



Holtville

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Publication of Holtville Unified School District

SPRING 2026



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Full-day TK/ Kindergarten Registrations Are Open
- Holtville Middle School Earns 2026 California Distinguished School Award
- Imperial Valley League Football Championship
- Finley Elementary's New Construction
- Pine Elementary Receives 2025 California Blue Ribbon Award!
- Holtville High Is Piloting a New Horsemanship Class
- Freedom Academy of Imperial Valley Receives WASC Accreditation Extension
- Holtville Middle School AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction
- Sign up for ParentSquare!

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visita nuestro sitio de web.
www.husd.net



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



The end of the year is just around the corner, and there is so much to celebrate. Students have gained many new skills over the course of the year, and the learning isn't done yet. There is a new energy in our school sites as students embark on their last set of classes for the year, start a new sport or extracurricular activity and continue to gain skills that set them up for a bright future.

Celebrations are happening in many of our buildings, as Pine Elementary recently received the California Blue Ribbon Award and Holtville Middle School was awarded the 2026 California Distinguished School Award. These awards could not be made possible without the support of our students, staff, families and community.

Before we know it, we will be closing out the school year. We are currently accepting transitional kindergarten and kindergarten enrollment packets for the 2026–27 school year. Please follow the QR code in the TK/Kindergarten article.

We could not be successful without the support and partnership of our families and the community. Thank you for your continued involvement in our schools.

Best Wishes,
Mr. Celso Ruiz
 Superintendent of Holtville Unified School District



HOLTVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL EARNS 2026 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD

Every even-numbered year, middle and high schools are recognized across California for the Distinguished School Award. Holtville Middle School is one of 408 campuses to receive this prestigious award and the only school in Imperial County to earn this award this year. The Distinguished School Award recognizes schools that have demonstrated exemplary student outcomes, either through outstanding overall academic achievement or by significantly closing the achievement gap for underserved student populations. HMS qualified through both categories.



Holtville Middle School will be recognized for this award on April 24, 2026, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

Holtville Middle High School Principal Mario Garcia shared, "This honor reflects the hard work, dedication and collaboration of our incredible students, teachers, staff, families and community partners. Thank you to everyone who contributes every day to creating a supportive and inspiring learning environment. Your commitment to excellence and student success made this achievement possible. We celebrate this recognition together and remain committed to continuing the great work for our students and community. Congratulations to our entire school community!"

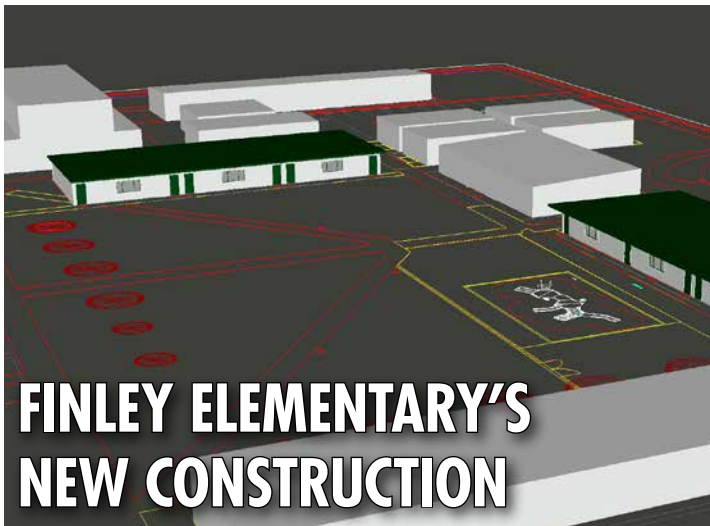
IMPERIAL VALLEY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 2025

The Holtville Vikings delivered a historic season, winning the 2025 Imperial Valley League (IVL) Championship.

The Vikings finished the 2025–26 season with an impressive 9–1 overall record and a perfect 4–0 mark in IVL. Both Holtville and the Imperial Tigers entered the IVL championship game undefeated in league competition, but the Vikings secured the title with a decisive 54–24 victory over Imperial.

This season marked Holtville's return to the Imperial Valley League after leaving in 1959. A season full of excitement culminated in a thrilling 32–27 victory over the Central Spartans, Holtville's first win against them since 1957.

After the final home game of the season against the Brawley Wildcats, Coach Turner and the team displayed a giant "THANK YOU HOLTVILLE" banner to show their appreciation for the school community's support throughout the season.



FINLEY ELEMENTARY'S NEW CONSTRUCTION

Exciting Updates to Our Learning Environment!

Have you noticed something new at Finley Elementary? Construction is underway on two new buildings designed to give our youngest learners even more space to grow and thrive! One building will be just north of the Finley office on Chestnut Ave., and the other will be behind the auditorium near the nurse's office.

Each building will include three classrooms for our transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten students, along with a gated area for added safety. The area will feature its own playground and bathroom facilities within the buildings, providing extra room, resources and opportunities to enhance our students' learning experience.

We're thrilled to expand our campus to better meet the needs of our students and continue fostering a nurturing environment where every Lil' Vike can thrive.

PINE ELEMENTARY RECEIVES 2025 CALIFORNIA BLUE RIBBON AWARD!



We are thrilled to announce that Pine Elementary School has received the 2025 California Blue Ribbon Award for exemplary academic success and outstanding effectiveness in closing the achievement gap. Pine is one of only 31 schools in the state to earn this prestigious recognition. This achievement follows Pine's recent honor as a 2025 Distinguished School, reflecting our ongoing commitment to excellence in education.

