



STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Cambrian School District

PARENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS: Please Read!

Important updates about
our local public schools.



Cambrian School District



Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Neighbors,

It is a true privilege to serve as your Superintendent. Every day, I am incredibly impressed by our community and the way our team navigates the challenges we face with a shared focus on our students.

Cambrian School District has served as the bedrock of this community for more than 160 years, as a place where generations of students have come to learn, grow, and explore. Today, we serve over 3,000 students from transitional kindergarten (TK) through 8th grade. To ensure we can continue this legacy for the next 100 years, we are meeting our current challenges head-on, with responsible fiscal planning.

Like many school districts in California, we are navigating the reality of declining enrollment and decreased funding. To protect our programs, we must move forward with school consolidation and the closure of the Sartorette Elementary School site. While this transition involves change, it is also an opportunity to bring our community together. Our priority is to ensure a warm and inclusive transition for every family. By bringing our resources together, we can ensure the hallmarks of a quality Cambrian education.

We are working hard to educate our community on exactly what is at stake to ensure quality TK-8 grade schools here in Cambrian.

Thank you for your partnership as we work to keep our schools strong and vibrant for the next generation.

With gratitude,

Ms. Kristi Schwiebert
Superintendent



Local School Funding—Facing Our Fiscal Challenges Head On



Why Are We Here?

Declining Enrollment. Like many districts across California, the Cambrian School District (CSD) is experiencing declining student enrollment due to lower birth rates, rising housing costs, and families relocating out of the area. Because school funding is tied directly to student attendance, fewer students mean less revenue.

CSD has the capacity to serve 4,204 students. With an enrollment of 3,111, the district is currently operating at 74% utilization. Demographic projections indicate continued enrollment decline, with utilization expected to fall to approximately 71% within 6 years.

Budget Challenges. The District’s Budget Advisory Committee, which includes parents, teachers, classified

staff, administrators, and community members, has been meeting for two years to study district finances. The committee has been charged with identifying \$2.6 million in reductions needed to maintain fiscal solvency and avoid state intervention.

In recent years, CSD has implemented significant cost-saving measures and relied on temporary COVID-19 relief funds. Those funds have expired, and rising operational costs continue to outpace revenue.

The Need to Act. To ensure long-term financial stability and preserve high-quality educational programming, the Board of Trustees must consider structural solutions. These include school consolidation and revenue enhancement, such as evaluating a future parcel tax. Addressing these

issues now helps protect programs, staffing, and student opportunities in the years ahead.

How much is saved with the closure and school consolidation of Sartorette Elementary School site?

Closing a school is an act of fiscal responsibility. By consolidating from six sites to five, we save \$1 million annually in overhead, ensuring those dollars go directly to teachers and students rather than building maintenance. However, this saving alone cannot offset the ongoing decline in state funding. By closing Sartorette now, we prevent deeper, more damaging cuts to our students’ daily experience. Furthermore, the Budget Advisory Committee has identified additional cuts required to maintain fiscal solvency. These include:

- ▶ Music Instruction: Reductions in the number of programs offered.
- ▶ Library Services: Reductions in library staff and operating hours.
- ▶ Elementary PE: Elimination of elementary physical education para-educator positions.

Are other Santa Clara County Districts experiencing School Closures?

Yes, over the past seven years, six districts have closed multiple schools. Currently, the Cambrian school district is closing a school, and the San José Unified School District is evaluating potential school closures or consolidation.

NUMBER OF SCHOOL CLOSURES PER DISTRICT IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY	
Alum Rock Unified	6 closures prior to 2025-26
Berryessa Union	3 closures prior to 2025-26
Cupertino Union	3 closures prior to 2022-23
Evergreen	2 closures prior to 2020-21
Franklin-McKinley	3 closures prior to 2026-27
Oak Grove	2 closures prior to 2018-19

Preparing Cambrian Students for Success—Now and Into the Future

To ensure our schools remain the heart of this neighborhood for the next 100 years, CSD is meeting today's challenges with a continued commitment to excellence.

STRATEGY #1 A Community-Wide Welcome

As we navigate school consolidation and the closure of the Sartorette site, we are working tirelessly to ensure every student feels supported, seen, and valued from day one in their new school home.



STRATEGY #2 Fiscal Accountability

Facing the reality of declining enrollment and decreased state funding, we are taking a holistic approach to smart planning. By addressing cuts now, we protect the vibrant hub of student interaction at the center of our mission.



STRATEGY #3 Maintaining the “4 Cs”

We will not waver in our commitment to maintaining the high-quality teaching and learning that has defined our district for over a century. We continue to implement the “4 Cs”—Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity—into every classroom.



STRATEGY #4 Addressing Remaining Funding Needs



Because we are committed to student success, we must look toward sustainable, locally controlled funding to prevent further impacts on our classrooms. To protect our world-class programs and the local quality of education, CSD is also exploring a local parcel tax to fill the remaining funding gap.

Unlike state funding, which is subject to fluctuating realities, parcel tax funds stay directly in Cambrian schools to:

- ▶ **PREVENT** deeper cuts to academic and mental health services.
- ▶ **MAINTAIN** small class sizes and engaging learning experiences.
- ▶ **ATTRACT AND RETAIN** highly effective staff who make a profound difference every day.

By securing reliable local funding, we remain a “district of choice,” protecting our students’ potential and the long-term property values of our neighbors.

Cambrian
School District



SCAN the QR code for more information.
OR contact the Office of the Superintendent
Ph: (408) 377-2103 Email: info@cambriansd.com

www.cambriansd.org



A Commitment to Quality Education Since 1863



Cambrian School District

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