Quarterly Newsletter

Spring - Summer

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

32248 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510 Phone: 661-269-0750

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Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- Superintendent



Spring/Summer Reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of our district newsletter highlighting the accomplishments, successes, and memorable moments across AADUSD.

As another remarkable school year comes to a close, we welcome the arrival of summer and the opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved.

I am incredibly proud of our students and the tremendous academic, social, and personal growth they have demonstrated throughout the year. Their dedication, perseverance, and achievements continue to inspire us all.

To our students, staff, and families, thank you for your commitment, partnership, and support. Together, we have created meaningful opportunities for learning, growth, and success.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower, inspire, and prepare the next generation of leaders.

On behalf of AADUSD, I wish our entire community a safe, restful, and joyful summer filled with family, fun, and well-deserved relaxation.

Together we achieve more. Together we make a difference.

AADUSD Proud.

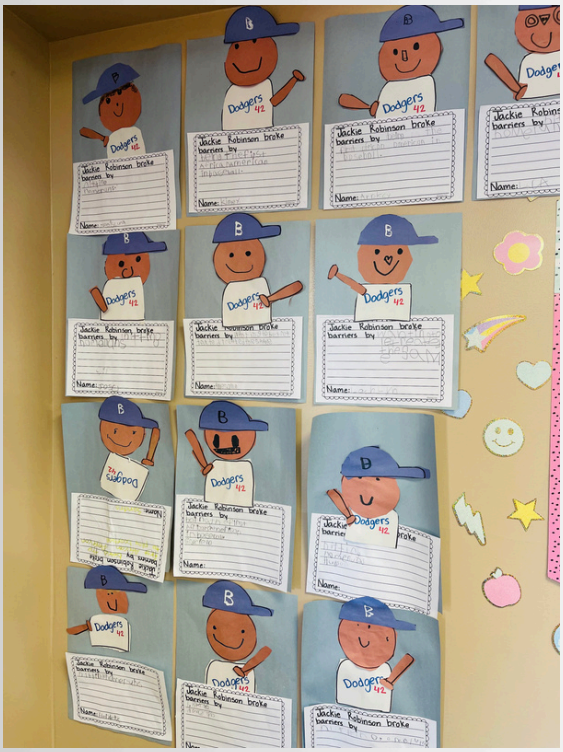
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Open House at LOLC, Meadowlark and High Desert

OPEN HOUSE

The Little Owls Learning Center and Meadowlark Open House was held on May 21st. We had an amazing turnout by the community. Thank you parents, staff, and ML's PTO for all of their efforts!









Open House at LOLC, Meadowlark and High Desert (continued)

OPEN HOUSE











Spring Open House at LOLC, Meadowlark and High Desert

OPEN HOUSE

High Desert's Open House was held on May 27th. HDS had a wonderful turnout turnout by the HDS community. Thank you parents, staff, and HDS's Booster Club for all of their efforts.









HDS Culinary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



On May 27th, High Desert hosted the Culinary Arts Program Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Congratulations to High Desert School on expanding student exploratory opportunities with the addition of a fantastic new Culinary Arts classroom! This exciting enhancement will provide students with hands-on learning experiences, foster creativity, and build valuable life and career readiness skills.

The program also creates a seamless pathway for our Hawks as they matriculate to Vasquez High School and pursue the Culinary Arts Career Technical Education pathway. We are proud to continue expanding opportunities that inspire students, support their interests, and prepare them for future success.

Thank you parents, staff, and students for the celebratory afternoon!



