

YOUR MHUSD CONNECTION

In Our School Community

April 2026



[Read Across America, March 4, 2026]

*Serving Morgan Hill, San Martin, and San José
TK-Adult students and families.*

QUARTERLY EDITION: VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2



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LETTER FROM JOHN HORNER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

I am so thankful for the contributions of our teachers, staff, students, and families as we near the end of the school year. Now we are in what I call “awards season” and it is a personal favorite of mine. Having opportunities to congratulate students and the teachers, staff and families who help them make magic happen is an honor and a privilege.

We still have a few more weeks in this 2025–2026 academic year, and know you will make the most of every class, activity, and opportunity whilst dealing with the fatigue that comes with the territory. I know you will finish strong and head into whatever this summer has in store for you with the pride earned by giving your best.

This year, the partnership between our schools, families and the broader community has been especially strong. The support and collaboration truly make a difference for our students, and we’re grateful for the many ways our community shows up for our schools. We look forward to continuing to build on these relationships in the year ahead.

Thank you for being such an important part of our MHUSD community and for your spirit of collaboration.

With gratitude,

John Horner
President, Board of Education





LETTER FROM DR. CARMEN GARCÍA, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

I am pleased to share our quarterly newsletter, highlighting the many accomplishments, initiatives, and moments of excellence across the Morgan Hill Unified School District. Each page reflects the dedication and commitment that make our district a place where students can thrive and succeed.

I am so very grateful to our teachers, staff, students, families, and community partners. It is through our collaboration and shared commitment that our schools continue to grow and excel. The recognitions, awards, and programs featured in this newsletter are a direct result of that collective effort.

From academics and the arts to science, environmental stewardship, and student leadership, our students and staff continue to inspire us every day. Their work is a powerful reminder of what is possible when we come together in support of learning.

I hope you feel as proud and inspired as I do as you read through the following pages. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to supporting our students!

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen García
Superintendent

**Click here to watch a special video message
from our Superintendent:**



INNOVATIVE GRANTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Great ideas for students begin with dedicated educators. At a recent Morgan Hill Unified Board of Education meeting, we proudly recognized this year's Morgan Hill Education Foundation grant recipients—educators who are expanding opportunities through innovative programs and hands-on learning experiences across our district.

The Morgan Hill Education Foundation plays an important role in bridging the gap between district goals and available resources, helping ensure all students have access to meaningful, engaging learning opportunities that foster creativity, curiosity, and success.

This year's recipients include Patricia Rojo – San Martín/Gwinn Wellness Center; Wei Guevara – Nordstrom Elementary, 2nd Grade Caine's Arcade; Pamela Regalado – Los Paseos VAPA Program; Shannon deMelo – Live Oak High School Drama Guild; April Faulkner – Live Oak High School AVID; Rui Qian Khor – STEMpowerment Kits; Rob Swart – Britton Middle School Journalism Program; and Nila Pillai – Sobrato High School Future Engineers Club.

We extend our appreciation to the Morgan Hill Education Foundation for their continued investment in programs that enrich learning and expand opportunities for students across Morgan Hill Unified.





ANN SOBRATO HIGH SCHOOL NAMED CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

Morgan Hill Unified is proud to share that Ann Sobrato High School has been recognized as a 2026 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education—one of the state’s highest honors for public schools.

Sobrato earned recognition in two categories: Exemplary High Achievers and Achievement Gap Closers, reflecting both strong academic performance and meaningful progress in supporting all students.

This distinction highlights the collective efforts of Sobrato’s dedicated students, educators, staff, and families, whose commitment to excellence continues to create a thriving and supportive learning environment.

Schools are selected based on performance on the California School Dashboard, including academic outcomes and progress in closing achievement gaps for historically underserved student groups.

Congratulations to the entire Sobrato High School community on this outstanding achievement.





LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS MOST CARING HIGH SCHOOL

Live Oak High School has been named the Most Caring High School by YMCA Project Cornerstone, an honor that highlights the school's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

This recognition reflects the intentional efforts of Live Oak's staff and students to build strong relationships, elevate student voice, and create a culture where every individual feels valued and connected. Through programs and practices centered on care, respect, and belonging, Live Oak continues to prioritize the well-being and success of its students. This is the second recognition that Live Oak has received from Project Cornerstone for Caring High School, the first in 2015.

Congratulations to the entire Live Oak High School community on this well-deserved recognition.



CELEBRATING PARENT LEADERSHIP: SENDY RAMÍREZ NAMED CABE PARENT OF THE YEAR

Morgan Hill Unified is proud to celebrate Sendy Ramírez, a dedicated P.A. Walsh parent, who was recently recognized by the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) as Parent of the Year.

Sendy's leadership, advocacy, and unwavering support for students and families highlight the important role parents play in strengthening our schools. Through her involvement, she continues to uplift students and support a positive, inclusive school environment.

This recognition reflects the strong family engagement that is central to Morgan Hill Unified. We are grateful for parents like Sendy whose partnership helps create meaningful opportunities for all students to succeed.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS SPRING OPEN HOUSE



Central High School recently welcomed families to campus for its Spring Open House, providing an opportunity for parents and guardians to connect with teachers, meet with academic counselors, and engage with staff and administration about their student's progress and path toward graduation.

Throughout the evening, families were able to learn more about classroom experiences, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into how to support student success. The event also featured food and opportunities for families to win prizes, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Students attended alongside their families, making the evening a meaningful time of connection and partnership between home and school.





TEAMWORK AND FUN AT P.A. WALSH

Students at P.A. Walsh Elementary recently stepped up to the plate for a spirited Wiffle Ball Tournament, bringing energy, teamwork, and school pride to the field. More than just a fun event, the tournament provided meaningful opportunities for students to build collaboration, sportsmanship, and leadership skills through friendly competition. Throughout the day, students supported one another, practiced fair play, and grew in confidence as they worked together toward a common goal.

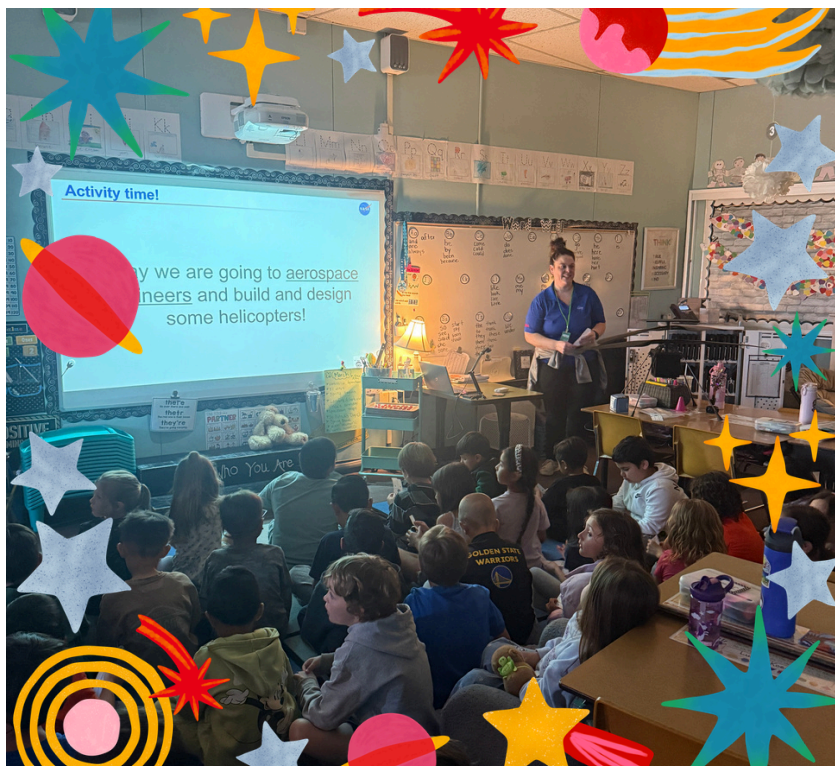
During our Spring Games and Spring Easter Egg Hunt, all the students had an amazing time! They enjoyed participating in all the activities, earning ribbons, and celebrating their achievements.

