



# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE *October 2024*



## *Superintendent's* MESSAGE

Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,

October has been a month of celebration, achievement, and recognition for our District. We've celebrated national observances such as the second half of Hispanic Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day, World Teachers' Day, and National Principals' Month.

These moments have allowed us to reflect on our District's rich diversity and express our gratitude for the dedication of our educators, leaders, and community.

We are thrilled to share the recognition our District received at the 14th Annual C-STEM Conference at UC Davis on October 4. Los Altos Elementary was named a 2024 C-STEM Distinguished School and Sparks Elementary principal Gilbert Barraza was honored as C-STEM Administrator of the Year. Additionally, Kien To, a math teacher at Sierra Vista Middle School, was recognized as C-STEM Teacher of the Year. We are incredibly proud of all our schools for their commitment to fostering success in STEM education.

Our students continue to excel in various areas thanks to the many opportunities offered through our extracurricular programs. From HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) to our rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program, students are being prepared for success in diverse fields. Our Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways are thriving, providing

students with real-world skills and experience in healthcare, technology, and beyond. We saw this hard work firsthand during Glen A. Wilson High School's STEM Night on October 17, where schools in the Wilson community showcased interactive experiences in robotics, engineering, and more.

Our Speech and Debate teams at both the middle and high school levels have been thriving in competitions, demonstrating exceptional public speaking and critical thinking skills. Watching our students excel has been a highlight of the month, and we look forward to even more successes as the season continues.

On the athletic front, we are thrilled to see several of our teams advancing to CIF playoffs, including our La Puente Warriors and Wilson Wildcats football teams and Los Altos Conquerors girls flag football team. From football to cross-country, our student-athletes excel both in the classroom and on the field, and we eagerly anticipate the success of the winter and spring sports.

In the Visual and Performing Arts, our students have continued to impress audiences with outstanding music, dance, theater, and visual arts performances. Their creativity and talent are a testament to our District's incredible depth of artistic achievement.

As we look ahead, we remain excited about the opportunities the rest of the school year holds. Thank you for your continued support. Your involvement in our schools, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply cheering on our students, is what makes us #ProudtobeHLPUSD. We look forward to continuing this journey of growth, excellence, and pride with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez, Superintendent  
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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Hacienda La Puente Unified's VAPA team tour elementary school campuses and meet administrators during the first week of the 2024-25 school year on August 9.

## Hacienda La Puente Unified Expands Arts Education with New Programs, Bringing Transformative Opportunities for Students

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) is expanding its Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program thanks to \$2.7 million in funding from Proposition 28, the California Department of Education's Arts and Music in Schools initiative, strengthening art, dance, music, and theatre arts instruction across the District.

HLPUSD has launched new arts programs across all grade levels as part of a five-year strategic plan. As part of the plan, students in TK through fifth grade at all 17 elementary schools now receive tailored instruction in art, dance, and music. Thanks to Prop 28 funds, HLPUSD hired 12 new VAPA instructors at elementary schools, ensuring creativity remains a key part of education for its youngest learners.

Additionally, all District second grade students are taking part in a 12-week theater arts residency, culminating in a student-written performance aligned with English language arts standards. HLPUSD fourth graders also now have the option to participate in a strings program with a fully developed orchestra, with the program set to expand to include all fourth through 12th graders in the District by 2030.

"Expanding our VAPA offerings is a transformative step for our District," VAPA Coordinator Dr. Benita Scheckel said. "We are creating adults who are creative, collaborative, out-of-the-box critical thinkers ready to communicate kindness, empathy, and sensitivity in a rapidly ever-changing global environment."

Click [here](#) to read more!



Palm Elementary School students hit the stage for their performance of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" on October 18.



## Hacienda La Puente Unified Staff Recognized for Transformative Learning, C-STEM Excellence at UC Davis Conference

Hacienda La Puente Unified educators and leadership team showcased the District's innovative work in Computing, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (C-STEM) during a plenary panel at UC Davis's 14th Annual C-STEM Conference on October 4.

