



HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE *September 2024*



Superintendent's MESSAGE

Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,

September marked the first full month of instruction, and we have much to celebrate. Our students excelled academically, athletically, and through active community engagement.

One of our most significant achievements was the successful hosting of our annual College and Career Fair on September 14. It was a joy to see middle and high school families actively engaging with educators, staff, and college representatives, paving the way for their future success.

Our students shined at several events outside the District, including Workman High School's band, 'The Red and Black Regiment,' which made an exciting appearance at the USC football game halftime show on September 7. La Puente High School's cheer and dance teams showcased their talents for the 10th time at the Los Angeles Sparks basketball game at the Crypto Arena on September 29.

We are proud of our schools for spotlighting Suicide Prevention Month with various classroom and school site initiatives. The unity and empowerment from the first Parent University and Youth Conference of the school year on September 21 was truly inspiring. It brought our community together, equipping parents and students with tools to create a brighter future.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Board of Education, Facilities, and Business departments for their tremendous efforts in advancing our facilities projects. Thank you to our community and bond voters for supporting our mission to ensure every student has access to top-tier facilities and learning opportunities. Be sure to explore the 2024-25 Facilities Brochure to learn more about our project highlights.

We are eagerly looking forward to the fall season and all the exciting festivities it brings. These include several holidays, like National Custodian Day and School Lunch Week, various visual and performing arts showcases, and of course, Halloween.

As always, we are #ProudtobeHLPUSD.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez

15959 East Gale Ave.
City Of Industry, CA 91745

(626) 933-1000
info@hlpusd.k12.ca.us

f hlpusd
X @hlpusd
@ haciendalapuenteusd

www.hlpschools.org



CONGRATULATIONS

2023-24 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR!



HLPUSD Staff Recognized as 2023-24 Employees of the Year

Hacienda La Puente Unified gathered to celebrate its 2023-24 Employees of the Year with a recognition ceremony on September 26, where the Board of Education, school principals, and community members came together to celebrate the outstanding contributions of its educators and staff. During this ceremony, teachers from each school site were recognized for their exceptional work and dedication.

Valinda School of Academics second-grade, Dual Language Immersion (DLI) teacher Fany Melendez was honored as the 2024 District Teacher of the Year for her unwavering commitment to student success and her holistic approach to teaching, inspiring excellence in every aspect of her classroom.

Newton Middle School Principal Ann Hanson was presented

with the Award of Merit for being the Administrator of the Year, while Janet Rutledge, an Instructional Aide II at Baldwin Academy, and Olivia Garcia, an Office Assistant at Palm Elementary, were named California School Employees Association, Chapter 115 Employees of the Year for their dedicated support of students and staff.

Service Employees International Union, Local 99 Employees of the Year – Warehouse Supervisor Higinio “Jr” Hernandez and Data and Systems Supervisor Kim Luu – were also recognized for their leadership and commitment to keeping the District running smoothly.

Click [here](#) to view the full album of award recipients!



A Hacienda La Puente Unified middle school student enters the career technical education pathway exploration room at the 56th Assembly District College and Career Fair on September 14.

Hacienda La Puente Unified Students across the District Explore Pathways to Success

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD), in partnership with Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, hosted the Annual 56th Assembly District College and Career Fair on September 14, drawing hundreds of high school and middle school students eager to explore future academic path and career options.

Held at La Puente High School, the event featured more than 60 college and career booths designed to provide valuable resources and guidance for students planning their next steps.

Students had a chance to visit a dedicated room showcasing career technical education (CTE) pathways, where high school CTE student volunteers from all four comprehensive HLPUSD high schools, HLPUSD CTE Coordinator Dr. Lawrence Fitz, and HLPUSD CTE educators, offered middle school families interactive demonstrations, engaging displays, and detailed information about the exciting career options available through CTE programs.

