



# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE *Summer 2024*



## *Superintendent's* MESSAGE

Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,  
The summer months were filled with excitement for HLPUSD as our students engaged in various summer enrichment activities, from coding and athletic camps to Speech and Debate and Youth Cinema Project (YCP) programs.

We started the summer with our top-rated C-STEM Robotics summer camp, where our students strengthened their critical thinking, communication, and real-world problem-solving skills through transformative math education.

This summer, our leadership team established the 2024-25 theme: "Transformative Learning, Pathways to Student Success." This theme aims to inspire new perspectives through innovative programs and recommit to expanding creative and rewarding learning opportunities, including curriculum, extracurriculars, and pathways for success in a technologically advancing world.

In June, our middle and high school Speech and Debate students showcased their exceptional skills at the 2024 National Speech and Debate tournament. We were thrilled to see 12 middle school students reach the quarter-finals and four advance to the semi-finals. Mesa Robles was also recognized as one of five schools to win the National Speech and Debate School of Excellence Award. The July 18 Speech and Debate Summer Showcase was a proud moment for students, families, District employees, Board of Education members, and myself, as we previewed the new speeches our award-winning competitors have started practicing.

YCP students from California Elementary School, Sparks Middle School, and La Puente High School showcased their expertise and skills with their 2023-24 films, which premiered at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival. During the event, California Elementary School won the "2024 Best Film for Elementary Schools" award from the Latino Film Institute for their movie "The World is Yours." It was an honor to attend this event and see our students' hard work and beautiful storytelling on the big screen.

Our District also enjoyed watching more films from this year's expanded summer program during a showcase on July 31. YCP is an exceptional opportunity for our youth to immerse themselves in a lucrative industry filled with hundreds of job opportunities and areas of success.

Thank you to our Board of Education for your shared vision and advocacy to ensure programs like these are adapted, nurtured, and continue to thrive throughout our District.

Lastly, thank you to our dedicated educators and staff for leading summer school programs and upgrading our school sites for the 2024-25 school year. I also extend my gratitude to our exceptional faculty members and administrators for creating inspiring professional development training to support this year's theme and our mission of being partners in our students' future.

I was delighted to see numerous first day of school celebrations and activities on social media. While I was unable to join in on the fun in-person due to being ill, I look forward to visiting our students and staff on campus for additional return-to-school onboarding celebrations and events throughout August.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez

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From left to right: Principal Dr. David Nieto, Mrs. Berenice Carlos, Mrs. Antonia Carlin de Zapata, and Mrs. Rocio Lira, Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) members from Sparks Middle School.



From left to right: PTO president of Palm Elementary School; Los Robles Academy PTO parent Jessica Perez; and Palm Elementary School principal Sandy Carbajal.

## School Transition Leadership Collaboratives Ignite New Possibilities

Due to the District's Transition Leadership Collaboratives (TLC) meetings, Hacienda La Puente Unified students and families are not only receiving additional support but also experiencing a sense of unity and shared purpose as they navigate school transitions.

TLC was created to help students adapt to and thrive at newly combined campuses, which began in August. Meetings were held at the end of April and throughout May so that students, parents, and staff leaders could get to know each other and collaborate on integrating new grade levels.

At the June 13 Board meeting, school administrators and parent volunteers shared their spring TLC meeting experiences. They emphasized the importance of unity among parents from different sites, activities to foster integration, and plans to merge campuses.

"Our hope is that as we push forward, we are building one team with one dream and a leadership group represented by one Sparks campus," Sparks Middle School principal Dr. David Nieto said. "Through this TLC process, we have been able to watch our families and staff grow together and witness how these relationships are changing the leadership apparatus at Sparks."

Click [here](#) to read more!

## ATHLETICS

## Hacienda La Puente Unified Students Find Inspiration During NFL-Led Summer Football Camp

Hacienda La Puente Unified students across the District laced up their cleats for an action-packed football camp filled with speed, agility, plyometrics, and nutrition training hosted by non-profit organization Take Back the Neighborhood, led by coaches from a roster of former National Football League (NFL) players at William Workman High School on July 27.

Fifty-five boys and girls, ages seven to 18, were welcomed to the free football camp, regardless of their skill level. NFL veterans, including Sherman Cocroft from the Kansas City Chiefs, Mike Alexander and Dokie Williams from the then Oakland Raiders, Al Bell from the Green Bay Packers, Ron Brown from the Los Angeles

Rams, and Darryl Meadows from the Houston Oilers, led the students through various football drills, stretching exercises, and conditioning sessions emphasizing the importance of mindset, body care, perseverance, and the dedication required to excel in athletics.