From strategic teamwork to enthusiastic cheers from the sidelines, the event was a true highlight—showcasing how engaging experiences like these help foster both student connection and personal growth at P.A. Walsh.



OUT OF THIS WORLD: NASA SCIENTIST VISITS 1ST GRADE!

Our Nordstrom First Graders had a truly "stellar" conclusion to their space unit recently! We were honored to host Dr. Natasha Schatzmann, an astrophysicist at NASA, who visited our classrooms to share her expertise. Dr. Schatzmann brought a replica of the Mars Rover helicopter, giving students a firsthand look at the incredible technology exploring the Red Planet. Inspired by her presentation, our young scientists even got to design and create their very own helicopters! It was a wonderful opportunity to see science come to life and spark curiosity about the future of space exploration.



BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER: **BINGO** NIGHT AT PARADISE VALLEY

Paradise Valley Elementary families recently came together for an evening of Bingo and a bake sale, hosted by the school's dedicated Home and School Association (HSA). The event brought laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of sweet treats for all to enjoy.

The evening was skillfully emceed by teachers Ms. Grant and Ms. Wheatley whose energy kept the crowd engaged throughout the night. It was wonderful to see students, staff, and families connecting in such a positive and welcoming environment.

Thank you to the HSA, volunteers, and all who contributed to making this special event a success.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT MORGAN HILL

Morgan Hill Unified was proud to join the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce and extend our congratulations to Ann Sobrato teacher, Mrs. Heather Rottenborn, named Educator of the Year, for her commitment to inspiring students and fostering a positive learning environment.

We also celebrate Ann Sobrato High School student Daniel Leon Naranjo, honored as Student of the Year for his leadership, achievement, and contributions both in and out of the classroom.

These recognitions reflect the excellence found across Morgan Hill Unified and the strong partnership between our schools and the broader community. Both will be formally recognized for their dedication and impact at the Roaring 20s-themed Celebrate Morgan Hill event at the Downtown Granada in Morgan Hill.

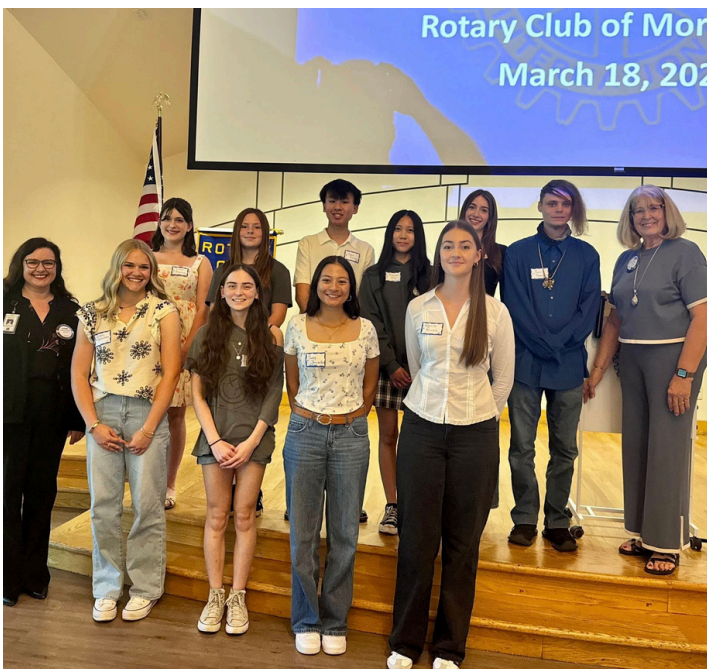


OUTSTANDING STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY ROTARY CLUB OF MORGAN HILL

Morgan Hill Unified students were recently honored by the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill through its Outstanding Student Achievement Recognition Program, celebrating both elementary and secondary students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to others. Elementary honorees, recognized alongside their families, teachers, and principals at a special luncheon, included:

Payten Kidwell – Barrett Elementary; Grayson Fernandez – El Toro Health Science Academy; Donya Shahram – Los Paseos Elementary; Noelle Malek – Nordstrom Elementary; Maria Leon Teixeira – Paradise Valley Engineering Academy; Ava Sepulveda – San Martín/Gwinn Environmental Science Academy; William Gallagher – P.A. Walsh STEAM Academy. Secondary students were also recognized at a separate luncheon, including: Sunny Fernandez – Ann Sobrato High School; Nikolina Perunicic – Britton Middle School; Bryan Garcia – Central High School; Emma Wickham – Jackson Academy; Alyssa Wheat – Live Oak High School; Charley Carvalho – Martin Murphy Middle School; Emma Berkland – San Martín/Gwinn Environmental Science Academy; Aaron Haberman – Community Adult School.

We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill for continuing to recognize and uplift students whose achievements and character make a meaningful impact across our district.



BARRETT ELEMENTARY: A SPRING OF CREATIVITY AND CALCULATION

Spring is in full bloom at Barrett Elementary, where students are actively engaging in learning through creativity and hands-on experiences. Our first graders recently took center stage for their annual spring play, performing in patriotic colors after weeks of practicing lines and songs. The performance was a heartwarming success and a wonderful opportunity for students to build confidence and strengthen their public speaking skills.

In the classroom, our fifth graders have been diving into advanced math concepts through interactive, hands-on learning. Using manipulatives and collaborative floor stations, students are sorting, measuring, and visualizing data to deepen their understanding and strengthen problem-solving skills.

At Barrett, we believe that when students are active participants in their learning, lessons are more meaningful and lasting. These experiences continue to support both academic growth and confidence as students prepare for what comes next.

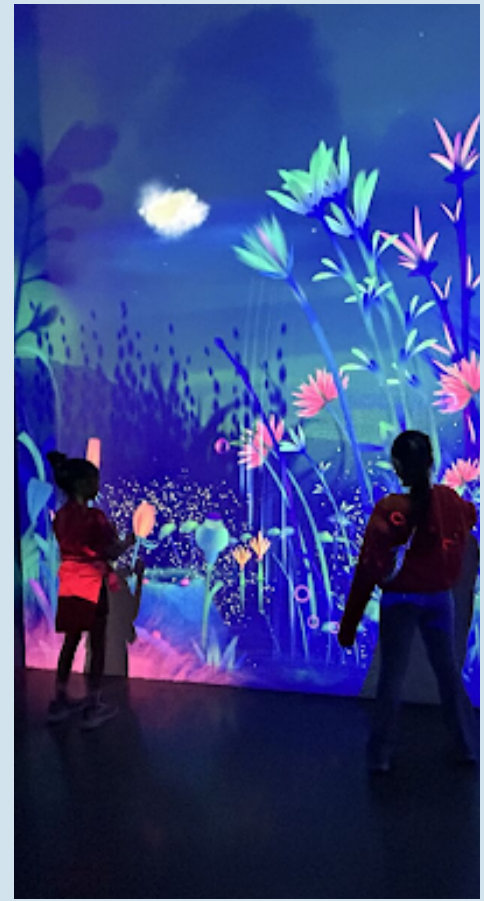


EL TORO HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY: LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