"Each year, this event sets the stage for students to explore their futures... but this year, we rose to the challenge like never before," Fitz said. "The energy, engagement, and sheer variety of opportunities made this our most dynamic College and Career Fair to date. Thank you to all our partners and of course, Lisa Calderon, for making this event possible for our remarkable HLPUSD families."

Throughout the event, students participated in workshops offering essential support for navigating the college application process. Sessions covered topics like college planning for middle schoolers, applying to the University of California and California State University systems, and steps to take before and after submitting applications.

As the event concluded, HLPUSD celebrated the five seniors who were recognized as winners of the 56th Assembly District Writing Contest, including Aidan Inchausti, Heeju Bahk, Lily Le, and Luna Liang from Glen A. Wilson High School, and Valerie Martinez from William Workman High School. Each contest winner received a \$1,000 merit-based scholarship for their exceptional efforts.



Workman High's Early College Partnership with Mt. SAC Accelerates Students' Journeys to College and Career

Hacienda La Puente Unified's Workman High School students are accelerating their college and career paths with the Workman Early College Academy Network (WECAN), a program offering free college classes on Workman's school campus through a partnership with Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC).

Now in its third year, the program allows students to earn college credits alongside their high school requirements, enabling them to participate fully in sports, extracurriculars, and their high school experience while progressing toward a college degree.

"This program is special because it looks different to each student," Workman High junior and WECAN student Noah Avelar said. "I am expected to graduate from Workman with approximately 50 college credits, which feels amazing. I know what I want to achieve after graduation, and knowing I am ahead of the game while not having to miss out on the sports and school activities I love is awesome."

Students in the program also receive free textbooks and materials as well as Mt. SAC resources aimed at reducing any barriers to higher education.

Click [here](#) to read more!



Workman Early College Academy Network (WECAN) student Noah Avelar learns about the history of Rock 'n' Roll on September 24.

Wilson High School Science Olympiad Coach Honored with Yale Educator Award



From left to right: Glen A. Wilson High School Class of 2024 seniors Emily Chang and Helen Zhou celebrate earning high achievements alongside coach Jungsoo Han at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Texas in June 2023.

Glen A. Wilson High School science teacher Jungsoo Han has a knack for getting the best out of his students. As coach of the school's successful Science Olympiad and Future Health Professionals (HOSA) teams, Han has established each unit as perennial tournament favorites, while inspiring his students to challenge themselves and work towards careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Among the many students Han has inspired is Wilson High Class of 2024 graduate and current Yale University freshman Emily Chang. As Science Olympiad captain during her senior year, Chang led the team to its third consecutive Southern California Science Olympiad Regional Championship at Río Hondo College in March 2023.

Han's influence has not gone unnoticed by his former students. Han, who is a Wilson High Class of 2000 graduate, was recently named as a recipient of the Yale Educator Award, presented to teachers who have deeply impacted their students' lives. Han was nominated for the award by Chang, then selected as a winner by a committee in Yale's Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Han is one of just 90 teachers and counselors in the United States and beyond to receive the honor

in 2024, including international educators from Mexico, South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa.

"I am very honored to receive this prestigious award," Han said. "I received tremendous inspiration from my science teachers at Wilson and it's a great feeling to give back to your community. I think the keys to a student's success in STEM are to be willing to go as far as you can, give 110%, don't be afraid to fail and, if you do, then pick yourself up. Wilson's Olympiad and HOSA students have really taken this advice to heart."

Click [here](#) to read more!



Puente Hills Subaru
Where Extraordinary Happens

Date August 2024

Pay to the Order Of *Nelson Elementary School*

Nelson Elementary School principal Collin Miller thanks Puente Hills Subaru's Love Encore Manager Lloyd Reese for its generous donation alongside Nelson staff during an event on September 17.

