

### **Golden Spotlight:**

The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who “implement comprehensive school counseling programs, a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the challenges of the 21st century.”

In addition, school counselors collaborate with school-based licensed psychologists, social workers, and nurses to help support student success.

At this time, we would like to publically thank and recognize our district’s dynamic counseling team of Nicole Salsedo, Tiffany Quesada, and school psychologist, Nora Miller.

We also have our site leaders here with us tonight if they would like to say a few words to our counseling team.

### **Community Minded Announcements:**

Prior to that we have a new addition to the superintendent’s report, “Community Minded Announcements”.

Thank you Ms. Victoria Taylor, Acton Women’s Club for submitting an announcement for the community:

As a friendly reminder, Acton Women’s Club is encouraging our High school students applying to trade schools and colleges to apply for an annual scholarship. Online applications will be found on the Acton’s Women’s Club site between April 1-April 30<sup>th</sup> (postmarked by April 30<sup>th</sup>). The Acton Women’s Club will be selecting the winners the first week in May. The ceremony awarding scholarships to students applying for colleges and Trade Schools will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Ms. Taylor and Acton Women’s Club for your unwavering support of our students.

### **Superintendent report for April 14, 2022:**

This evening I will be covering the following strategic initiatives: Student Achievement, Effective Instruction and Leadership, Community Engagement, Student Connectedness, and Utilization of Fiscal Capital.

## **Student Achievement:**

- ML Awards Assembly on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for Academic achievement, most improved were among the categories students were being recognized for. Parents were proud and students were definitely excited. Thank you for the invitation. Congratulations to all.

## **Effective Instruction and Leadership:**

Thank you to Ms. Shaw and the TOSA team for their robust MTSS academic supports:

MTSS (Multiple Tiered Systems of Support) Targeted Interventions and Additional Supports Initiated by MTSS Team (Assistant Superintendent, Counseling, TOSAs- Teachers On Special Assignment, and Site Administrators)

-District-wide Universal Screener to identify areas for growth in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math

-District-wide Self Screener for CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) Core Competencies

-SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) lessons embedded into weekly classroom instruction

-SOAR literacy intervention at the elementary school

-Screening Data: gr k, gr1, gr 2, gr 3, gr 4

-Math intervention and support at the middle school

-Due to staffing this has been adjusted, however instructional continuity will be maintained by continuing having math classes taught by the TOSA

-Designated ELD (English Language Development) classes at all three sites

-This year the team, EL TOSA and Bilingual aides, is working to ensure that all EL students are tested- ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) before spring break.

- EL (English Language) Team also working to complete the Redesignation process and monitor students' progress

- After School Tutoring at Vasquez High School
- Fully teacher supported independent study
- Information and Professional Development for Tier 1 supports in general education classrooms
- UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Support Platforms including Text Help and Immersive Reader.

### **Community Engagement:**

- Our newly formed Shadow Day Collaborative works in unison with all three schools to provide opportunities for current and prospective parents and students to experience AADUSD programs and curriculum.

During a Shadow Day experience, students and parents will engage in activities, meet other students, and get to know staff.

Thank you to the Collaborative participants comprised of parents, staff, teachers, and community members. Thank you for your time, input, and diligence.

We kicked off the first Shadow day event last Monday, January 31st.

On Monday, January 31st, our High Desert Hawks Soccer Teams and their families were invited to the Vasquez High School Boys' Soccer Team and Vasquez senior night. The Hawks took a team photo with the VHS Boys soccer team! We also offered up an outdoor tour of the VHS campus to High Desert families, and then Hawks cheered on the VHS Mustangs as they took on Village Christian. The immersion activity was a great success.

We are thrilled and excited to be providing opportunities to build and enhance relationships across our wonderful schools. Be on the lookout for our next event, a Meadowlark and High Desert immersion.

- IT, thank you for online enrollment feature...what it entails, what it means for current and prospective families, new signature program, etc.

### **STUDENT CONNECTEDNESS**

Thank you to the Supt Student advisory and Mr. Ahsan Mirza for our productive meeting held last week on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

met on April 5th at VHS. Lunch was provided. Topic for the meeting: Student input on the LCAP plan update.

## **UTILIZATION OF FISCAL CAPITAL**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the California Department of Education (CDE) today released K–12 public school enrollment data for the 2021–22 academic year.

The annual snapshot of fall enrollment shows a fifth year of decline as the state emerges from two challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The release provides yet another data point in the continuing analysis of California’s overall demographic shifts and related pandemic impacts. The information is crucial to understanding how best to plan for a robust recovery in years ahead.

California enrollment declines are consistent with national data trends that show enrollment is dropping across the country. These declines began prior to the pandemic and are projected to continue into the future in California. Large urban districts in California account for close to a third of the drop in the current year. Reports published suggest that both Chicago and New York also saw significant declines for the second year of the pandemic.

With this data release, we see that the COVID-19 disruptions are playing a large part in negating the steady enrollment gains over the last decade. In an effort to address the needs of local educational agencies (LEAs), the CDE has provided supports to districts on outreach to families of chronically absent students during the pandemic. Special attention is also being placed on boosting transitional kindergarten and kindergarten enrollment and helping schools to meet the needs of families around transition years and to offer options and pathways to keep high school students connected.

In addition, the CDE is supporting efforts to increase funding to offset declining enrollment, including sponsoring two key bills: Senate Bill 830 (Portantino), legislation that could provide school districts with financial supports as well as resources to create outreach strategies to reengage with students and families who

may have experienced increased barriers to access during the pandemic, and Assembly Bill 1640 (Muratsuchi), a bill that would increase the base grants to amounts equal to the national average per-pupil funding level.

Statewide findings for this year's enrollment data during COVID-19 in 2021–22 include:

#### Total Enrollment

Enrollment is down from 6,002,523 in 2020–21 to 5,892,240 in 2021–22, a decrease of more than 110,000 students and 1.8 percent from the prior year. This follows a steady decline in public school enrollment statewide since 2014–15.

This concludes my report for the evening, thank you.

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#### **COVID Report:**

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. 4,360 new cases as reported to LACDPH as of February 7<sup>th</sup> as compared to 18,822 new cases for January 25<sup>th</sup> as reported at our last board meeting. A significant surge since our last board meeting, approximately a month ago.

The testing positivity rate, a 7-day average for the week of January 31<sup>st</sup> is at 8.39% as compared to the week of January 18<sup>th</sup> which came in at 16.61%.

We sincerely hope these numbers will keep decreasing as we move forward with the academic year.

As we may have already heard, L.A. County is looking to ease the indoor masking mandate sometime next week for folks who are vaccinated.

Having participated in a virtual meeting yesterday sponsored by ACSA (Association for California School Administrators), educators are anticipating a re-evaluation of the masking mandate by L.A. County Dept. of Public Health by mid-March. It is anticipated that the masking mandated may ease up for students in L.A. County. What those parameters might look like, we don't have any details at this time. However, I'd like to stress that

we should remain cautiously optimistic and wait for final word in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you, this concludes the COVID report.