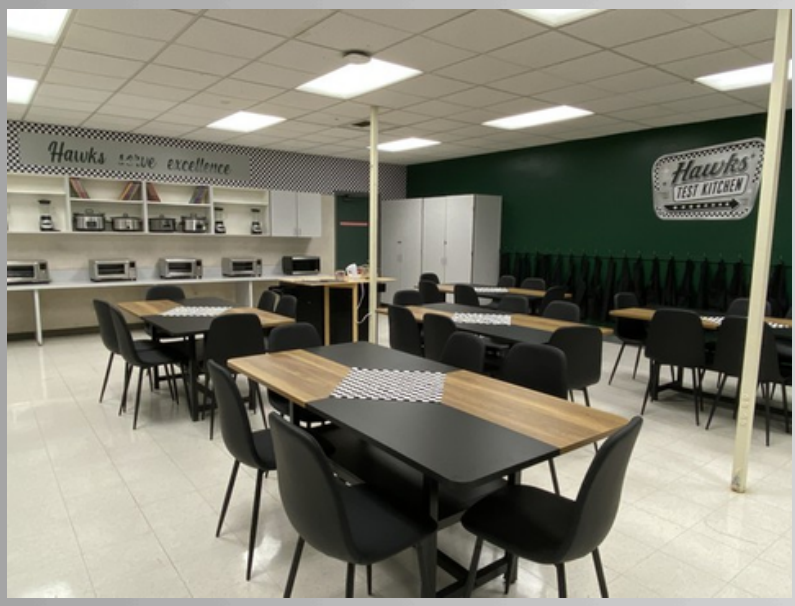






HDS Culinary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (continued)









Community Partners- Making it Happen

Thank you to the Acton Women's Club- VHS Senior Scholarships

On May 21st, the gracious Acton Women's club recognized five Vasquez HS seniors with scholarships. We are grateful for the Acton Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on providing scholarships to our qualifying four Vasquez High School seniors. Thank you Acton Women's Club for this invitation!

Students, congratulations for being recipients of the scholarships. You are on amazing journey, treasure each and every moment. Congratulations to:

Victoria Hagiu
Autumn Klaus
Olivia Mayes
Vivian Schneider
and Canyon Wren











Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)

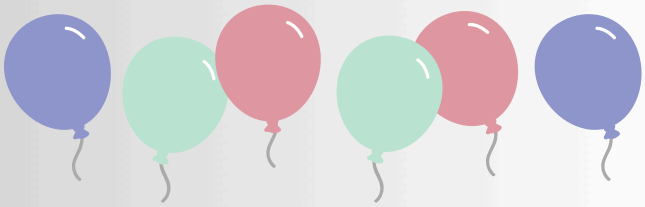








Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)



Volunteer Luncheon 2026

In our district, we know it takes a team—teachers, staff, students, and amazing volunteers to help our students succeed. Whether you're helping in classrooms, planning events, running clubs, or working behind the scenes, your impact is huge.

Our 2026 AV ACSA Volunteer of the Year, Merridith Fallgater!

Merridith, thank you for your incredible commitment, leadership, and heart. You've set a shining example of what it means to give back.

Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. Thank you for being an inspiration and for showing us what true volunteerism looks like.
To all of our volunteers: thank you, we couldn't do it without you!







Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)

