental disabilities (The Creative Center), heading up the visual art department there and also running their gallery exhibits and artwork management. Before that, I worked extensively with teenagers as a youth pastor at churches in Visalia and in Santa Cruz, CA. My goal as a teacher, and as an artist, will be to call out the gold that I see in each student and to help them see themselves, and each other, in that same way. Students should leave my classroom feeling truly seen and known, and truly seeing and knowing each other.

Blake Cook

PE Teacher - Hanford High School

I am extremely happy to be joining the staff here at Hanford High School. I graduated from Lemoore High in 2016 then continued my education at Fresno State where I earned a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. Since then, I have been teaching and coaching at various high schools around the valley. I can't wait to start this school year!

Federico (Freddy) Rodriguez

History & Gov./Econ Teacher - Hanford High School

Hello, My name is Freddy Rodriguez and this will be my first year teaching. Some of my favorite things to do are fishing, hiking, watching sports, and spending time with my family.

John Clark

Special Education Teacher - Sierra Pacific High School

My name is John Clark. I graduated from Hanford High School, followed by Colorado State University, where I played on the football team. For the last 13 years I have worked as a railroad engineer/conductor, and I am excited to start a new career as a teacher. I have a beautiful wife, Kelsey, and three children, Emry, Jett, and Reese. I enjoy watching football, trips to the central coast, and spending time with my wife, kids, and our two Australian Shepherds, Scout and Indy. I look forward to being a teacher, mentor, and leader to students.

Megan Stidman

Art Teacher - Sierra Pacific High School

Megan Stidman is a Hanford High School graduate who received her Bachelors in Studio Art from California State University Channel Islands. She worked for HJUHSD district as a school bus driver for 3 years before enrolling in a Teacher Credentialing program. Megan worked as an Art teacher at Lemoore Middle College High School for 4 years and is now returning to HJUHSD as an Art Teacher at Sierra Pacific.

Alaina Irwin

Social Science Teacher - Hanford West High School

I taught at Hanford West from 2003 to 2009 and I am so happy to return!

Emily Quassy

Academic Coach - District

I have 22 years of experience in the classroom as an English teacher. I have also been a department chair and a PLC lead. I am a military spouse and mother of 2 college students. I am originally from Maryland, but we have lived in Lemoore for 15 years.

Lauren Petree

English Teacher - Earl F. Johnson High School

My name is Lauren and I am from Selma. I recently completed my master's program at GCU and received my bachelor's from Fresno State. Previously, I was a substitute teacher for two and an ELPAC tester. I am not only new to the Hanford school district but this is my first year as a full-time teacher and I am anxious to meet everyone--especially the students. I can't wait to be a part of the EFJ team!

Miguel Navarro

English Teacher - Hanford West High School

I'm equally nervous and excited to begin my career at Hanford West High! I'm hoping that my terrible jokes and enthusiasm for English will appeal to the kids. When I'm not working, my time is consumed by my cats, my video games, and the NFL (Raiderrrrs!!). I'm happy to be here and I can't wait to meet everyone.

Julia Rodriguez

School Social Worker—Hanford West High School

Working with and giving back to my community and local youth has always been a passion of mine. Our students are our future and it is my honor to provide them social support. I am beyond excited to start my career at Hanford West and I humbly thank you for welcoming me to the team. Go Huskies!

Irving McNeil

Naval Science Teacher—Hanford West High School

I'm born and raised in Brooklyn New York. I retired form the Navy in 2006. I have 3 children, and 3 grandchildren.

Coleen Bursiaga

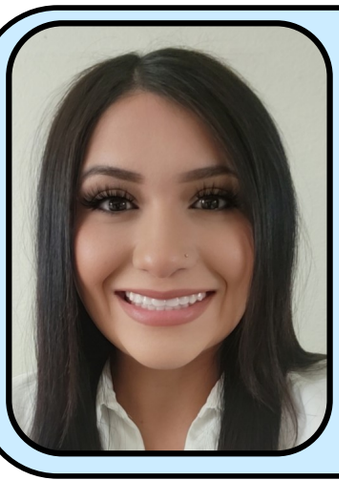
Med Academy Teacher - Hanford West High School

I was born and raised in Hanford, I am married with 4 children. I have been a nurse since 2009 and have been a site nurse with HJUHSD since 2016. I love being a nurse and working in the high school setting. I am excited to now share my knowledge in nursing with the Medical Academy Students!

Nicholas Kennedy

Math Teacher - Hanford High School

I am a recent graduate of the Integrated Math Credential Program at Fresno State. I have worked with students in the classroom for almost six years and I am looking forward to what the future has in store for me.