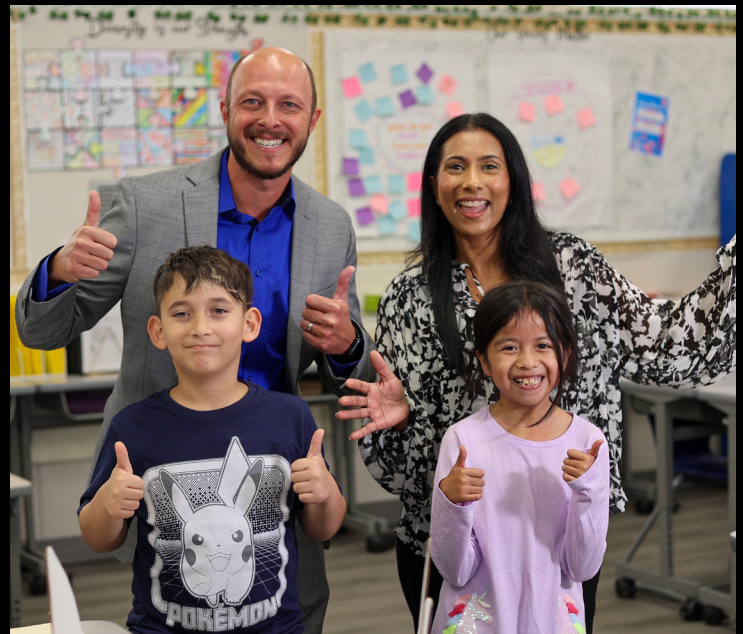
Nelson Elementary School Classrooms Surprised with Free School Supplies Thanks to Subaru

Six outstanding teachers at Hacienda La Puente Unified's Nelson Elementary School were pleasantly surprised with \$500 worth of school supplies for their classrooms and a \$3,000 check for the school on September 17. This generous donation, made possible by Puente Hills Subaru's "Subaru Loves Learning" initiative in partnership with AdoptaClassroom.org, strives to support local schools by providing essential learning tools for students and educators.

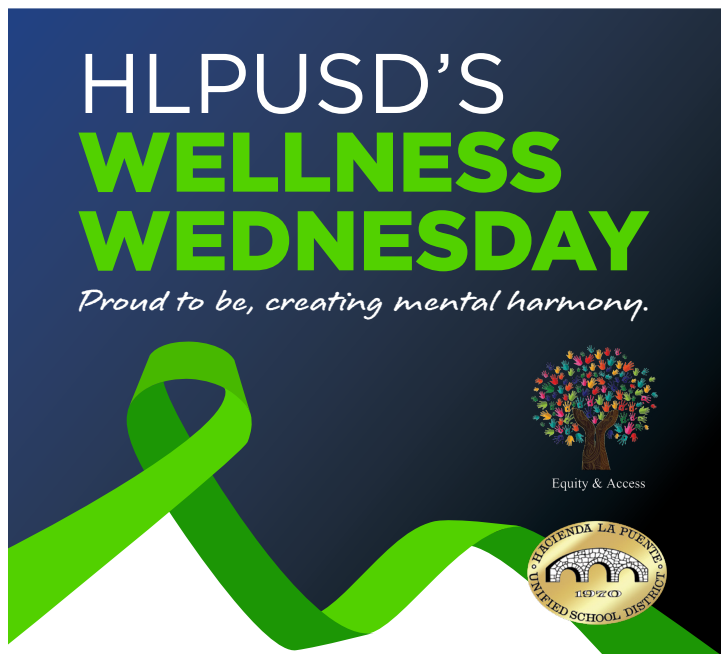
During the event, representatives from Puente Hills Subaru, Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jiménez, and Board President Christine H. Salazar accompanied Nelson's new principal, Collin Miller, to each classroom. There, the teachers were surprised with the hefty box of supplies while Subaru representatives gave a heartfelt speech, passionately expressing their unwavering commitment to education.

This marks the second consecutive year Puente Hills Subaru has generously supported Nelson Elementary. The District is deeply grateful for its ongoing partnership.