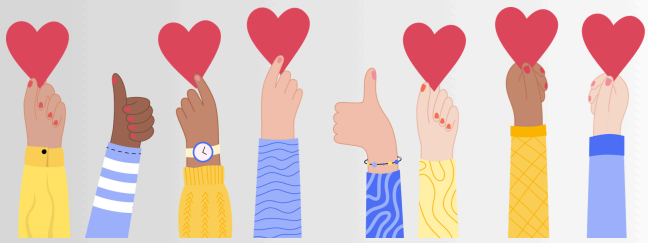








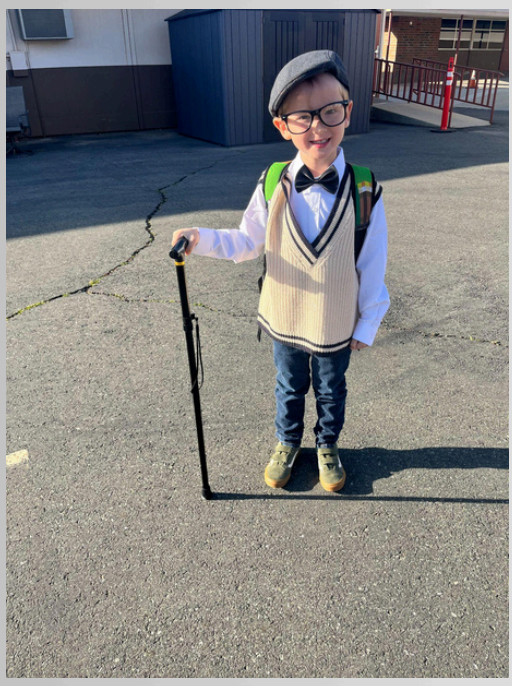




LOLC & Meadowlark Highlights

Students and staff at Meadowlark Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school with creativity, enthusiasm, and plenty of school spirit. From fun activities and classroom projects to imaginative outfits and themed lessons, the day was a wonderful opportunity to recognize how much our students have learned and grown during the first 100 days of the school year. It was a memorable celebration filled with smiles, engagement, and pride in learning.













LOLC & Meadowlark Highlights (continued)



At Meadowlark Elementary, students had the opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate during our Black History Month program. A special thank you to the wonderful Mrs. Owens for sharing her time, knowledge, and passion with our students.



Read Across America brought excitement, imagination, and a love of reading to our students. Through engaging stories, special activities, and classroom celebrations, students were reminded that reading opens the door to new adventures, knowledge, and opportunities. Thank you to our teachers, staff, and guest readers for helping inspire a lifelong love of literacy in our students. Reading truly is fun!



Ms. Wachs & Mrs. Giancana sharing their spirit for Read Across America

LOLC & Meadowlark Highlights (continued)

Meadowlark students celebrated Dr. Seuss's The Lorax with a fun and engaging day of learning. Through reading activities, creative projects, and discussions about caring for our environment, students explored the important message of stewardship and responsibility found in this beloved story. It was a wonderful opportunity to combine literacy, creativity, and environmental awareness while celebrating the joy of reading.





Meadowlark's Family Fun Night brought together students, families, and staff for an evening filled with activities, learning, and community connection. Families enjoyed engaging educational experiences, interactive games, and opportunities to celebrate learning together. Events like these strengthen the partnership between home and school while fostering a welcoming and supportive school community. Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success!







LOLC & Meadowlark Highlights (continued)

Students at Little Owls Learning Center and Meadowlark Elementary wrapped up the school year with exciting Field Day activities filled with fun, teamwork, and school spirit. From friendly competitions and outdoor games to laughter and memorable moments with classmates, Field Day provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a successful year of learning and growth. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and families who helped make these events a special experience for our students.









LOLC & Meadowlark Highlights (continued)



We are excited to introduce our Meadowlark Elementary School and Little Owls Learning Center communities to our new principal, Mrs. Noemi Orduna.

Mrs. Orduna joins AADUSD with a wealth of educational experience spanning both teaching and administration. Throughout her career, she has served students and staff at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, bringing a diverse and well-rounded perspective to educational leadership.

Over the past several weeks, Mrs. Orduna has participated in meet-and-greet opportunities with Meadowlark and Little Owls staff, allowing her to begin building relationships, learning about our school communities, and sharing her vision for student success.

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Orduna to the AADUSD family and look forward to the leadership, enthusiasm, and experience she will bring to our schools. Mrs. Orduna officially begins her role on July 1, 2026.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Mrs. Orduna as she embarks on this exciting new chapter with AADUSD.

Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- Superintendent

6/4/26

High Desert Highlights



Students who were present every day during each quarter earned a special celebration—Pizza with the Principal! This fun event recognized students for their commitment to showing up, being on time, and ready to learn each day. A big thank-you to our Food Services team for the amazing pizza and for supporting this program that celebrates responsibility and dedication.

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Dodgeball Tournament—it was an incredible night of fun, teamwork, and school spirit! A huge thank you to our HDS Booster Club and Corrin Bailey for the inspired idea and for making this event happen.





Congratulations to all of our participants for their courage, preparation, and perseverance. You represented your schools with excellence! A heartfelt thank-you to our amazing Spelling Bee Coordinators, Ms. Partis and Ms. Santa, for organizing such a fantastic event. We also appreciate our dedicated judges—Mrs. Klaus, Miss Paisley Kephart (2025 Champion), and Mrs. Goodstein—for supporting our students.

