

August 2024

Dear Heredia-Arriaga Familia,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with anticipation for the upcoming school year. It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new principal of Heredia-Arriaga Dual Language School. As we embark on the journey into the 2024-2025 academic year, I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you.

I am thrilled to join a school community dedicated to academic excellence, cultural diversity, and fostering a supportive learning environment. My predecessor laid a solid foundation, and I am committed to building upon it to ensure that our students receive the highest-quality education possible.

At Heredia-Arriaga Dual Language School, we recognize the importance of bilingualism and its advantages in today's globalized world. Mastery of Spanish and English opens doors to a broader range of academic and professional opportunities. Our dual language program is designed to cultivate bilingual learners who are proficient in two languages, culturally competent, and adaptable.

To our returning students, welcome back! Your enthusiasm and achievements continue to inspire us all, and I look forward to witnessing your growth and accomplishments this year. To our new students and families, I extend a special welcome. You are now part of a school that values inclusivity, creativity, and academic rigor. I am confident that you will quickly feel at home here.

As we begin this school year together, let us embrace the opportunities for learning, personal development, and community engagement that lie ahead. I am particularly excited to meet each of our school community members and learn more about your experiences and aspirations. Your stories and perspectives enrich our collective identity and inspire us to strive for excellence in everything we do.

Natomas Unified School District, NUSD, is launching Parent Square at all schools district-wide as our primary communication tool to share information with families. This change results from feedback from NUSD families who requested that we streamline communication. All information from our school and the district office will be provided using ParentSquare. We encourage all families to download the app from the Apple or Google Play store as soon as possible to access all the features and benefits. One feature that we are extremely excited about is access to 125+ languages. Families can choose the language of their preference to receive and send messages to school and district staff. Please visit the NUSD website, which has a page dedicated to



ParentSquare, including how to access it, training, how-to guides, frequently asked questions, multiple videos, handouts, printed documents, and more. Please be sure to sign up!

While ParentSquare will be used for communications, student's class assignments/schedules, grades, and attendance information will continue to be shared via Infinite Campus, IC. Hence, we encourage parents to keep the IC Portal to access those two items.

Important dates and information:

- To Do: Download the app for <u>ParentSquare</u> to receive important information on communication from our school and district.
- Our school office will open on August 1st at 8 am. If you need immediate assistance, contact <u>Constituent and Customer Services</u>.
- Enrollment Nights: July 23rd, July 31st, August 5th (5pm-7pm)
- Elementary class assignments will be finalized, made available through Infinite Campus, and posted in front of the school entrance gate by 4:00 pm on August 2nd. If you do not have an IC account yet, you can find instructions on how to do that by going to these <u>Parent Instructions</u>. When it asks for your activation key, enter the number given. If you have already set up an account but do not remember your login information, you can click "forgot password" to retrieve your password. For more help: Visit <u>natomasunified.org/icportal</u>, contact your school, or email <u>icportal@natomasunified.org</u>.
- The first day of school is Thursday, August 8, 2024. The first bell will ring at 7:45 a.m., and the instruction bell will ring at 8:15 a.m. Everyday attendance is important! Our school goal is to have a 95+% attendance rate.
- School dismissal will be at 1:38 pm for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students and at 1:55 pm for 1st-grade students.
- **Immunizations:** Please remember that California requires regular childhood immunizations unless your child has a medical exemption (CAIR-Medical Exemption). If your child does not have current immunizations, NUSD offers free immunizations. <u>Click here</u> for more information.
- Back to school night is August 20th, 2024, from 6:30 pm 8:00 pm.
- Please see our Digital Backpacks located on our website for more resources and a copy of the HAS bell schedule.

Traffic and Safety - School is open at 7:30 am, and in regards to traffic and student safety, dropping your child off early reduces the traffic congestion at the 7:45 bell. Remember that if you drop your child off at the front of the school, you must pull forward to the drop-off area. Please do not drop them off in the red-zoned



area because this causes congestion, where cars are backed up into the street, making it unsafe for students, staff, and families.

Also, when you pull up, please have your children ready to leave the car; this will help keep the traffic flow consistent. Lastly, please discuss the road rules with your child and ensure they look both ways before crossing the street.

Once again, welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Heredia-Arriaga Dual Language School. Let us work together to make this a year of growth, achievement, and unity as we cultivate bilingual learners ready to excel in a global society.

Warm regards,

Directora Saca