

Golden Spotlight:

The Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year: is an honors competition to spotlight teaching excellence and exemplary professionalism in public education.

The competition is the largest of its kind in the state and is part of the oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public school teachers.

The Teacher of the Year program, which features an annual luncheon recognition each September for all participants, is designed to provide much-deserved recognition for teachers. Those selected by LACOE as County Teachers of the Year—educators who have shown exemplary dedication, compelling classroom practices, positive accomplishments and professional commitment—serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 72,000 classroom colleagues countywide.

Our very own Ms. Nicole Chun was recognized and honored as a Teacher of the Year, Semi-Finalist on September 24th! Congratulations Ms. Chun. Ms. Chun has graciously served our district since 2000 as a long-term sub for 9-12 SDC. She then taught grades 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and SDC.

Nicole serves and continues to serve on many district-led committees.

She has advised the coding club and knitting club.

In addition, she is Google Certified Trainer, Leading Edge Professional Learning Leader

Not sure how she finds the time, but Nicole serves as a Seesaw Ambassador, an Edji Visionary, and serves on the CUE LA Board of Directors (CUE - Computer Using Educators).

Nicole has a very creative side- she loves flair pens, UDL (universal design for learning), exciting science labs, and play-based learning. Congratulations Nicole. Thank you for all that you do for student achievement!

Superintendent report for October 14, 2021:

This evening I will be covering strategic initiatives: Student Achievement, Effective Instruction, and Student Connectedness.

1.0- Student Achievement:

- We have a special presentation by Antelope Valley College as potential partners this evening. Over the past several months, the AVC president, Mr. Ed Knudson and the Interim Dean of Community Projects and Extended Learning, Ms. Cathy Hart and I have been finalizing a tentative proposal for Dual Enrollment opportunities for Vasquez High School. Topic is an agenda item tonight.

Areas we explored during our planning meetings included:

- District responsibilities, AVC responsibilities
- Timeline and requirements for implementation.
- Outreach and marketing
- Possible classes to be taught by AVC professors at VHS. Examples discussed include Math 102, English 101, Music Appreciation, and Introduction to Humanities.

- o The overarching goals of dual enrollment option for our Vasquez HS students is to better position them on how to best transfer to AVC or any community college of their choice to fulfill their IGETC and gen ed. courses by taking college level courses at Vasquez HS.
- o AVC will send us the instructor/professor
- o Our district's only financial obligation- purchasing of the textbooks for students
- o Possible courses discussed for Vasquez HS- Math 110 or 115; Eng. 101 (ideal for HS students), then Eng. 102- critical thinking/literature; Music Appreciation (to include history of rock n roll and hip hop); Humanities courses an example provided – a Stress management course, taught by a former AVC baseball coach, highly recommended courses for older teens.

- o AVC does not charge students for taking any of their courses
- o Research indicates that HS students taking 3 college courses as part of dual enrollment is a good predictor of college success.

Again, thank you Cathy Hart for taking a part tonight in joining us for a short presentation later this evening where we will hear more about this potential collaboration as well as field questions from our board.

2.0- Effective Instruction and Leadership:

At this time, we would like to highlight our district's new partnership with the L.A. Arts Education Collective.

The LA County Arts Education Collective brings together leaders and practitioners to learn, collaborate and network. The Collective partners with regional organizations to reach a range of school district stakeholders, from education foundations to arts coordinators and school board members.

Accessing this robust network will help increase visibility of our district successes. Our district's efforts will be prominently featured as part the story of arts education in LA County.

The Arts Ed Collective dedicates a staff person to supporting our district. Our first collaborative meeting was held on October 6th. The collaborative is comprised of parents, students, staff, and community partners with a passion for the arts. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the collaborative's goal is to develop an Arts Infrastructure Strategic Plan that will increase the quality, quantity, and equity of arts instruction in our schools starting in the fall 2022.

School districts in the Arts Ed Collective that have strategic plans for arts education that have been formally adopted by their local school boards are eligible to apply for funding. Matching grants offer financial support to assist school districts in achieving key action items identified in our district arts plans. More to come on this exciting collaboration.

Thank you to the following community partners and district staff for their time and effort in serving on the collaborative:

VHS English Teacher Kari Owens
Community Member Karen Stueve
Asmo Music Teacher Meadowlark Emma Benatar
Actons Women Club Victoria Taylor
Parent Marlene Fawkes
President Acton Arts Council Sharon Roberts
Parent Sandy Madsen
Parent Tracy Costan
Parent Angie Martin
Student Aeslin Cameron
Asst Superintendent of Bus Serv Agha Mirza
Asst Superintendent of HR/ED/Pupil Kim Shaw

3.0- Student Safety and Connectedness:

- Recruitment for the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council is underway. The marketing flyer has been created and pushed out as part of the district’s new quarterly newsletter.

The purpose of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory is to create and implement goals through student input into areas that impact student performance, safety and security, mental health, and other areas of concern.

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council is AADUSD’s very own coalition of high school students and middle school students. The advisory aims to develop initiatives and amplify student voices to create positive change at school. If you are a current high school student or middle school student in our district and are passionate about school or district wide issues, please email: ymccauley@aadusd.k12.ca.us

Flyer is up on the screen and was part of the district’s new newsletter that was pushed out to our community of parents, stakeholders, and staff a few days ago.

- The next item is for all families, students, community members, and alumni! Mark your calendars for October 22nd, where our Mustangs will be playing Silver Valley High School for our rescheduled Homecoming Football Game! Before the game begins, there will be a Senior Night to honor our Senior Football players. At halftime, Vasquez will have their Homecoming floats and celebrate the Senior Homecoming Court.

We know many were saddened that some students couldn't attend the first Homecoming Dance, so Vasquez HS wanted to offer another opportunity for students to celebrate Homecoming! On October 23rd, from 7-10 PM, VHS will host a Homecoming 2.0 Dance! The new theme voted by students is Enchanted Forest! This dance will mainly be held outdoors, but will also offer students indoor seating options in the gym. As a reminder: masks must be worn at all times when students are indoors.

COVID Report: Yellow needs updating

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. 742 news cases as reported to LACDPH for October 12th as compared to 1,322 new cases for September 19th as reported at our last board meeting on September 23rd. The testing positivity rate a 7-day average for the week of October 5th is .93% compared to the week of September 12th which reported the rate at 1.73%.

The percentage of individuals tested with a diagnostic COVID test since the week of October 5th comes in at 142,722 as compared to September 12th which came in at 122,257.

- Within the span of these past two weeks, 9/20-10/4, as a district we had 5 students who tested positive for COVID.

I'd like to share a single snapshot of the number of students that were on active quarantine (due to possible exposure) on October 4th: 141 students, district-wide.

- Again, I'd like to reiterate the importance of a self-check at home prior to students arriving on campus. Please look for symptoms such as a cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you believe your child may be

experiencing these symptoms, please contact your school site for additional guidance.