High Desert Highlights (continued)



Our Science Olympiad Team competed on Saturday, February 14th at AVC, and we are proud of their hard work and dedication! Team members Seth Beaumont, Luke Swanigan, Kash Walker, and Enrique Noyola represented High Desert. A big thank-you to Mrs. Alford Walsh and Mr. Speelman for their guidance and support as advisors.



Thirty-eight 6th graders set off on an unforgettable adventure to the Catalina Island Marine Institute (Camp CIMI) to explore the wonders of marine life. A huge thank-you to Ms. Rhonna Horney for bringing this incredible trip back to our school and giving our students such a meaningful opportunity.

In celebration of Engineer's Week, HDS students explored the science of earthquake stability by designing and building towers that could withstand a simulated quake. Through hands-on challenges, they learned about structural design, problem-solving, and the exciting field of engineering—and many are now inspired to consider engineering as a future career path! A special thank-you to Lockheed and their incredible team for spending the day with our students and sharing their expertise. We are grateful to Mr. Bill Schneider, Mr. Rayon Harris, Ms. Catalina Castellon, Mr. Austin Simons, and Mr. Joshua Clemens.



High Desert Highlights (continued)



HDS's STEAM Night was an incredible evening of creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning! The Egg Drop engineers really upped their game this year with more eggs surviving the fall than ever before, and the foil boat challenge set a new record—holding an amazing 36 bolts before sinking! Mrs. McWilson brought artistic fun with mesmerizing spin art, while Ms. Alford Walsh helped students construct rockets that soared into the night sky. Mrs. Jen Olson hosted an exciting Chess Tournament where the competition was fierce and strategic, and Mrs. Smith and the Robotics Club built impressive Battlebots that battled it out in the arena.



Arts Exploration Day was an amazing experience, giving students the opportunity to explore hands-on careers in the arts and imagine how creativity can shape their future. From visual arts to performance and design, students discovered new passions and talents through engaging, real-world experiences. A heartfelt thank-you to our incredible presenters



Career Day was an incredible opportunity for students to explore future possibilities and learn from professionals who shared their talents, experiences, and passion for their careers. Students discovered the many paths available to them—from engineering and aviation to firefighting, cosmetology, animal care, construction, and beyond.

High Desert Highlights (continued)

Second Semester at High Desert Was a Huge Success!

The Booster Club stayed busy throughout the second semester with some amazing events and activities celebrating our students, teachers, and staff.

One of our favorite events was Family Game Night, where families enjoyed an evening filled with games, activities, and fun. The highlights of the night were the Chess Tournament and the Battle Bot competition. It was wonderful to see so many families come together and have such a great time.

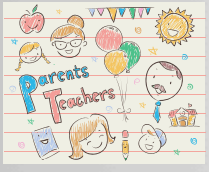
Another memorable event was Teacher Appreciation Week. We spent five themed days showing our gratitude to our incredible teachers and staff, including a build-your-own trail mix bar and a catered lunch. We truly appreciate all that our teachers and staff do for our students every day.

We also hosted breakfast for Arts Day and Career Day. Booster Club members helped serve and coordinate meals, ensuring food was available throughout the day for our presenters, VHS students, and our own High Desert ASB students. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported these events—it would not have been possible without your generosity.

Lastly, we celebrated our 8th graders in style, bringing Joy onto the Journey one last time before they begin their high school experience. We wish them all the best as they take this exciting next step.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Booster Club this year. We had a fantastic year and are excited for all that is ahead. We look forward to an amazing 2026-2027 school year!

HDS Booster Chair- Christine Beaumont



Vasquez Highlights





On May 8, the VAPA classes hosted a wonderful Talent Show in the Vasquez Auditorium, giving students the opportunity to showcase their creativity and performance skills. The event featured a variety of acts, including singing, instrumental performances, and a comedy skit. Students also contributed behind the scenes by supporting sound, lighting, props, and backstage production, making it a meaningful experience for both performers and crew members.