The camp featured a comprehensive range of activities and skills, teaching 14 to 18-year-old students essential football fundamentals, while also providing insight into what it takes to be an athlete. Students in the 7 to 13-year-old group were also taught fundamental skills such as running routes, throwing, and how to properly catch a football.

Click [here](#) to read more!

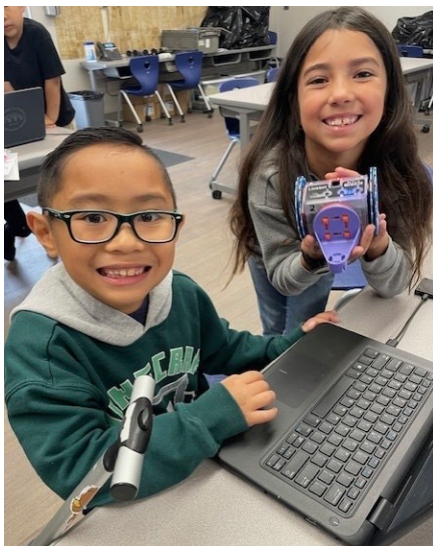


Hacienda La Puente Unified Wing Lane Elementary School students participated in a free football camp on July 27, where they were coached by former National Football League players.





Youth Cinema Project students prepare to pitch their ideas during a summer camp class in July.



Hacienda La Puente Unified C-STEM students enhance their coding, communication, and critical thinking skills during a summer camp class in June.

## Hacienda La Puente Unified Students Explore New Horizons Through Summer Programs

The summer months in Hacienda La Puente Unified had students flourishing through comprehensive academic and enrichment opportunities that support students in all their needs and interests, from Speech and Debate and the Youth Cinema Project (YCP) summer programs to annual sports and Computer, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (C-STEM) Robotics summer camps.

The District had a variety of summer school classes and programs, including middle school math enrichment programs and the District's Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). This year, Speech and Debate was offered for the first time to high school students, with 150 middle and high school students participating throughout the District.

After three weeks of coding, building, and endless creativity, (C-STEM) Robotics Summer Camp students displayed their expanded knowledge with a District showcase.

Academic summer programs across the District aim to keep students engaged, while HLPUSD high schools provide academic and enrichment opportunities that support students' social-emotional and physical well-being.



Hacienda La Puente Unified educators collaborate during a collaborative all-day Adobe Creativity Institute summer seminar on July 29.



## Hacienda La Puente Unified Educators Transform Teaching with Tech at Adobe Creativity Institute

Hacienda La Puente Unified educators received an opportunity to enhance their tech skills, while discovering new digital tools and apps that will help them to initiate creativity in their classrooms during an all-day Adobe Creativity Institute professional development seminar on July 29.

Nearly 200 HLPUSD teachers attended the seminar, making it the biggest cohort to ever attend an Adobe Creativity Institute event. The participants who completed the seminar received a certificate of achievement for completing six hours of accredited professional learning and earned Adobe Creative Educator Level 1 and Level 2 badges.

The seminar was divided into four sessions, covering creative curriculum, creative processes, digital portfolios, and easy assessment strategies. Each session included a digital task for educators to complete, including creating graphics, videos, and websites, using Adobe Express software, led by certified Adobe digital technicians and teachers.

Click [here](#) to read more!

*From left to right: Hacienda La Puente Unified TechTOSA Teresa Magpayo-Castro and HLPUSD Director of Data, Research and Innovation Lilia Picado and TechTOSA Ricardo Recinos support educators as they focus on creating with AI during the Adobe Creativity Institute seminar on July 29.*