Nancy Campos

School Nurse - Hanford West High School

My name is Nancy Campos. I am 31 years old. I have two sons Noah (8) and Ethan (6). My favorite hobbies are crafting and watching my boys play baseball. I have been a LVN for about 2 years. I previously worked at a nursing home and a medical office for Adventist Health. I am very excited to be given the opportunity to start a new position as school nurse for Hanford West High School.

Clayton Sheehan

Agriculture Teacher - Hanford High School

My name is Clayton Sheehan and I am very excited to be joining HJUHSD. I attended and received my educator training from California State University - Fresno. I completed my student teaching at Central High School and Clovis East High School. Before coming to Hanford High I taught at Immanuel High School in Reedley. Now as an agriculture teacher at Hanford High School I am excited to join the amazing Hanford FFA and continue our tradition of excellence.

Devin Ortega

Science Teacher - Hanford West High School

Hi, my name is Devin and this is my first year teaching. I previously worked with the Migrant Education Program in Fresno County for six years. I enjoy spending time with my wife and our dogs, attending baseball and football games, and watching military documentaries.

Jordan Barba

PE Teacher - Hanford High School

I graduated from Hanford High in 2008 and then received my BS in Kinesiology - Exercise Science from Fresno State. I have coached Girls Soccer at HHS for going on 15 years with the last four as the Varsity Head Coach, including the 2021 D2 Valley Champs. I am looking forward to working with students at the same school that helped shape who I am today. Go Bullpups!

Lexis Gonzales

Campus Safety - Hanford High School

Hello! My name is Lexis Gonzales, and I am thrilled to be apart of Sierra Pacific High School! I graduated from Lemoore High School in 2016 and pursued my passion for criminology, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Fresno State in 2022. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my 3 cats and studying world history. I hope to use my education and passion of helping others to make a impact on the lives of those around me :-)

Gerardo Vaquerano

Science Teacher - Hanford High School

Hi, everyone! I began teaching science at the turn of the century in the LAUSD after graduating from Cal-State Northridge. I moved to the Central Valley in 2016. I love kayaking in Morro Bay and strolling through the amazing California wilderness. I look forward to seeing you all on campus. Wishing you all a splendid school year!

Trina Leon

School Counselor - Hanford West High School

Trina Leon is our new school counselor at Hanford Joint Union School District. Ms. Leon will have the privilege of being the school counselor for Earl F. Johnson High School and Community Day School for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Leon has been an educator for the past 11 years and will be completing 8 years as a school counselor this school year. Ms. Leon started her school counseling career in Modesto as a middle school counselor. Ms. Leon former school counseling position was at two K-8 schools and a high school at a west Fresno County school district. Ms. Leon believes that any student can succeed with the right attitude and proper skills and tools. Ms. Leon holds a bachelor's science degree in Criminology, minor in Philosophy with Cum Laude and a masters in School Counseling with Distinction from California State University of Fresno.

Jordan Wallis

Instructional Aide - Hanford West High School

Hello my name is Jordan I started this year is Instructional Aide-Special Programs at Hanford West. In have been work at HJUSD since may 2022 when service as a food service aide at Hanford West High. Before that I worked as an avid tutor in Avenal CA. I attended California Christian College to get some college credits and transferred to WGU where at to get a bachelors degree in education studies. On I'm free time I love write my own music and having family time. I am grateful to start my new position at the school with Special Programs.

Javier Gonzales

Biology Teacher - Hanford High School

I like to spend my time outside, fishing or laying on the beach specifically. Besides that, I like to play games and watch movies at home. My favorite thing about biology is no matter where we go, there is always something to think about in regards to the subject and what we see.

Elena McQueen

Science Teacher - Hanford High School

Hi Bullpups! I am so excited to be here. I teach science; mostly life science, but I love it all! I love animals and nature, and I adore the water! I have two cats, two snakes, and hope to add to my little family soon. I love to spend time hanging out at nature preserves, whale watching, and binging Marvel movies. So excited to be a part of this family. See you soon!

Rhonda Kane

School Counselor - Sierra Pacific & Hanford High Schools

In January I'll celebrate my 5 year anniversary with HJUHSD, but this is my first year as a certificated employee. I earned my master's degree in counseling & PPS credential in 2021 and am excited to step into my new position as a school counselor. I am married to an amazing man & we have 5 kids, 3 whom I birthed & 2 who came to us through the foster care system. I also gained a fantastic daughter-in-law in June when my oldest son got married. This year I will be splitting my work hours between Hanford High & Sierra Pacific.