HLPUSD was recognized with numerous awards at the conference, including Los Altos Elementary School being named a 2024 C-STEM Distinguished School, Sparks Elementary School principal Gilbert Barraza being awarded C-STEM Administrator of the Year, and Sierra Vista Middle School math teacher Kien To being named a C-STEM Teacher of the Year.

These achievements underscore the District's dedication to fostering excellence in STEM education and its commitment to providing students with the tools and opportunities they need to excel in a rapidly advancing technological world.

"Congratulations to Los Altos Elementary and our incredible Gilbert Barraza and Kien To on these well deserved honors," said Dr. Rosa Isiah, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services. "Their dedication and hard work reflect the heart of Hacienda La Puente Unified's commitment to excellence in C-STEM education."

Click [here](#) to read more!



Representatives from Hacienda La Puente Unified celebrate being recognized for excellence in Computing and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (C-STEM) during UC Davis's 14th Annual C-STEM Conference on October 4.

## HLPUSD Hosts Second Annual Career Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Council Dinner Meeting



Hacienda La Puente Unified Career Technical Education (CTE) student ambassadors welcome guests to the second annual CTE Advisory Council Dinner Meeting on October 2.

Hacienda La Puente Unified hosted its second annual Career Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Council Dinner Meeting on October 2, bringing together educators, students, and industry leaders to discuss the future of career pathways and workforce readiness.

The event provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and ensure that HLPUSD remains at the forefront of preparing students for success in an ever-evolving job market.

During the event, distinguished speakers shared their expertise and insights, including Dr. John Lovato, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Mark Anderson, Director of High Schools; Lilyanna Albarran, Youth Empowerment Service Coordinator; Juan Millan, Senior Labor Market Researcher at EDD; and Micah Goins, Director of HLP Adult Education.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Lawrence Fitz, CTE Coordinator, for hosting the event and facilitating engaging discussions. Gratitude was also extended to the CTE Student Ambassadors, who represented HLPUSD with professionalism and enthusiasm as they collaborated with their instructors and advisory committees.

The meeting focused on key themes from California's CTE State Plan, emphasizing how HLPUSD can continue to break down barriers and create pathways that empower students.





A Lassalette Elementary School family explores the school's new inclusive playground during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 18.

## Lassalette Elementary School Unveils New, Inclusive Playground with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Hacienda La Puente Unified celebrated the grand opening of Lassalette Elementary School's new inclusive playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 18, bringing together HLPUSD administrators and the Trojan community to mark this space where Lassalette students of all abilities can play together.

The project, financed by the District's general fund, was designed to enrich the playground experience for all students with the new space featuring a range of accessible equipment tailored to individuals with physical disabilities. The welcoming outdoor space—designed by the District's Executive Director of Special Education, Dr. Mayra Helguera—offers a variety of play options, including traditional and wheelchair-accessible swings, slides, sensory play areas, and an inclusive merry-go-round.

"Seeing some children unable to enjoy a traditional playground fully has always been disheartening," Helguera said. "This project reflects our deep commitment to building a community where every student, of all abilities, is valued, included, and empowered to thrive."

Click [here](#) to read more!

*Photo (right): Hacienda La Puente Unified School District leaders and students enjoy the inclusive merry-go-round during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Lassalette Elementary School's new abilities playground on October 18.*







Glen A. Wilson High School's Class of 2025 seniors were honored before its Senior Night game on October 20.

## HLPUSD Celebrates Dual Triumphs: La Puente Warriors and Wilson Wildcats Conclude 9-1 Seasons, Gear Up for CIF Playoffs

Hacienda La Puente Unified is celebrating a remarkable achievement as both La Puente High School and Glen A. Wilson High School football teams concluded the regular season and head into the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIF-SS) playoffs with impressive 9-1 overall records.