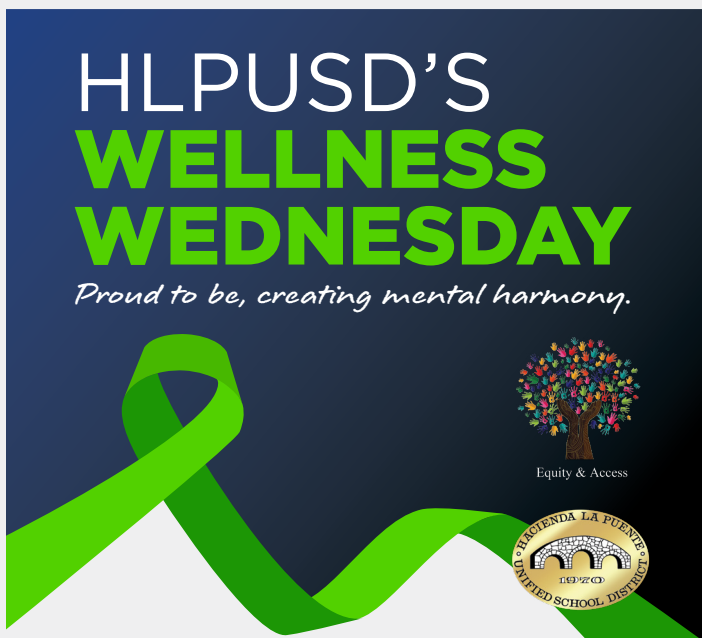




## HLP Adult Education Health Careers Building Ribbon-Cutting

The Hacienda La Puente Unified community is invited to celebrate the unveiling of the HLP Adult Education's (HLP AE) Health Careers Building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 23 at the Willow Adult Conference Center, 14101 E. Nelson Ave., La Puente, CA.

During the event, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the new building, learn more about HLP AE's wide variety of classes, programs, and services from adult education leaders and celebrate this achievement as a community. Refreshments will also be served by HLP AE's culinary arts program.



## Wellness Wednesdays

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District is launching a Wellness Wednesday initiative for the 2024-25 school year, which will offer engaging social media posts, valuable well-being resources for families, interactive webinars, town halls, and a variety of support services to promote a healthy community.

To the right are some mindfulness tips from the National Alliance on Mental Illness for the HLPUSD community to help ease back into the new school year.

For more resources, please contact the Equity and Access department at (626) 933-5302 or visit our [District webpage](#).

### Mindfulness Tips:

- ✓ **Mark your calendar.** Note important dates, like back-to-school nights and parent-teacher conferences.
- ✓ **Create routines and schedules.** Establish clear routines, such as goodbye or drop-off rituals, to eliminate daily decision-making.
- ✓ **Re-establish bedtime and mealtime routines, and coordinate drop-off and pick-up times.** Set alarm clocks and prepare for earlier bed and wake-up times.
- ✓ **Turn off the TV, phone, and tablet.** Encourage your children to color, journal, do puzzles, use flashcards, stretch, or read as early morning activities instead of watching shows or movies. This will help ease students back into the learning process and school routine.
- ✓ **Designate and clear a space to do homework.** Older children should have the option of studying in their room or a quiet area of the house. Younger children usually need an area where a parent or guardian can monitor, help, and encourage the student.
- ✓ **Select a spot to keep backpacks and lunch boxes.** Designate a spot for your children to place their school belongings as well as a place to put important notices and information that is sent home for you to see. Make a practice of emptying backpacks every evening to keep students organized.
- ✓ **Back-to-school anxiety.** Your child may be worried or stressed about being back at school. Talk with your child, validate their feelings, and help them find healthy ways to navigate their worries.
- ✓ **Safety measures.** Remind your child that their health and safety are the top priority. Remember to travel to and from school in groups.



### Board of Education Meeting Public Meeting Notice

An in-person/virtual Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22 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 [www.hlpusd.org/board](http://www.hlpusd.org/board).



### Bond/School Improvements and HLPUSD Celebrations

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 the District successes.



### 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](http://hlpusdjobs.org) to learn more!



# 16 CTE PATHWAYS IN 11 INDUSTRY SECTORS

2024-25 Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways	La Puente High School	Los Altos High School	Wilson High School	Workman High School	Valley Alternative High School
Automotive	✓			✓	
Aviation <b>NEW!</b>		✓			
Biotechnology			✓		
Business Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Child Development			✓		
Computer Science			✓		
Culinary			✓		
Dance	✓				
Digital Graphics		✓	✓	✓	
Engineering		✓			
Music				✓	
Patient Care		✓		✓	
Print Manufacturing	✓				
Public Safety	✓				
Theatre			✓	✓	
Video Production		✓			

Visit [bit.ly/HLP\\_ENROLLNOW](http://bit.ly/HLP_ENROLLNOW) to Enroll Today!

For more information: Contact the CTE Office at (626) 933-4366 or visit [bit.ly/HLPCTE](http://bit.ly/HLPCTE)

## Students Prepare for Success with Diverse CTE Pathways

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District is committed to preparing students for college and career through its 16 diverse and robust career technical education (CTE) pathways that provide students with real-world, hands-on experience across various industries.

From biotechnology and engineering to public safety, culinary arts, business management, and an exciting new aviation pathway, students can explore their passions early and gain a competitive edge in their desired careers.

Click [here](#) to enroll in one of the District's stand-out CTE pathways today!