Markell Williams

SPED Teacher - Hanford High School

My name is Markell Williams. I am a father of two boys (Kaden and Logan). I'm a former firefighter out of Glendale Arizona. The past 4.5 years I've raised my boys as a full-time dad and am now transitioning into my teaching career. I've attended Sacramento State and California Coast University where I receive a BA in Sociology and a MS in Psychology. I'm excited to learn and grow as an educator. Most importantly, I'm excited to help make a positive impact on our students.

Cameron Clarno

Choir/Musical Theater Teacher - Hanford West High School

Hello, I have been a musician my whole life, and have been teaching music for 19 years now. I'm really excited to help grow the program here at Hanford West and am looking forward to working with all of you.

District Mission, Core Beliefs, and 2023-2024 Focus Areas

HJUHSD

HANFORD JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's World

MISSION

The Mission of HJUHSD is to provide a positive learning environment that fosters academic and extra-curricular achievement, social-emotional well-being, and the life skills necessary to allow our students to thrive within our community and make our community thrive.

CORE BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE

- ⇒ all students can learn at high levels.
- ⇒ all students thrive in an equitable educational environment.
- ⇒ inspired and well-rounded students can achieve academic excellence.
- ⇒ creating and maintaining healthy relationships with all students, staff, families, and the community, fosters a positive school culture.
- ⇒ collaborating with families and the community to educate our students allows us to achieve our goals.
- ⇒ focusing on academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support leads to individual student success.
- ⇒ a commitment to equity ensures diversity and individuality.
- ⇒ in providing a caring, safe, and supportive culture that focuses on respect for all students, staff, families, and community.
- ⇒ in accountability from our students, staff, and families.
- ⇒ we are better together.

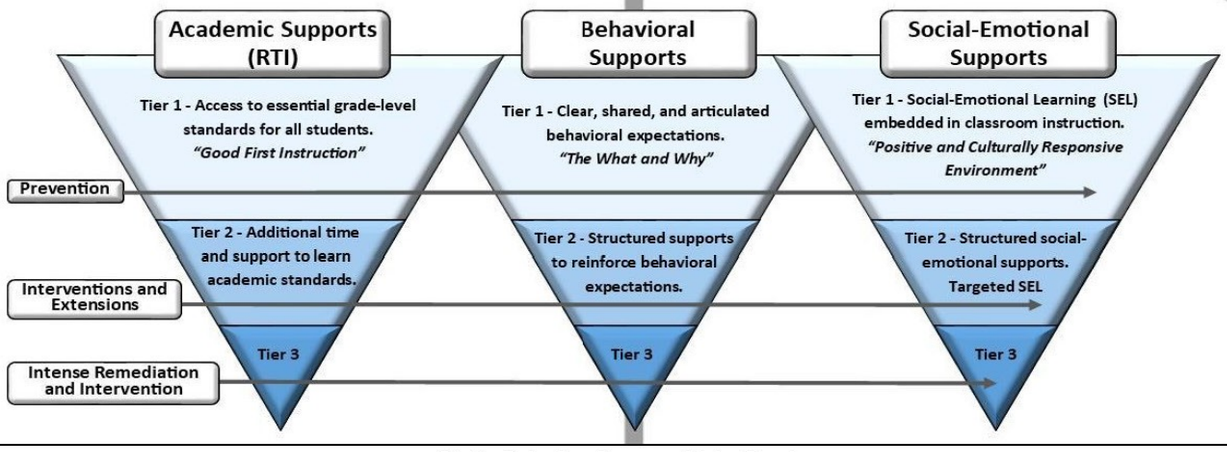
District Focus Areas 2023-2024

MTSS

HJUHSD will continue to focus on overall academic achievement by further developing and expanding our work to grow, improve, and sustain a districtwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). The focus areas for all sites this year include:

1. Continued training in the MTSS model and development of shared understanding of how RTI is a part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports.
2. Increased focus on early identification and intervention for academic progress and for credit recovery at all grade levels.
3. Training and coaching in Tier 1 instructional strategies to ensure students are receiving the best "First Instruction" possible in all academic areas from core to CTE to reduce the need for interventions. Increase access and usage of Tier 2 academic interventions.
4. Increase administrative visibility in classrooms during regular instruction.
5. Continued refinement and dissemination of a tiered discipline model with focus on:
    a. clear and shared behavioral expectations within the classroom and campus-wide (Tier 1),
    b. articulating those expectations to students and parents regularly,
    c. developing and utilizing Tier 2 interventions and supports for students who require assistance.
6. Continued development of a tiered social-emotional support and intervention model with focus on:
    a. embedding Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into regular instruction,
    b. ensuring staff, students, and parents are aware of the supports that are available,
    c. creating a model for Tier 2 early detection, intervention, and monitoring to mitigate crises (Tier 3) interventions.