As an AVID school dedicated to preparing students for college and career success, Pine offers programs that support every learner's growth, including English Language Development (ELD) and the Horizons after-school program. These options expand learning opportunities and ensure that each student has the tools and support to reach their full potential.

This award makes 2025 an extraordinary year for Mrs. Samantha Williams, who is serving her first year as Pine's principal.

HOLTVILLE HIGH IS PILOTING A NEW HORSEMANSHIP CLASS

Holtville High School is piloting an exciting new Ag Beginning Horsemanship class, offering students a unique opportunity to learn safe and skilled horse riding while gaining hands-on experience with horse care and handling.

Under the guidance of experienced instructors, students will develop proper riding techniques and enjoy a fun, educational experience that combines fitness, teamwork, and personal growth. In addition, Ag Beginning Horsemanship meets the one-year "G" college-preparatory elective requirement in the A–G course requirements for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU), helping students stay on track for university admission. The course is also articulated with Mt. San Antonio College, allowing students who successfully pass the class to earn college credit.

This pilot program marks an innovative step forward in Holtville High's commitment to providing engaging, one-of-a-kind learning opportunities for its students.

FREEDOM ACADEMY OF IMPERIAL VALLEY RECEIVES SIX-YEAR WASC ACCREDITATION EXTENSION



Freedom Academy of Imperial Valley is proud to announce that it has earned a six-year extension of its Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, reflecting the school's continued dedication to excellence in education. This recognition highlights the strength and effectiveness of Freedom Academy's independent study model, which empowers students to take charge of their learning while receiving personalized support from teachers and staff.



Full-day TK/Kindergarten Registrations Are Open

Now Accepting transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten enrollment packets for the 2026–27 school year!

- Transitional Kindergarten: Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2026.
- Kindergarten: Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2026.

Please scan the QR code to fill out the interest form.



These are some important details about this registration.

- This is not an enrollment application. A member of our school staff will use the information provided in this interest form to contact you with enrollment details.
- TK and K students who are registering for the first time in the Holtville Unified School District must submit a physical enrollment application at Finley Elementary, Pine Elementary or Freedom Academy (Kindergarten only) during open enrollment.
- Families with children currently enrolled in TK for the 2025–26 school year can register online for kindergarten for 2026–27.
- The district will be hosting an online registration workshop at the HUSD Community Learning Hub on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, to guide families through the process.

Notably, Freedom Academy received highly effective ratings from the visiting WASC committee for its practices across key areas that support high achievement for all students:

- Rigorous and Relevant Standards-Based Curriculum — Demonstrated excellence through a rigorous, relevant and coherent curriculum aligned with educational research, academic standards and graduation requirements, resulting in high levels of student achievement.
- Student-Centered Instruction — Students are empowered to make informed decisions about their college and career goals while providing the tools, technology and courses necessary to develop skills for solving real-world problems.
- Academic, Social-Emotional and Multi-Tiered Supports — School provides resources and services aligned to ensure academic success and prepare students for future careers.

This accreditation extension from WASC reflects Freedom Academy's commitment to fostering an environment where all students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally while preparing for success beyond high school. As part of the accreditation process, the school will submit a mid-cycle report in June 2028.

YOU'RE INVITED

The Board of Trustees of Holtville Unified School District conducts regular meetings that begin at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (unless otherwise denoted) at the Holtville Unified School District Board Room. You are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact the Administration Office in advance at (760) 356-2974 for verification.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Holtville Adult Education
Sam Webb Continuation High School
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Phone (760) 356-1304

OUR WEBSITE

www.husd.net/

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Sign up for ParentSquare!

Welcome to ParentSquare! This guide will help you activate your account, find helpful resources, and download the free ParentSquare app so you can start receiving updates from your school.

Your school will send you an invitation using your email address or phone number on file.

1. Open the invitation from ParentSquare in your email or text messages.
2. Click Activate your account or tap the link to go to the account registration page.
3. Enter your email or phone number, then click Get Started.
4. Check your contact information. If it looks correct, click Confirm.

You'll receive a code by text or email.

5. Enter the verification code when asked.
6. You'll see your children's names. Click Confirm next to each child who should be connected to your account. If a child is listed by mistake, click Not my child.
7. If everything looks correct, click Yes, this is me.



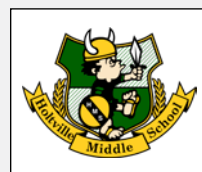
NOW YOU'RE READY
TO START USING
PARENTSQUARE!



HOLTVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL AVID SCHOOLWIDE SITE OF DISTINCTION

Holtville Unified School District has implemented Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for over 20 years. It is now being implemented across all of our school sites. This program supports all students on their academic journey and promotes a college and career-focused culture. AVID is a program that focuses on rigorous strategies to prepare all students for higher education or career readiness from TK through 12th grade. The strategy used is WICOR. It is the umbrella that envelopes Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading. This system supports students by developing organizational skills and critical thinking as well as setting goals and expectations for academic success. At the elementary level, WICOR is woven into lessons that challenge students' academic language. Students use note-taking, graphic organizers, binders and agendas, and teachers engage in higher-level questions and thinking. These strategies help students enter feeder schools prepared.

All teachers from 6th-12th grade have been trained with AVID WICOR strategies to use schoolwide. They continue to spiral lessons upward, with rigorous content across grade levels. The middle and high schools offer AVID elective classes to provide students with extra support for a 2.0-3.5 GPA. They work with tutoring, group collaboration and College and Career Preparation to help prepare for a successful educational opportunity.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Looking for information on community resources? Simply scan the QR code or stop by the HUSD Community Learning Hub, located next to Finley's office on Chestnut Ave.