Prom 2025: A Night to Remember at the Los Angeles Zoo (Saturday, May 16th)

Students enjoyed a special dance event at the Los Angeles Zoo, hosted on a beautifully arranged terrace. The setting provided a unique and memorable backdrop for students to celebrate, connect, and enjoy time together. It was a wonderful experience that gave students a fun and meaningful way to close out the year.

Vasquez Highlights (continued)





The second semester was an outstanding and historic season for Vasquez High School athletics, with student-athletes and coaches achieving tremendous success across multiple programs. Flag Football, Boys Basketball, and Boys Volleyball advanced to the CIF semifinals, with Boys Volleyball making school history by winning Vasquez's first-ever CIF Championship. Several additional teams qualified for CIF Playoffs, Boys Basketball and Softball earned League Championships, and Boys Basketball advanced all the way to the State Semifinals, making this one of the most successful years in Vasquez athletics history.





Science Honor Society students visited the TK and Kindergarten students at Little Owls to lead fun, hands-on science experiments. The goal was to spark curiosity and excitement about science at an early age, while giving younger students the chance to learn from high school role models. The Little Owls loved the experience, and it was a wonderful example of students inspiring students.

Vasquez Highlights (continued)

Vasquez High School's Night of the Stars was a remarkable celebration of student achievement, with more than 460 recognitions awarded to our outstanding scholars. Students were honored for excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, community service, career technical education, and many other areas of accomplishment. Congratulations to our well-deserving students for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance.





On May 28, the Peer Health Advocates presented their final project at the School Board meeting, highlighting their work to support student wellness. The group focused on bringing awareness to important mental and physical health topics while advocating for their peers.

Grad Nite: A Celebration of Hard Work and Fun (Friday, May 29th) Graduating seniors enjoyed a special trip to Universal Studios as one final opportunity to celebrate together before closing out their high school experience. The event gave students time to have fun, make memories, and recognize all they had accomplished throughout the year.

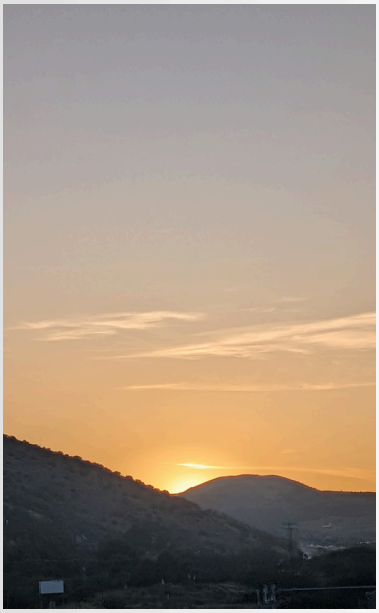




Vasquez Highlights (continued)

On Tuesday, June 2, seniors gathered for Senior Sunset, a special tradition that brings their senior year full circle after beginning it together with Senior Sunrise. Students picnicked on the lawn, signed T-shirts, and spent time reflecting on their final day of senior year. It was a bittersweet and emotional moment as they realized the next time they would all be together would be for graduation.









On Wednesday, June 3, graduating seniors received their gowns, tried them on, and proudly paraded through the district's other school sites, including the middle school and elementary school. Younger students were excited to cheer them on and give high-fives, while seeing positive examples of what they can aspire to in their own futures. For the graduates, the Senior Walk was a special trip down memory lane and a meaningful reminder of how far they have come.

International Student Exchange Program Recognition (Tuesday, June 2nd)
In June 2026, Vasquez High School was honored with a recognition for their flexibility and support in working with international exchange students.



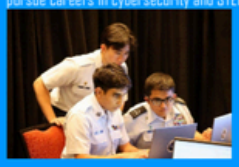
Coming to VHS, Fall 2026: AFJROTC!

ACTON-AGUA DULCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - VASQUEZ HIGH SCHOOL

Robotics: Partnered with the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation, cadets compete in the VEX Robotics competition. This program enhances creative engineering, teamwork, leadership, passion, and problem-solving skills.