Both teams will hit the road for their respective first-round challenges in the CIF-SS playoffs on Friday, November 8. Despite a narrow loss to Duarte that resulted in a shared league title, the Warriors are now focused on taking on Gahr High School in the opening game of the CIF-SS Division 13 Championships. The Warriors are calling on the community to rally behind them during this crucial away game at 11111 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos.

Meanwhile, the Glen A. Wilson Wildcats will head to the High Desert to face Yucca Valley High School (7600 Sage Ave., Yucca Valley) in CIF-SS Division 12 action. The Wildcats secured the Montview League Championship with a perfect 5-0 record for the second consecutive year.

"I am so proud of my athletes for all their hard work, toughness and sacrifice displayed throughout the season," Glen A. Wilson High School head coach Charles Lewis said. "After suffering a tough loss in week zero, the team used that as motivation, fueling us to a successful regular season with big wins over Rowland High 36-22 and Nogales High 52-36."

The La Puente Warriors clinched the Miramonte League Championship for the first time since 2012, highlighted by a thrilling 28-27 victory over Garey High School on October 25. Under the leadership of first-year head coach Erick Morales, the Warriors showcased exceptional skill and resilience throughout the season. They opened league play with a commanding 53-6 win against Workman High and followed up with a decisive 50-0 victory over Bassett High.

"I am so proud of the heart, teamwork and dedication our student-athletes have shown this year," Morales said. "We faced adversity and triumphed and look forward to the playoffs. Let's go, Warriors!"



La Puente High School defensive team sets into position during the third quarter against Garey High School on October 25.



## OUT NOW: La Puente High School Public Safety Pathway Podcast

La Puente High School public safety instructor Toni Ramirez and La Puente High senior Nathan Tadeo discuss the school's public safety pathway, what it takes to become a certified dispatcher, how to handle a crisis situation calmly, talking to classmates about domestic violence, and the importance of being able to communicate clearly and effectively. Click [here](#) to listen to the show!

**INSIDE LA PUENTE HIGH SCHOOL'S PUBLIC SAFETY PATHWAY!**

**NATHAN TADEO**  
La Puente High School Senior

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District



**TONI RAMIREZ**  
La Puente High School Public Safety Pathway Instructor

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NEWS RADIO



## Thanksgiving Holiday Break – School and District Office Closures

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Monday, November 25 through Friday, November 29.

Please note that while all schools will be closed during this time, the District office will remain open on Monday, November 25 through Wednesday, November 27. The office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 2, when students return to school.

We wish our families and staff a safe and joyful Thanksgiving!

# HLPUSD'S WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

*Proud to be, creating mental harmony.*



## October Wellness Wednesday Recap: Recognizing National Bullying Prevention Month

In October, Hacienda La Puente Unified recognized National Bullying Prevention Month and sharing support resources across the District.

National Bullying Prevention Month was the optimal time to share the ways District administrators and staff foster safe learning environments without bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

Throughout the school year, the District conducts various presentations and information sessions on social media, conflict resolution, cyberbullying, and other topics for students and parents. Please keep an eye out for additional messaging from our Equity and Access, Family Engagement Department, or your child's school site, about upcoming town halls, webinars, in-person conferences, school site meetings, and more.

In addition to informational presentations, students across the District are recommitting to kindness by actively participating in various activities and campus initiatives designed to foster a safe and welcoming environment. As part of this effort, schools observed Unity Day on Friday, October 18 and engaged in the Kids Against Bullying campaign, reinforcing HLPUSD's collective commitment to building a culture of kindness and respect in every school.

Hacienda La Puente Unified urges all students and staff to adhere to the common community rule: if you see something, say something. Remember, your voice can make a difference.

Click [here](#) to read more!



## Public Meeting Notice: Board of Education

An in-person/virtual Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7 at 5:30 p.m. closed session and 6:30 p.m. open session 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).



## 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 SCHOOL DISTRICT JOIN OUR TEAM!



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

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](https://bit.ly/HLPUSDJOBS).