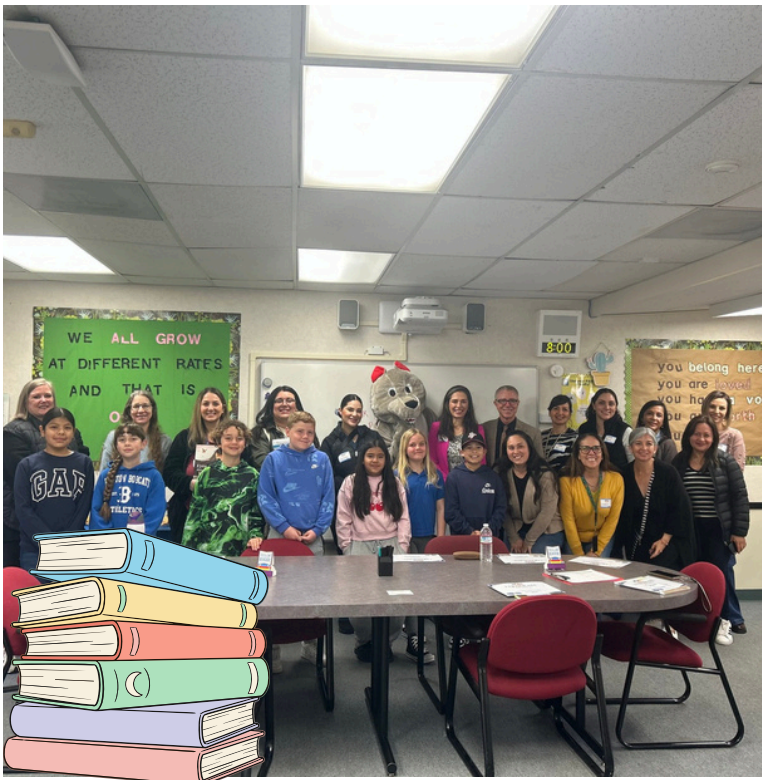
At El Toro Health Science Academy, students are bringing learning to life through engaging field trips and meaningful celebrations. Our first graders visited the Butterfield Fire Station, where Morgan Hill firefighters led a tour and shared important fire safety lessons. Second graders explored innovation at The Tech Interactive in San Jose, interacting with exhibits and learning about a variety of technologies.

Our fourth graders traveled back in time during their visit to Almaden Quicksilver County Park, where they learned about mining during the Gold Rush and gained a deeper understanding of local history.

Back on campus, we proudly celebrated our students during the Trimester 2 Awards Assembly, recognizing their hard work, growth, and positive contributions to our school community. These experiences reflect our commitment to hands-on learning and celebrating student success at every step.



CELEBRATING A LOVE OF READING ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Morgan Hill Unified Schools recently celebrated Read Across America with a districtwide Read-In, welcoming nearly 200 volunteer readers into elementary classrooms. Students enjoyed stories shared by community members, staff, and families who helped bring the joy of reading to life.

We were especially grateful to have Spanish-speaking readers supporting our Dual Language Immersion programs at P.A. Walsh and San Martín/Gwinn, helping ensure all students could connect with stories in meaningful ways.

Events like these highlight the power of reading to inspire curiosity, build connections, and support student learning. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make this celebration such a success.

LOS PASEOS ELEMENTARY: PANTHERS SHINE IN ACADEMICS AND THE ARTS



Los Paseos Elementary students continue to impress with their achievements both in and out of the classroom. Our after-school Chess Club earned an outstanding 2nd place finish in the Bay Area Chess Wizards competition, outperforming 12 other schools. This accomplishment reflects our students' strategic thinking, perseverance, and teamwork.

Congratulations to our talented chess players on this well-deserved recognition.

We also wrapped up the month in true Panther style with a dynamic STEAM Assembly, where students participated in hands-on learning experiences that sparked curiosity and creativity. The excitement continued with our Talent Show, highlighting the many skills and talents of our students. Thank you to our dedicated staff for making these memorable experiences possible and for supporting the well-rounded growth of every Panther.