"We were thrilled to welcome back Puente Hills Subaru to our campus to shower our educators and classrooms with additional learning materials and supplies to ensure academic success," Miller said. "At Hacienda La Puente Unified, we are committed to forging relationships with like-minded local, state, and global organizations. We believe it is through these partnerships and the support of our community that we can best assist in our mission to be partners in your child's future, striving to bridge the gap and provide equal opportunity to every student."



This Nelson Elementary School classroom was surprised with box of school supplies during a "Subaru Loves Learning" giveaway event on September 17.



September Wellness Wednesday Recap: Recognizing Suicide Prevention Month

Hacienda La Puente Unified is committed to providing robust resources and services that support all students and foster healthy and happy school communities where our students, staff, and families feel supported, respected, and valued.

In September, Hacienda La Puente Unified recognized Suicide

Prevention Month and shared important resources to raise awareness of the signs, erase the stigmas, and offer support services associated with mental health.

According to data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, better known as NAMI, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 14 and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the United States.

NAMI lists common signs of mental illness in young adults, adolescents, and children, including:

- Excessive worrying or fear
- Confused thinking, problems concentrating and learning
- Extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable “highs” or feelings of euphoria
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Changes in sleeping habits, feeling tired and low energy
- Frequent nightmares
- Changes in eating habits such as increased, or lack of, appetite
- Inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress
- Changes in school performance
- Frequent temper tantrums

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental health illnesses, such as bipolar depression and anxiety, can help detect students and individuals who may be at higher risk for suicide ideation or harm. It is equally important to connect with a trusted person or healthcare professional for guided support.

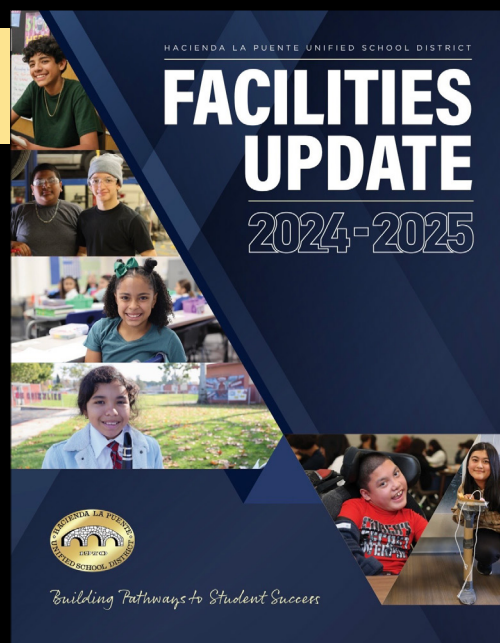
Click [here](#) to read more!

OUT NOW!

Our 2024-25 Facilities Update

Hacienda La Puente Unified is celebrating major milestones in its investment in the future of our schools. In 2024, the District completed the HLP Adult Education Health Careers Building and received \$850,000 from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez to support Glen A. Wilson High's modernized media center. Additionally, beautification projects at Sparks Middle School and Valley Alternative High School and refreshes at all four comprehensive high schools made tremendous progress. These exciting upgrades, alongside classroom modernizations and energy-efficient initiatives, are designed to enhance learning environments for our students and staff.

Click [here](#) to read more!





**Board of Education Meeting
Public Meeting Notice**

An in-person/virtual Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10 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.



Board of Education 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.

HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED IS HIRING!



ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

Instructional Aide II – Special Education
Part-time – Application Closes 10/9/2024

Speech – Language Pathology Assistant
Full-time – Application Closes 10/9/2024

Nutrition Services Supervisor
Full-time – Application Closes 10/16/2024

Bus Driver
Part-time – Continuous

Hacienda La Puente Unified is committed to building a culture of teamwork, fairness, and a positive environment where every employee can thrive. We're looking for passionate professionals who are dedicated to student success and eager to contribute to a supportive and collaborative community.

Here, you'll have the chance to unlock your full potential, engage in ongoing professional development, and be part of something truly extraordinary. Discover the opportunities that await, from continuous openings to exciting roles across the district.

Explore more and apply today by visiting bit.ly/HLPUSDJOBS.