HJUHSD
HANFORD JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



State Priority Areas within Goal		
Priority 1	Basic (Conditions of Learning)	Equity, Resource Alignment, Instruction, Culture and Climate
Priority 2	State Standards (Conditions of Learning)	Assessment, Curriculum, Equity, Instruction
Priority 4	Pupil Achievement (Pupil Outcomes)	Assessment, Curriculum, Equity, Instruction
Priority 5	Pupil Engagement (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community
Priority 6	School Climate (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community
Priority 8	Other Pupil Outcomes (Pupil Outcomes)	Curriculum, Equity, Professional Learning

SCHOOL SAFETY

HJUHSD will continue to revise and implement the District and Schools' Safety Plan in an effort to better protect students and staff from threats (human-caused emergencies such as crime and violence) and hazards (natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and accidents) and to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. This will be revised and completed by March 1st of each year through collaboration with the District's Safety Committee. The district will further focus on school safety with the addition, training, and monitoring of programs, software, and equipment including:

1. Utilizing School Resource Officers (SROs) in Safety Training and Student Supports
2. District Collaboration with Local Law enforcement, Fire, and EMS
3. Incident Command Training and Implementation
4. Implementation, Training, and Utilization of CrisisGo for emergency plans and communication
5. Raptor (Emergency Response Program) for visitor management
6. Stop-It, SYS Cloud, Go Guardian (Bullying and Student Safety Reporting System)
7. Cyber Threat and Disaster Recovery Plan

State Priority Areas within Goal		
Priority 1	Basic (Conditions of Learning)	Resource Alignment, Culture and Climate
Priority 3	Parental Involvement (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community
Priority 6	School Climate (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community

COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

HJUHSD will continue to focus on all facets of communication between all district stakeholders by:

1. Continue implementing internal communication protocols with a focus on transparency, efficiency, and accountability.
2. Ensuring staff, students, parents, and the community have ease of access to district and school staff with a focus on transparency, timely response, and resolution.
3. Increased parent and community outreach by the district and schools to increase parent involvement and input.
4. Continuing to use and explore all forms of media designed for communication.
5. Continuing training and implementation of Parent Square for staff, students, and parents.
6. Marketing district and school programs and accomplishments regularly through a variety of mediums including the website, social media, print media, video, and through participation and visibility at school and community functions.
7. Continue to market and reclaim HJUHSD students who have exited district schools through HOC.

State Priority Areas within Goal		
Priority 3	Parental Involvement (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community
Priority 5	Pupil Engagement (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community
Priority 6	School Climate (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community

DATA

HJUHSD will increase its capacity to make data-based decisions by:

1. Continued training in our data systems and appropriate data entry to build internal capacity of users.
2. Building district capacity to extract appropriate data reports along with analysis of those reports to guide instruction in a more timely and relevant manner.

State Priority Areas within Goal		
Priority 1	Basic (Conditions of Learning)	Equity, Resource Alignment, Instruction, Culture and Climate
Priority 2	State Standards (Conditions of Learning)	Assessment, Curriculum, Equity, Instruction
Priority 4	Pupil Achievement (Pupil Outcomes)	Assessment, Curriculum, Equity, Instruction
Priority 6	School Climate (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community

FACILITIES & GROUNDS

HJUHSD will continue to focus on improving the overall aesthetics of our facilities and grounds, including athletic fields, to better serve our students, staff, parents and community.

1. Maintain organization of grounds staff to most effectively service all areas and provide dedicated and consistent service to each site.
2. Assessment and monitoring of irrigation design, set-up and schedule with adjustments and repairs made as needed as well as schedules for seeding, fertilizing and downtime.
3. Continue to establish and improve communication protocols between site administration, coaches, grounds and maintenance.
4. Update schedule for maintaining site aesthetics including painting, signs, logos, rodent control, flowerbeds, and walkways.
5. Facility upgrades to Neighbor Bowl and general safety upgrades to include lighting of additional athletic fields and speed deterrents within campuses.
6. Develop a loss and damage mitigation plan to prevent facility misuse & abuse.

State Priority Areas within Goal		
Priority 1	Basic (Conditions of Learning)	Resource Alignment, Culture and Climate
Priority 6	School Climate (Engagement)	Culture and Climate, Equity, Family and Community

Have a great year!

HJUHSD
HANFORD JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's World