CyberPatriot: Part of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, this program inspires K-12 students to pursue careers in cybersecurity and STEM fields



Drones: Engages students with rapidly advancing technology through collaborative lessons in engineering, iterative design, and applied science to teach autonomous flight skills.



Air Force Junior ROTC Program Benefits

Citizenship Training: Educates and trains high school cadets in citizenship, promoting community service, personal responsibility, character, and self-discipline.

Leadership Development: Instills values of integrity, service, and excellence, preparing cadets for leadership roles.

Aerospace Science Education: Provides classroom education in air and space fundamentals, enhancing understanding of aerospace technology.

STEM Focus: Introduces Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics concepts to improve critical thinking skills and competitiveness in the 21st century.

College and Career Readiness: Prepares students for state exit exams, graduation exams, and college entrance exams.

Community Impact: Positively influences cadets, schools, and communities, often serving as the face of the U.S. Air Force in local areas.

These benefits collectively aim to develop well-rounded individuals ready for future academic and career success.

For More Information go to our Facebook page at HQ AF Junior ROTC or click below.

Air Force Junior ROTC

Leadership Development Requirements

"The Fun Stuff"



We develop leaders who are prepared for future academic and career success.

For more information please call
Dr. Reyna Smith
rsmith@aadusd.k12.ca.us
Vasquez High School
661 269-0451
33630 Red Rover Mine Rd. Acton, CA 93510

What is an LDR?

Leadership Development Requirements (LDRs) encompass a range of team-based activities designed to cater to diverse interests. These developmental programs offer a variety of competitive skills, all aimed at preparing cadets for college and career readiness.

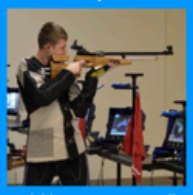
Drill Team: Cadets dedicate countless hours to drill practice, which instills discipline and esprit de corps, while developing confidence and leadership abilities.



Joint Leadership Academic Bowl (JLAB): Partnered with the College Options Foundation, is designed to prepare students for state exit and graduation exams, as well as college entrance exams.



Marksmanship: Introduces cadets to marksmanship and air rifle safety, including training in handling, cleaning, and firing an air rifle. Scholarships are available at numerous colleges.



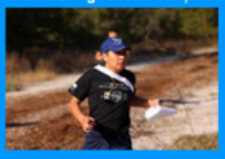
Archery: Partnered with CenterShot Blue Archery, this program aims to improve focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and life skills. It is an inclusive sport for students of all abilities.



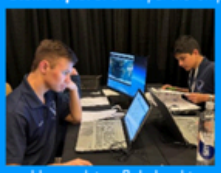
Raiders and Fitness Challenge: Evaluates mental and physical strength and endurance through various fitness and strength tests.



Orienteering: Cadets compete in land navigation tasks, learning to navigate using directions or a map.



StellarXplorers: In partnership with NASA, this program offers insights into the space industry through collaborative problem-solving. Scholarships and internships are available from leading space industry organizations.



Rocketry: In partnership with the American Rocketry Challenge, students design, build, and launch model rockets, providing hands-on engineering experience to motivate students towards aerospace careers.



Vasquez High School 33630 Red Rover Mine Rd. Acton, Ca 93510
661 269-0451
Dr. Reyna Smith rsmith@aadusd.k12.ca.us

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District
32248 Crown Valley Rd.
Acton, Ca. 93510
661 269-0750

Showcasing AADUSD Athletics

High Desert Athletics : Spring

Girls Soccer:
With tenacity and determination, returning coaches Pat Tucker, Matt Prosser, and Maddison Graff led the girls to the league finals at Vasquez High School taking 2nd place in Silver League.
Goalie, Myah Saba-Freudiger, "I never knew I could play soccer, let alone be a starting goalie until I joined 2 years ago. I am so thankful for the opportunity to play with all my teammates."





Our boys team rallied together and fought strong throughout the season to take home our first Boys Soccer Silver League Championship. Led by Coaches Jake VanOrnum and Anthony Saenz, all the boys kept focused and pushed to the end of a memorable season.

