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OCTOBER 26, 2026



Dear CUSD Community,

Here we are at the end of October, with Halloween just a few days away. I want to wish our families a safe and fun Halloween at our schools on Friday and on Saturday.

Over the last two weeks since our last edition of CUSD Connect, we have continued to make progress on our Bond work. Thank you to our Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) for their role in providing oversight on Measure Z Bond implementation. This wise group offers useful questions and feedback regarding our bond progress. You can learn more about the CBOC [HERE](#), and you can learn more about Measure Z Bond progress below and [HERE](#).

I also want to thank the parents who responded to our technology survey (still available for input [HERE](#)) regarding our interest in turning off devices for middle school students from 10 PM until 7:30 AM. Of the parents who responded, most agree with the initiative, as long as there is a parent override for students who need access during the off hours. We agree with this need for flexibility and plan to accommodate a parent override feature for those students who need access during off hours.

I will close by noting how much there is to celebrate in CUSD. At our October 22nd Board meeting, student ambassadors and staff presented an update on our Portrait of a Learner work, which has been so impressive to observe. Our students are so wise, and our success is observable every day. I was also pleased to see *US News & World Report* rankings of the top 100 schools in California, which include 12 of our schools in the top 100, several of which are in the top 10. Congratulations to our staff, families, and especially our students for your outstanding achievement!

In Partnership,
Jennifer Hawn, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Educational Excellence

Student Achievement



U.S. News and World Report recently analyzed 107,223 pre-K, elementary, and middle schools. **Many CUSD schools continue to rank in the top 100 in CA.** The report assessed schools based on students' performance on state mathematics and reading/language arts assessments. Half of the formula assessed the scores themselves and the other half incorporated the test results in the context of socioeconomic characteristics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are all high-achieving and have succeeded at educating all their students. [Methodology of the Report.](#)

Elementary Schools

- Murdock-Portal: No. 3

Middle Schools

- Miller: No. 5
- Kennedy: No. 8
- Lawson: No. 14
- CMS: No. 38
- Hyde: No. 40

On State assessments, overall CUSD achievement remains "Very High," with our average "Distance from Standard" far exceeding state results:

- ELA: **74 points above proficiency**
- Math: **98.7 points above proficiency**

Across 985 school Districts statewide, **CUSD ranks No. 7 in Math and No. 30 in ELA.**

- Faria: No. 4
- Muir: No. 12
- Lincoln: No. 57
- Eaton: No. 62
- Dilworth: No. 64
- Blue Hills: No. 96

Among Santa Clara County Elementary School Districts, **CUSD is in the top three in Math and the top four in ELA.**

Bond Update

Measure Z Progress



Visit <https://www.cusdk8.org/about-us/measure-z> to see progress on CUSD Measure Z, including new TK/K playgrounds, cooler blacktops, and roof repairs. See how the District protects every bond dollar and how the next six years of modernization will unfold.

District Highlights

Student Ambassadors



Last week, 46 Future-Ready Student Ambassadors joined principals, teachers, and other staff to learn together and plan for how to support two key competencies: Resilient Learner and Global Contributor. Resiliency helps students persevere through challenges. Students across CUSD will have opportunities to build these durable skills to support success now and in the future during this time of rapid change. Teachers across CUSD focus on academic foundations in core areas and integrate opportunities for students to develop durable, transferable skills that will help them thrive!

Beautify San Jose



Dilworth Elementary is proud to launch its Steward School partnership with Beautify San Jose! Their 4th and 5th graders kicked off the collaboration with a hands-on service-learning project—planting drought-resistant plants and daffodil bulbs, laying fresh mulch to beautify garden beds, and starting a painting project to promote the school-wide PBIS expectations.



Through these initiatives, Dilworth Global Contributors are taking pride in caring for their school and environment. The partnership will expand to include future efforts such as campus litter pickups and community events. Special shout-out to SJ City Councilmember Rosemary Kamei for supporting and coaching students at the kickoff event. Thank you, Beautify San Jose for this partnership!

Help Build the CUSD Connection



Community Groups

Know a community member (*non-parent 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.

CUSD Connect Archive