MUSIC, MATH, AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SPIRIT AT JACKSON ACADEMY

Jackson Academy of Math and Music (JAMM) brought students and families together for its 2026 Spring Music Performance, showcasing the talents of students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. From primary grades to middle school performers, students took the stage with confidence and pride, highlighting the strong music program that is central to JAMM's identity. Families also had the opportunity to join in person or watch via livestream, making the event accessible to all.

Beyond the stage, JAMM students continued to shine through their participation in MathCounts. Congratulations are also in order for earning the title of overall March Attendance Champion. JAMM finished strong with a perfect final week, the highest attendance in Week 4, and the fewest tardies on March 24. reflecting the school's unique blend of academics, creativity, and community engagement.



CONNECTION AND MOMENTUM AT MARTIN MURPHY



Martin Murphy Middle School has been buzzing with activity as students, staff, and families continue to stay engaged and connected. Recent highlights include a Coffee with the Principal gathering and School Site Council meetings, providing valuable opportunities for collaboration and shared decision-making.

Martin Murphy’s music program earned top honors at a recent festival. The Intermediate and Advanced Bands were the only middle school groups to receive Superior ratings, the highest distinction awarded. The Intermediate Band earned three Superior ratings on stage and an Excellent in sight-reading, while the Advanced Band achieved a Unanimous Superior rating from all four judges—an exceptional accomplishment.

Martin Murphy Middle School recently welcomed future Mustangs and their families for an Incoming 6th Grade Orientation and Open House. Staff shared key information to support a smooth transition to middle school, followed by a community gathering with a performance by the Advanced Band and time for families to connect. The evening concluded with an Open House showcasing student work and the learning happening across campus, reflecting Mustang Pride.



CELEBRATING CULTURE, UNITY, VOICE, AND COMMUNITY AT SAN MARTIN GWINN

Students at San Martín/Gwinn Environmental Science Academy recently participated in a “Sí Se Puede” march, coming together to celebrate culture, unity, and the power of student voice. Through this meaningful experience, students had the opportunity to reflect on the important contributions of farmworkers and the role they play in our community.

Several of our 3rd-grade students took the stage at the Estrellas de Folklorico Dance Performance, held at Randall Elementary in Milpitas. Performing alongside groups from across the region, our SMG students represented their school with pride, highlighting both their talent and appreciation for cultural traditions.

Events like this reflect the strong sense of identity and connection that defines San Martín/Gwinn, where learning is rooted in both community and experience.



SCHOOL SPIRIT AND SAFETY ON DISPLAY AT BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Britton Middle School students are showing their school pride through Spirit Fridays, held each week in March as part of the school’s March Madness Attendance Challenge. From school colors and favorite sports teams to creative “referee or coach” outfits and dressing like champions, students have embraced each themed day with enthusiasm and energy.

In addition, Britton recently hosted a Principal’s Chat, providing families with an opportunity to connect, ask questions, and stay engaged in their child’s school experience.

As part of ongoing efforts to support student safety, Britton has also been reinforcing important guidance around e-bike use, helping students better understand safe riding practices and the differences between e-bikes and off-road vehicles.

It’s been great to see students and staff come together to celebrate school spirit throughout the month!

LISTENING, LEARNING, LEADING: CELL PHONE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AT MHUSD

Morgan Hill Unified School District has begun a thoughtful, collaborative process to review and strengthen its student cell phone policy.

