

Golden Spotlight:

The Acton Town Council and the Acton Agua Dulce Community have been working hard over the past few years to ensure that High Desert Middle School students have a safe path to and from school. Their efforts have included the paved path to the library, the addition of the crossing guard, and the addition of the trees lining Crown Valley Rd. just to name a few of the project they have worked on.

High Desert Students and Staff members along with the District staff and School Board would like to thank these amazing community and school members for their foresight and over the top efforts to ensure High Desert Hawks now have a clean path to school and from school each day.

Thank you to this amazing group of volunteers who saw a need, organized a group, and spent half of their Saturday cleaning up the dirt area along Antelope Woods Rd, adding trash cans to keep the area clean for the future, and extended their clean-up efforts to include the freeway on-ramp and off-ramp that students walk past. For our High Desert students, it made a big difference to have a clean path to walk on for their first day back to school. What a great welcome back to full in-person learning.

We would also like to thank Acton Ace Hardware for the donation of the trashcans and the clean-up supplies. They are huge supporters of our community and our school. On behalf of the High Desert students and staff, and the district as a whole, we would like to extend a big thank you to all of the community members involved in this project! They made a difference in the lives of our High Desert students and we are so grateful for their work in helping our High Desert Hawks to SOAR this year!

This evening, we are thrilled to commend and spotlight...

Kaydence Messerly (HDS student and ASB Member)

Levi Klaus (student at HDS)

Autumn Klaus (HDS Student and ASB Member)

Adina Klaus (Parent and Teacher at ML)

Tammy Necessary (grandparent of HDS students and Community Member as well as clean-up group leader)

Community Clean-up Group Members:

Tom Tolan

Tarri James

Ken Monson

Jeri Sloan

Francisco

John Sisco

Superintendent report for September 23 2021:

This evening I will be covering strategic initiatives 1-4

1.0- Student Achievement:

We have a special presentation by AVID partners this evening. AVID stands for Achievement Via Individual Determination.

AVID College Readiness System is an academic regularly scheduled elective class during the school at the secondary level. At the elementary level, the AVID strategies are embedded throughout the instructional day in the self-contained classroom day. The curriculum is based on writing and critical thinking and reading, inquiry, and collaborative learning strategies.

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

- To succeed in rigorous curriculum
- To complete a rigorous college preparatory path
- To increase their enrollment in four year colleges
- To become educated and responsible participants and leaders.

Roughly \$44,000 for a three-year roll out.

2.0- Effective Instruction and Leadership:

- Thank you to our school site staff, teachers, parents, and students for your input with the VHS Principal Stakeholder Input Survey. The survey responses helped us build the profile and characteristics to support the recruitment of the ideal candidate for VHS.

Per the survey results, the top five leadership qualities that the principal of Vasquez High School should possess:

Good communicator

Proactive (anticipates problems and acts quickly to find solutions)

Empowers teachers and staff

High expectations (for students, teachers, staff, and self)

Leadership experience

During the coming weeks, we will review candidate applications, conduct interviews, and identify the best fit for Vasquez HS as well as for our district as a whole. I am truly confident that together, working as a team of students, parents, teachers, staff and administration we can build on the excellent foundation that is Vasquez High School.

At this time, I'd like to introduce our interim principal of Vasquez HS, Dr. Paula Chamberlain. She brings to this position many years of high school teaching experience as well as experience as an elementary principal and high school principal. Dr. Chamberlain has a strong dedication to student achievement coupled with an emphasis on social-emotional learning.

Dr. Chamberlain has been visiting classrooms frequently, working together with teachers to support learning opportunities for our students and getting to know students and parents.

3.0- Community Engagement:

- Thank you VHS PTSO for the September 13th invitation to their kick-off meeting for the new school year. Introductions were made by President (Ange Martin)
- Secretary (Suzy Ames)
- Treasurer (Karen Jewett), and dedicated PTSO members

In addition, thank you for allowing me to introduce myself as well as my onboarding plan. In addition, it was my honor to present Dr. Paula Chamberlain interim principal of VHS to the group.

4.0- Student Safety and Connectedness:

- After careful thought and a thorough review of Youth Sports COVID Exposure Protocols, a difficult decision was made to reschedule the 2021 Homecoming Game. We plan to reschedule the Homecoming Game as soon as possible while following CDC considerations to protect players, families, and our community.

We know this interruption was stressful to many and we recognize that participation in activities like our Homecoming Game can be a healthy way to cope with stress and connect with our community.

Ultimately, the health and safety of our athletes, students, and staff remain our highest priority.

I'd like to personally thank the handful of our football athletes for reaching out to me directly through email last Friday. They expressed their disappointment about the game being rescheduled through positive communication while realizing the cancellation was in the best interest for all. Our students who reached out were eloquent, respectful, and very thoughtful in the way in which they expressed their frustration and I'd like to publicly thank them for their maturity and resolve.

- The Homecoming Dance went on as scheduled and was quite successful. I'd like to publicly thank you Ms. Alexa Lepp- ASB advisor, our ASB

students and Dr. Chamberlain for their support. We have a few photos up on the screen to share with our community the fun had by students.

As of this past Monday, ASB decided today to put on a "Homecoming 2.0". This event would essentially be another semi-formal event to hopefully allow those who couldn't attend the dance on Saturday. ASB is deciding on themes and are hoping to have it after the last football game on Oct. 23rd. Thank you ASB once again.

COVID Report:

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. The number of news cases as reported to LACDPH for September 19th is 1,322. We have seen a decrease in new cases since my last update where we had seen is 1,540 new cases as reported by LACDPH back on September 6th. The testing positivity rate a 7-day average for the week of September 12th was at 1.73% compared to the week of August 30th which reported at 1.98%.
The percentage of individuals tested with a diagnostic COVID test since the week of September 12th comes in at 122,257 compared to August 30th is 147,130 during the week of August 30th.
- 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.