

Bi-Annual Report

Los Gatos HS | Saratoga HS | Post-Secondary Program

Winter 2023/2024

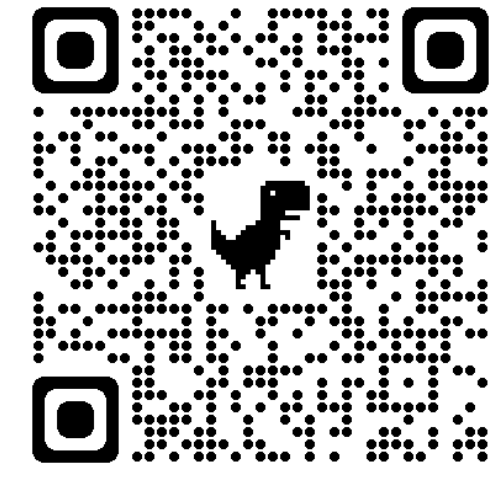


Superintendent's Message to the Community



Dear LGSUHS Community,

It has been a busy and productive first half of our school year, as we have already seen incredible achievements inside and outside the classroom. I have loved having the opportunity to not only be in classrooms and on our school campuses, but also meet with local organizations and community groups to share the achievements of our dedicated staff and remarkable students, and report upcoming financial challenges we foresee. If you didn't get the chance to attend my State of the District webinar, you can access it by scanning this QR code and scrolling to the bottom of the page.



This past December, the State of California released the 2023 results for the California School Dashboard for the first time since the pandemic. This metric includes academic performance in English and Math, English Learner progress, graduation rate, suspension rate, and college/career readiness. Look inside to see how LGSUHS rates, and if you're interested in learning more, join us at an upcoming Board Meeting for detailed presentations.

I am honored to continue to serve as your Superintendent and welcome any questions or input you may have. Please visit our school and district websites to learn more about the services, programs, and current events taking place at www.lgsuhsd.org.

In Partnership,

Bill W. Sanderson
Superintendent

Connect With Us

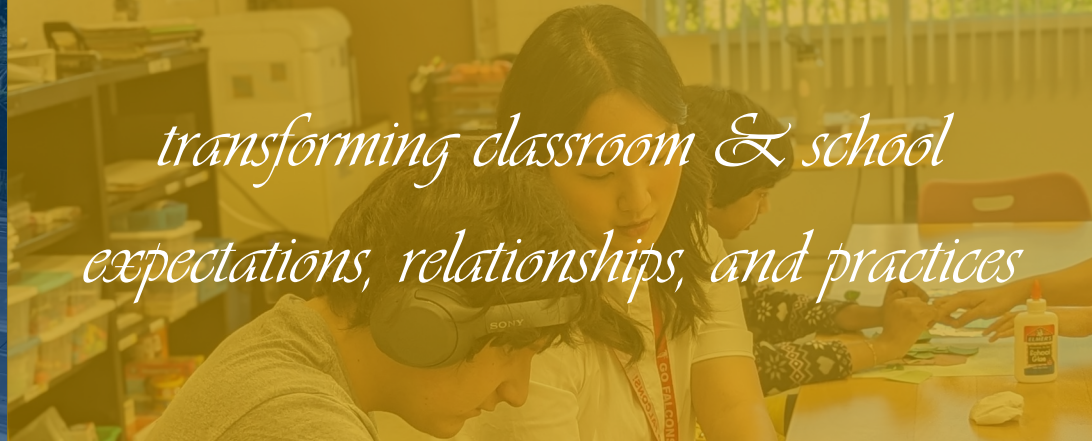


Board of Trustees

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igniting students' passions for learning & empowering them to achieve brilliance