JV Girls Volleyball:
Our girls demonstrated true team unity and spirit working hard under Coaches Michelle Herman and Mia Ramierz. We had such an interest in volleyball we were able to roster 2 teams. They were a positive and encouraging crew.
The A1 team took home our first JV SCAIL League Championships.



Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



JV Flag Football: They boys were eager and ready to play this year in flag football. Their energy is contagious and full of Hawk spirit. They battled throughout league play making it into the Semi-Finals ending the season in 3rd Place.

Boys Basketball:
Led by returning 8th graders Kash Walker, Drue Fallgatter and 7th grader Jesse Cardenas, the boys were focused on playing competitive ball. Through the tough season, the boys stayed diligent in developing their sport skills and kept focused on challenging themselves to new limits. Thank you to Coach Mac and Mrs. McWilson for all your time and dedication to your teams.





Dance Force:
Another year of dancing with the HDS crew! They had a blast during all the workshops and competitions. The team met new people and continued to grow in their life-long love and passion for dance. Coaches Gina Botton and Christine Beaumont are always amazed by their students and the excitement they bring to the dance floor.

Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



Track & Field:

We were a young team this season with only 1 returning 8th grader but the team battled to finals ending on the podium and bringing home some medals for the Hawks. Coaches Jen Olson and Gina Botton couldn't be more proud of the effort and team camaraderie of this team!

Congratulations to:

1st Place Girls 4 x 400 relay team :

Haley Voytish, Hartley Bishop, Dulce Hernandez, and Cassidy Olson

1st Place 800 Meter = Dulce Hernandez

2nd place 800 meter = Cassidy Olson

3rd place Long Jump = Cassidy Olson



Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



This year has been an incredible year for athletics at Vasquez High School. Our student-athletes, coaches, and programs have accomplished a tremendous amount both competitively and in representing our school community with pride.

Three teams advanced to the CIF semifinals this year: Flag Football, Boys Basketball, and Boys Volleyball. Volleyball made school history by winning the first CIF Championship ever, for Vasquez. Both Boys Basketball and Boys Volleyball also qualified for the State Playoffs, with Boys Basketball advancing to the State Semifinals in their division.

In addition, Boys Football, Girls Soccer, Softball, and Baseball all qualified for the CIF Playoffs. Boys Basketball and Softball also captured League Championships this season.

Overall, this has been one of the most successful years in Vasquez athletics history. I am extremely proud of the dedication and hard work shown by our student-athletes, coaches, staff, and community throughout the year.

Sheldon Sparks- VHS Athletic Director

Promotion Ceremonies 2026: LOLC













Promotion Ceremonies 2026: Meadowlark











Promotion Ceremonies 2026: HDS











Vasquez High School Class of 2026













AADUSD Schoool Board



A heartfelt thank you to our AADUSD Board of Trustees for their leadership, governance, and unwavering commitment to student success. Their dedication to creating the best possible opportunities for every student helps shape the direction of our district and inspires the work we do each day.

Together, we remain focused on supporting, empowering, and preparing every scholar for a bright future.

Welcome Summer

AFTER A BUSY AND REWARDING SPRINT TO THE FINISH LINE, SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!

I AM INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND THE ACADEMIC GROWTH THEY ACHIEVED THROUGHOUT THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

TO OUR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF – THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION, PARTNERSHIP, AND COMMITMENT ALL YEAR LONG. YOU SHOULD EACH TAKE PRIDE IN A JOB WELL DONE!

TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE EMPOWERING, NURTURING, AND SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE LEADERS.

WISHING OUR ENTIRE AADUSD COMMUNITY A SAFE, RESTFUL, AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER BREAK.

AADUSD IS STRONGER TOGETHER!

AT YOUR SERVICE,

ERIC SAHAKIAN, ED.D.– AADUSD SUPERINTENDENT

For more information on district programs, opportunities for engagement, or questions please reach out to
Dr. Eric Sahakian, AADUSD Superintendent
at esahakian@aadusd.k12.ca.us