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Dear CUSD Community,

Here we are at the end of September, and the days are going fast! I have spent time each week visiting our schools, including our PTA, PTO and other parent organization meetings to introduce myself and get to know our parents. Thank you to our parents for allowing me to join your meetings, and I encourage all of our parents to join our parent organizations to get involved in your child's school activities. I am a believer that when parents get involved and connect, our students connect with each other and with their teachers and school staff.

On a different topic, I want to share with parents that our District team has been analyzing our use of technology, including the amount of screen time our students are engaging in each week. Last Monday, our teachers engaged in professional development with their administrators to examine their use of technology and screen time. We are working with teachers and our administrators to explore options for how we leverage technology for innovative instruction alongside minimizing unnecessary screen time. One action we are exploring is to turn off District-issued devices for our middle students who take them home. Specifically, we are looking into turning off devices from 10 PM to 7:30 AM, with a parent override function if needed. More information to follow in the upcoming months, and if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please include them [🔗 HERE](#).

And finally, I want to highlight the importance for staff and families to engage in Board meetings and study sessions that focus on our budget adjustments this year. Over the last year, staff has presented information at Board meetings about our \$10M structural deficit. Essentially, we are spending more than the revenue we receive, and so we must adjust our budget by next year by \$7M and another \$3M the following year. An important related point is our decline in enrollment, including a loss of over 400 students from last year. As our student enrollment declines, so too must our spending. Please stay tuned for more information regarding our efforts to adjust our budget.

Bond Update

Summer Bond Projects



Over the summer, the District made substantial progress on campus upgrades. Brand-new playground equipment and rubberized safety surfacing were installed at West Valley, Eisenhower, Faria, Stockmeir, and Stevens Creek Elementary Schools, with all sites passing safety inspections in time for the start of the school year. Additionally, crews finalized shingle roof replacements at Hyde Middle School and carried out extensive repaving, blacktop repairs, and striping at Nimitz, Lincoln, West Valley, and Montclair.

Beyond physical campus repairs, summer efforts established the groundwork for upcoming technology, athletic, and playground infrastructure enhancements.



The District completed walkthroughs and preconstruction planning at Cupertino Middle School (CMS) and Faria Elementary for new Clock, Bell, and PA systems, paving the way for upcoming after-hours installations. CUSD also advanced planning for future bond projects, evaluating architectural proposals for new middle school running tracks across CMS, Hyde, Kennedy, Lawson, and Miller, while initiating design concepts for the next phase of playground upgrades at John Muir, Eisenhower, Nimitz, and West Valley.

We are deeply grateful to our voters and community members whose investment in Measure Z creates safer, modern, and inspiring learning environments for all CUSD students.

Educational Excellence

Beyond the Bell: ELO-P

CUSD operates a high-quality, low-cost after-school enrichment program called the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) for students in grades TK-6. Students engage in structured physical activity, STEM learning, hands-on enrichment, reading and math practice, and dedicated homework supervision.



ELO-P Vision and Mission:

We believe learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings. Our mission is to support every student in reaching their academic potential while nurturing a deep sense of connection, joy, and belonging at school.

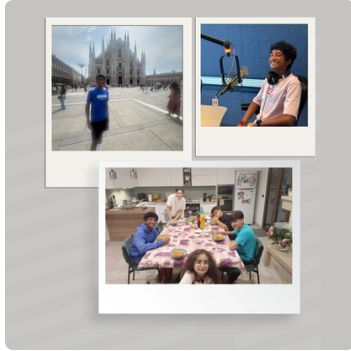
Who Can Join?

- All CUSD Families: All families are encouraged to apply! Space permitting, we welcome all students to join our thriving after-school community.
- Priority for English Language Learners, Foster Youth, and Income-Eligible families
- Free Admission for Eligible Families: Foster Youth and Income-Eligible families in grades TK-6.

 **Come join us! Space is available!**

District Highlights

Sister Cities



Cupertino has proudly maintained its long-standing Sister City relationship with Copertino, Italy (formalized in 1963), Hsinchu, Taiwan (Formalized in 2007), and Toyokawa, Japan (formalized in 1978). These partnerships aim to foster cultural understanding, educational exchange, and economic cooperation. Sister Cities emphasize citizen diplomacy and foster deep mutual understanding and cooperation.

Last spring, CUSD 7th- and 8th-graders served as exchange delegates for our sister city, Copertino, Italy. After hosting Italian delegates at home, the American students traveled to Italy over spring break to stay with host families, attend classes at San Giuseppe da Copertino, and explore Italian culture.

Inspired by the journey, Miller Middle School 8th grader Udhav Badrinarayan submitted his story to KQED-NPR's Perspectives—and they chose it for broadcast! Udhav recently visited the NPR studio in SF to record his perspective on this life-changing experience.

 Listen to Udhav's story at

<https://www.kqed.org/perspectives/201601147874/udhav-badrinarayan-embracing-differences>

Multicultural Events



This past week, parent organizations at Hyde Middle School, John Muir Elementary School, and West Valley Elementary School transformed school blacktops into vibrant hubs of heritage, filled with traditional, captivating music, cultural dance performances, heritage attire, and homemade dishes passed down through generations. Multicultural events remind us of the deep beauty and strength within our diverse CUSD community. By opening our doors to celebrate the unique backgrounds, histories, and traditions of every family, we build more than just memorable afternoons - we cultivate empathy, broaden perspectives, and ensure every student feels a deep sense of belonging and pride. Thank you to the dedicated families, volunteers, students, and staff who brought these events to life.
