

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,

April was an incredibly successful month for Hacienda La Puente Unified, as our students, teachers, and staff received top honors for their hard work and were recognized through various Districtwide events and end-of-year celebrations.

Throughout April, our Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs brought incredible talent and joy to our schools through a series of concerts, competitions, and plays Districtwide. On April 17, our fifth graders danced in the largest semi-finals in Conga Kids history, with 22 schools participating across the District. Shout-out to all our competitors and winners who will advance to the finals at LA Live on Thursday, May 16.

This month, we also transformed the Hacienda Heights Community Center into a world of wonder for our District Arts Showcase on April 18. The showcase featured an array of expressive, symbolic, and poignant artwork from students of all ages, interactive activities for families, and an awards ceremony to celebrate the work of all our talented young artists.

I want to thank all our dedicated employees who work behind the scenes to ensure the success of events like the Conga Kids semi-finals, Districtwide concerts, and the annual Art Show. It takes a village to orchestrate our events; we appreciate all you do.

Each month, we observe historical dates designed to educate our students on important issues and help build robust support systems within our community. In April, we participated in various classroom activities to celebrate Earth Day, partnered with the Department of Mental Health Promoters to learn more about various forms of neglect in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, and held our annual Autism Awareness and Acceptance Walk to support and raise awareness.

On April 23, HLPUSD's Personnel Commission hosted our Classified Employees Service Awards, presenting awards to members of our classified staff who have completed a significant milestone in their careers. Your positive attitude and unwavering dedication inspire us all, and we are truly grateful for your contributions.

We continued to show acknowledgment to our staff throughout the month by celebrating our administrative professionals and bus drivers, surprising them with fun decorations and gifts to show gratitude for their essential efforts.

Lastly, I want to thank our entire District community for your understanding, patience, and support as our technology and administrative team worked to resolve our network issue. As we recover from the disruption, we have learned valuable lessons and silver linings. One, our District is a team – every member came together to ensure learning carried on for our students amid state testing preparation. Two, we are immensely privileged to have the wealth of technology that we have across our District, and while we are fortunate to have access to such state-of-the-art equipment and programs, no one is immune to technology issues.

As a District, we have been reminded of this and have begun our work to enhance our systems further, and continue improving backup methods and updating our response plan and preparedness in the wake of future disruptions. On behalf of the Board of Education, we appreciate your collaboration and flexibility over the past few weeks and will continue to provide any updates to our families as needed.

I look forward to finishing the school year off strong and celebrating the successes of our students with you throughout the next few weeks!

As always, we are **#ProudtobeHLPUSD**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Superintendent

Valinda Language Immersion Educator Named 2024 Teacher of the Year

Hacienda La Puente Unified's Fany Melendez, a second-grade Dual Language Immersion (DLI) teacher at Valinda School of Academics, is the recipient of the 2024 Teacher of the Year award for her unwavering commitment to student success and her holistic approach to teaching, inspiring excellence in every aspect of her classroom.

With 13 years of dedicated service in education, Melendez is a passionate nurturer of students' academic and personal growth. She focuses many of her efforts on closing the achievement gap for language learners by incorporating the DLI curriculum into meaningful lessons that also support students' socio-emotional growth.

Melendez devotes additional time after school hours and on weekends to various campus activities and initiatives aimed at enhancing the learning experience for all students. Some of these extracurricular activities include coaching the award-winning First Lego League Robotics team, "The Robolts," and leading the Science Olympiad team.

"I'm incredibly humbled to have been recognized as the Teacher of the Year," Melendez said. "Watching my students learn and grow their language skills in DLI is the most rewarding experience. I'm looking forward to continuing my efforts to encourage them to thrive and provide them with the wonderful academic experience they deserve."

Click here to read more!



Hacienda La Puente Unified administrators celebrate second-grade Dual Language Immersion educator Fany Melendez being named HLPUSD's 2024 District Teacher of the Year with a surprise announcement in April.

All Four Comprehensive Campuses Receives Top Rankings in U.S. News & World Report

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District is home to four comprehensive high schools, each offering a distinctive mix of programs and resources to support every student on their path to success. These schools ranked in the top 32% in the U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best High Schools rankings.

In partnership with global research firm RTI International, U.S. News evaluated approximately 25,000 public high schools and ranked 17,660 across the United States. Top performers were selected by weighted scores across six indicators of school quality, placing all four schools in the top 32% of the nation. Additionally, Glen A. Wilson ranked among the top 5% of all high schools in California for the second consecutive year.





"We are incredibly proud of all our high schools and their commitment to student success," Hacienda La Puente Unified Director of High Schools Dr. Mark Anderson said. "These rankings underscore the hard work and dedication of our students, educators, staff, and school communities and highlight our commitment to providing vibrant programs and resources to ensure college and career readiness."

In addition to the high school recognitions, nine Hacienda La Puente Unified elementary and four middle schools scored in the top 28% of schools in the state based on the U.S. News & World Report's best elementary and middle school rankings, released in November 2023.

Click here to read more!

La Puente High School Students Enhance District Safety through Community Emergency Response Training



Los Angeles County Fire Department support La Puente High School students as they extinguish a fire during the in-person portion of their hybrid CERT training on April 13.

