

Golden Spotlight:

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), is being celebrated from Feb. 7–11, 2022, 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.

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.

Superintendent report for January 13, 2022:

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

Student Achievement:

I did visit the new AVC class- HE 120 Stress Management on Monday, January 31st. A total of 17 students have enrolled in the class, held during period 4 at VHS. Thanks to AVC Instructor, Mr. John Livermont students were engaged as they reviewed assignments pertaining to the class. Such assignments include, a gratitude collage project and students creating their own relaxation script.

Effective Instruction and Leadership:

Most recently High Desert surveyed their community of students, parents, and staff on a block scheduling proposal for the 22-23 academic calendar. Based on the results (over 51% in favor of block scheduling) a virtual town hall meeting was set up on February 3rd at 5:30 pm as well as Friday February 4th at 1:00 pm to review the proposal and answer questions from the community. I attended these virtual meetings with Principal Van Ornum. The presentation has been posted to the High Desert website as of late last week for anyone to review.

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.

STUDENT CONNECTEDNESS

Yesterday, Dr. Murphy and I met with a group of 14 VHS students- grades 9th through 11th, as part of the Superintendent's Student Advisory. I'd like to acknowledge the following students for their participation and insight in the areas

of campus safety, athletics, teacher morale, and school site funding, just to name a few. Their next assignment will be to take their areas of interest and interview district staff to learn more about process and how to tackle these challenges.

We look forward to having a formal board presentation at the end of this academic calendar to share some of the constructive dialogue impacting our students today.

This concludes my report for the evening, thank you.

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 7th as compared to 18,822 new cases for January 25th 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 31st is at 8.39% as compared to the week of January 18th 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.