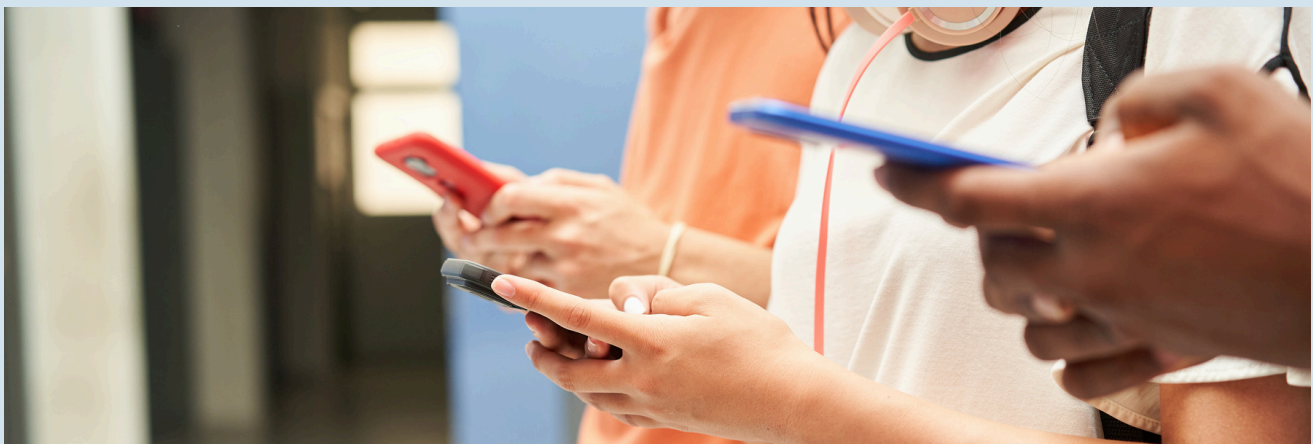
Across the country, schools are examining how personal smartphones impact learning, focus, and student well-being. While technology supports instruction, personal devices present different challenges than school-issued tools. At MHUSD, any policy updates are being guided by research, data, and community voice.

This fall, the district surveyed students, staff, and families. Feedback showed that personal devices are rarely used for instruction, with school-provided technology meeting classroom needs. National research also points to concerns around distraction, academic engagement, and student mental health.

To ensure broad input, MHUSD convened a policy forum including parents, students, staff, and community members. This group is reviewing data and helping shape potential recommendations.

The goal is a clear, consistent policy that protects instructional time, supports positive school environments, and is practical to implement. This work aligns with LCAP goals focused on engagement, achievement, and safe, supportive schools.

We appreciate the many voices contributing to this process and will continue to share updates as the work progresses.



LIFELONG LEARNING IN ACTION AT MHUSD COMMUNITY ADULT SCHOOL

Our Community Adult School continues to be a vibrant center of learning, growth, and opportunity. Adult learners across Morgan Hill Unified are building new skills and expanding their futures through a variety of programs, including the Renaissance Business class, which supports career development and entrepreneurship.

We are especially proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Recently, Aaron Haberman was recognized as Student of the Year by the Morgan Hill Rotary Club—an inspiring example of the dedication and perseverance that define our adult learners.

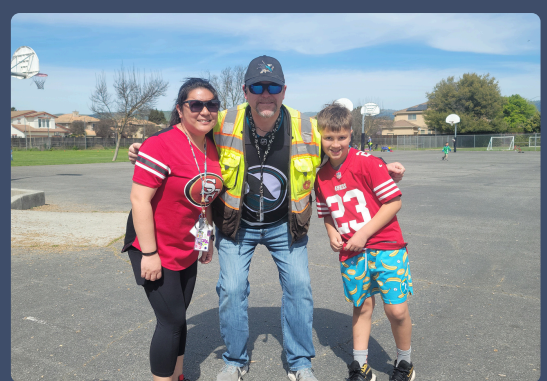
In addition to ongoing classes, the Community Adult School continues to connect individuals with valuable resources and opportunities. Events like the upcoming second Annual Career & Resource Fair on May 7 help bridge education, career pathways, and community services, reinforcing our commitment to supporting every learner's journey.

We invite families and community members to explore the many programs available through the Community Adult School—where learning truly never stops.





THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





[South Valley Science and Engineering Initiative recognized at February 26, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.]



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