

February 9, 2023

Golden Spotlight:

We were scheduled to celebrate our High Desert VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) youth essay contest winners this evening. However, some from our High Desert community were unable to attend so we will push it out to our February 23rd board meeting to celebrate our High Desert students. Thank you.

Tonight I will cover two strategic initiatives from our existing strategic plan: Student Achievement and Student Safety.

First off, Student Achievement (MI- 100 days of learning, three photos)

On Tuesday February 7th, Meadowlark celebrated the first 100 days of school. Both students and staff were dressed up as older folk. Ms. Moynihan and I went from class to class celebrating 100 days of learning and thanking our wonderful teachers for their hard work. Keep up the good work everyone.

National Counseling Week:

National School Counseling Week, is being celebrated this week from Feb. 6–10 to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

At this time, we would like to publically thank and recognize our district's dynamic counseling team of Nicole Salsedo and Tiffany Quesada. You are appreciated by the community, staff and peers, and most importantly by our student body. Thank you.

Student Safety:

Solar Panel construction has begun at ML and HDS, respectively, with the installation of fencing around the panel areas. Construction is expected to continue

through end of February for ML and Mid-April for HDS. To ensure the safety of our students during this project, both sites have put the following safety measures in place with district guidance:

Checking all workers in using our Raptor system

Restricting movement between locations on campus to times when students are in class or not on campus (not during drop-off, break, lunch, or dismissal)

Increased supervision around the area to support safety of the students

Lastly, VHS is still under DSA review. We will keep our community in the loop as we continue moving forward with the project.

Charter bus services-

The charter company we are currently using for field trips and athletic trips is American Nation Tours, Inc. There are several reasons why we chose to do business with American Nation over other companies. American Nation rates are lower than charter companies we have used in the past. They have a variety of sizes of buses to accommodate small groups to large groups. They assign a mini coach or mini bus for smaller groups so the trip is more cost efficient. With athletics, things change last minute, games get cancelled, times and locations have changed within an hour's notice; American Nation has never charged us a cancellation fee or additional fee for last minute changes. Not only are they willing to work with us on last minute changes; their drivers attend the games and cheer for our students.

As far as our own Transportation department, we have made many strides in the last couple of months.

Transportation has been aggressive in the recruitment, training, and processing of new drivers. 5 new drivers will be joining the transportation team, to make a total of 9 drivers, the most our district has ever had. This increase in capacity would translate to routes being shorter in length, students' time on the bus lessened. In addition, athletic competitions/away games will be transported by our own buses, which would amount to over \$50,000 in savings/annually. Thank you Syed Zaidi and transportation dept. for your efforts.

COVID Report:

- In the Acton and Agua-Dulce surrounding areas there have been 8 new cases of Covid-19 since our last report from Jan. 12th to Jan. 25th.

- In our AADUSD school community there have been 2 positive cases reported since 1/26/2023, and exposure notifications have been sent for those affected.

- We want to remind parents to test their students if they have any symptoms and keep them home for fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or unusual new cough.

- Home test kits are available at all school sites

- We ask that all families document their home results on the Primary Health Platform.

- Please get in touch with your provider, local pharmacy, or the LA county website if you want to get your Covid-19 vaccine.

- Hospitals are still seeing Covid-19, Flu, and RSV cases in LA County. It is recommended you get your flu shot and Covid-19 vaccine now to ensure we keep our students safe from the adverse effects of the Flu and Covid-19.

- When you are sick, the sooner you contact your physician, the more treatment options are available for the Flu and Covid-19.