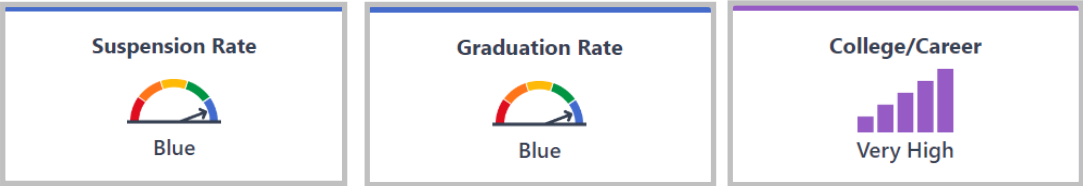
transforming classroom & school expectations, relationships, and practices



nurturing caring communities that develop students' full identities

California State Dashboard

The California Department of Education unveiled the 2023 California School Dashboard in December. This marks its return, after the onset of the pandemic, to a system of color-coded ratings that illustrate the performance of schools and districts across various indicators. The color-coded spectrum is comprised of five performance levels, ranked from highest to lowest: Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. The color rating is determined by combining the current year's results with the change in performance from the previous year.



Overall, **LGSUHS** received the **highest possible ratings** in three indicators: suspension rate, graduation rate, and college/career readiness.

The *Academic Progress in English and Math* measurement is based on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results. LGSUHS students have outperformed both state and Santa Clara County averages, with **LGSUHS ranking Number 1 in the state of California** in Mathematics for comprehensive public high school districts.

Golden Bell State Award



The district has been awarded the 2023 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award in the Student Support Services category for its food service program transformation: **Edible Learning: Transforming School Cafeterias into Wellness Communities**.

Spearheaded by Los Gatos High School Administrator Kristi Grasty in 2019, the district worked with chef Paul Boundas, owner of Country House Kitchen, to create a plan that improved the cafeteria model while enhancing students' nutrition. What transpired was an incredible collaboration that would transform the way students are fed during the school day and a replicated program model that was successfully implemented at Saratoga High School. Learn more at www.lgsuhd.org

Therapy Dogs Provide Unique Support in School Wellness Centers

Entirely funded through donations from the Los Gatos Lions Club and the Saratoga High School Foundation, both high schools now regularly have therapy dogs in their Wellness Center for students. Research shows that therapy dogs provide significant anti-stress effects on the body, including student academic and social growth.



Available to students during lunch and breaks, as well as during class with a teacher's note, the Wellness Centers continues to be a popular destination for students at both campuses, as the number of students utilizing the Wellness Center continues to increase each semester in the three years since its inception.

We INSPIRE!, a Strategic Plan Update

The Board of Trustees adopted the 2023-2033 Strategic Plan, We INSPIRE!, at the October 17, 2023 Board Meeting. Developed in phases, district students, staff, parents, and community members have completed Phases 1 & 2, which share the district's vision, mission, graduate profile, and focus areas.



The Strategic Plan has four focus areas and goals. Each focus area has an implementation team which will determine the action steps needed to meet each goal, as well as the metrics required to measure success. Throughout the process, the district will seek the input and guidance of our community, including students, parents, community leaders, and teachers/staff. Scan the QR code to see the full plan.

School Funding Challenges

More than a decade ago, local voters approved Measure A. This \$49 annual parcel tax provides dedicated, locally controlled funding for programs such as robotics, rigorous AP courses, and award-winning music, arts, and world language programs. This source of funding is set to expire unless renewed.

Since Measure A was first approved in 2011, the cost of living and of providing an excellent education has continued to increase, while locally-controlled revenue for our high schools has remained **stagnant**.

District	Parcel Tax Rate	Annual Adjustment
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High SD	\$49	No
Campbell Union High SD	\$85	No
Fremont Union High SD	\$98	No
Palo Alto Unified SD	\$836	Yes
Menlo Park City School District	\$1,452.14	Yes

The LGSUHS Board of Trustees is exploring options to help local funding keep pace with the rising costs of providing a quality education. One option currently being explored is a ballot measure to renew the District's expiring local parcel tax, with a modest increase to the \$49 rate approved more than 10 years ago.

Planning for the future of education funding in our local high schools should be a community-driven process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tanya De La Cruz at tdelacruz@lgsuhd.org or (408) 402-6320. We also encourage you to make your voice heard by scanning the QR code and [taking our school funding survey](#).



****The current Parcel Tax has a Senior Citizen Exemption. Call (408)402-6320 to learn more.****