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Dear CUSD Community,

I want to welcome you to our first edition of the CUSD Connect, our new District newsletter. As I review the many aspects of our outstanding CUSD programs, one area in which we can grow is our communication with our community, including families and staff. This newsletter is an additional way we plan to communicate with you, with editions planned for every other Monday.

During my first few weeks in CUSD, I have enjoyed meeting staff, parents, and especially our students. I have now visited all of our schools and plan to be at our schools frequently. Thank you to our Parent Leaders for allowing me to attend our meetings to introduce myself and to begin the process of getting to know you. My hope is to attend a Parent meeting at each of our schools this year as a regular part of my effort to build connections with you.

Last week I also had an opportunity to attend our Budget Advisory Committee meeting, the first for this school year, and I am grateful to our staff and community members who attend this meeting to offer ideas on how we can close our budget deficit of \$7M, which means we must reduce our expenditures in 2027-28 by this amount, and another \$3M in 2028-29. We encourage our community to take an active interest in our progress toward adjusting our budget, including attending our BAC meetings (next meeting: Oct. 1; 4-6 pm at 1309 S. Mary Ave. Suite 150, Sunnyvale).

Below you will find updates from various departments, including updates on our Portrait of a Learner progress, Board recognition of our schools that recently earned PBIS awards, and a celebration of our newly tenured teachers. There is so much to celebrate in CUSD, and we look forward to sharing updates throughout the year.

I will close by noting that our newsletter name was selected with intention. We shared and invited various names, and CUSD Connect rose to the top easily. I confess, I love this name, as it reflects our aspiration to connect in meaningful ways throughout this year. I am looking forward to connecting.

Jennifer Hawn, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Educational Excellence

Portrait of a Learner



CUSD is committed to ensuring that our students are future-ready! District Priority 1: Future-Ready Learning focuses on core academic excellence and future-ready competencies. Our Portrait of a Learner (POL) describes these competencies essential to success in this rapidly changing world. This school year, all school sites are focused on two competencies: **Resilient Learner** and **Global Contributor**. Perseverance, adaptability, curiosity, and self-direction will help our students thrive now and in the future.

We also know that giving students an opportunity to be of service to others builds compassion, belonging, and connection - all key to fostering resilience. Throughout the year, school leadership teams will identify strategies to build these competencies across all CUSD settings. These teams include two student ambassadors from each school site. Certificated staff members heard from three of them at the start of the year. We recognize that students are fundamental to their education, and their voices are essential to creating a vibrant, effective, and responsive educational environment.

PBIS Recognition



The California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Recognition Program began in 2015 as the first statewide effort to implement a recognition system that acknowledges schools for implementing PBIS with fidelity to the national framework. It honors schools that effectively implement the PBIS framework to improve student behavior and academic results. Schools may apply to be recognized as Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum PBIS schools.

During the September 10 Regular Board Meeting, the Board recognized twelve District schools for their achievements in the California PBIS State Recognition Program for the 2025-26 school year: Blue Hills, De Vargas, Dilworth, Eaton, Eisenhower, Lawson, Lincoln, Miller, Montclair, Murdock-Portal, Sedgwick, and Stockmeir.

These schools demonstrated a strong commitment to creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all students through their dedication to the PBIS framework.

District Highlights

Newly Tenured Teachers



Congratulations to the certificated tenured staff honored at the Sept. 10 Regular Board meeting!

California Education Code (Ed Code) section 44929.21 states in part that certificated employees of a school district who, after having been employed by the district for two complete consecutive school years in a position or positions requiring certification qualifications, are re-elected for the next succeeding school year to a position requiring certification qualifications shall, at the commencement of the succeeding school year, be classified as and become permanent employees of the district.

For the 2026-27 school year, 46 certificated employees earned permanent employee status with CUSD! See the complete list of names [here](#).

CEEF - For Every Student. Every School. Every Opportunity.



The Cupertino Educational Endowment Foundation

(CEEF) is a nonprofit that partners with our community to support all 23 schools in the Cupertino Union School District.

CEEF funds programs that enrich every student's educational experience—from teacher grants and classroom innovation to music, art, middle school electives, elementary after-school sports, Special Olympics, and District-wide initiatives that help students thrive.

We invite every family to consider **donating** \$50-\$100 per child. Together, these gifts have a lasting impact on students across our district. Double your Impact! Current and past CEEF Board members have set up a matching challenge. Every dollar donated will be matched up to the first \$10,000.

Donations are voluntary, and no child will be denied participation.

Help Build the CUSD Connection



Community Groups

Know a community member (*non-parent/guardian or staff*) who would like to receive this newsletter or other communications from CUSD and/or a specific CUSD School Site? Send them to **cusdk8.info/communitygroups** to join our ParentSquare Community Groups.



Follow Us

Follow CUSD on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for highlights from across our 23 schools.