La Puente High School students and staff strengthened their dedication to real-world civic action by participating in the National Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, a hybrid course developed to educate and train individuals in disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their school, household, and District community.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored program was set in motion by the school's Public Safety Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway instructor Antonia Ramirez. After extensive research, Ramirez introduced 29 CTE students and six staff members, including Principal Dr. Lisa Lopez, to the hybrid CERT program – a nine-unit online course packed with rigorous curriculum provided by the University of Utah, and completed with a hands-on practical portion led by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) on April 13.

"I was so nervous about doing the in-person CERT training, but it was actually a lot of fun and very informative," Public Safety pathway sophomore Ruby Ornelas said. "I was tasked with doing treatment and triage during the simulations and I felt so empowered knowing that these skills would help me benefit my community in the event of an emergency. On top of earning this certificate, the Public Safety pathway offers other certifications and pieces of training to help us excel in our careers, and for that, I am so grateful."

Click here to read more!

Numerous District Professionals Win Administrator of the Year Awards

Four Hacienda La Puente Unified administrators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, effective problem-solving, and dedication to fostering innovative learning experiences have been recognized as the 2024 Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 15 Administrators of the Year.

The winners were celebrated during the annual ACSA Spring Banquet on April 19. The banquet honored Region 15 winners for advocating for the best interests of students and developing, empowering, and inspiring equity-minded educational leaders. Region 15 is home to the largest charter in ACSA, encompassing 25 charter districts in northern Los Angeles County.

Congratulations to Hacienda La Puente Unified's Newton Middle School Principal Ann Hanson; Del Valle Principal Collin Miller; Director of High Schools Dr. Mark Anderson; and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Helene Cunningham on receiving their respective titles and former Director of Special Education Director Deidre Hurst on winning the Robert E. Kelly Award, honoring her vast contributions and commitment to public education upon retirement. Additionally, former Hacienda La Puente Unified Principal Edna Moore earned the Retired ACSA Administrator Award.

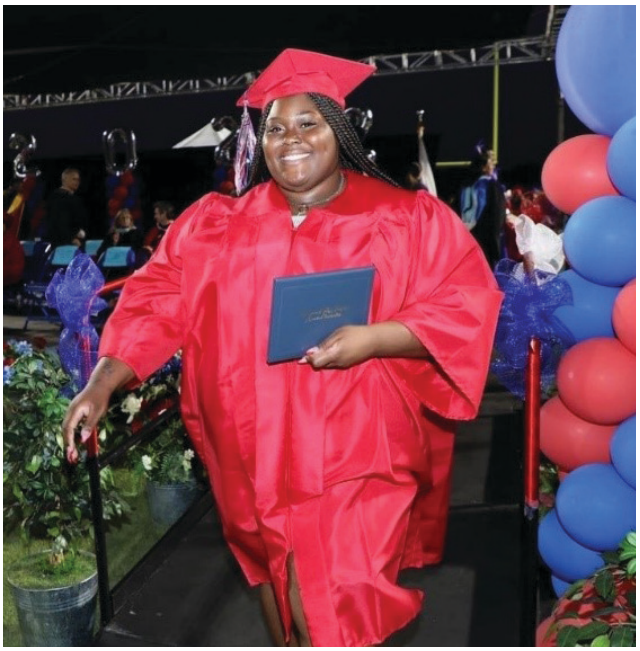


Hacienda La Puente Unified celebrates its ACSA Administrators of the Year during a Spring Banquet on April 19.

"The banquet was a spectacular event that highlighted leaders for their dedication, passion, and tireless efforts in shaping a brighter tomorrow for students," Miller said. "I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition amongst my esteemed colleagues and look forward to the future."

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Reminders

High School Graduation Schedule



Tuesday, May 21

Valley Alternative High School: 3 p.m. at the Hacienda Heights Community Center, 1234 Valencia Ave., Hacienda Heights

William Workman High School: 5 p.m. at the City of Industry Expo Center, 16200 Temple Ave., City of Industry

La Puente High School: 7:30 p.m. at the Mcintosh Field at La Puente High School, 15615 Nelson Ave E., La Puente

Thursday, May 23

Glen A. Wilson High School: 5 p.m. at the Merrill Stadium at Wilson High School, 16455 Wedgeworth Dr., Hacienda Heights

Los Altos High School: 7:30 p.m. at the Mauch Stadium at Los Altos High School, 15325 Los Robles Ave., Hacienda Heights



SUMMER BREAK

The spring semester ends on Thursday, May 23 and summer break will begin with a free day on Friday, May 24. Hacienda La Puente Unified wishes you a festive month of May and a safe and fun summer break!

JOIN OUR TEAM

HLPUSD's Personnel Commission and its staff work to establish policies, practices, and procedures for the District's classified employees, which provide essential non-teaching services to students, educators, and the District community. The Personnel Commission is committed to providing professional, efficient, and effective service in attracting and retaining the best-qualified employees who help promote a culture of teamwork, fairness, and an environment dedicated to student success.

Please visit hlpusdjobs.org to learn more!



Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Reminders



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Hacienda La Puente Unified is dedicated to creating a nurturing environment where mental health is valued and supported at every level. From classroom initiatives to family workshops and webinars, HLPUSD is committed to promoting understanding to ensure every student feels connected, supported, and empowered to succeed. Click here to view the District's Equity and Access, Family Engagement Wellness Resources.

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.

Please visit the District's website to get connected today!

