



LEARNING & SUCCESS FOR ALL

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS & DELAYS:

Be sure to update your contact information in Infinite Campus to receive weather-related school phone messages and texts. If we start late on a Wednesday, we **WILL NOT** dismiss one hour early.

HUMBOLDT Community School District

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@OfficialHCSD



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Message from Superintendent Jim Murray



This November weather has been beautiful! It puts a skip in my step as I hum my favorite song, "I'm Dreaming of a GREEN Christmas." I hate to be Scrooge, but making school decisions based on the weather is my least favorite, most stressful part of the job. I am hoping the great weather continues through December. I am excited that the Wildcat Athletic Facility is complete. It is already under heavy usage. Basketball and wrestling are underway. The new weight room is a popular place to be. Other construction projects are going as planned. The new office entrance on the front of Humboldt High School is almost enclosed. Soon, we will see siding on the new Taft Elementary gym. We have already started working on our staffing plan and high school courses for the next school year. We haven't added or changed the high school course offerings while I've been here for three years. I'm not sure there were many over the last several years. We are taking a "deep dive" into the career pathways we offer at the High School and brainstorming ways to provide more exploratory classes. One of the highest priorities is to develop an internship opportunity for students to receive credit while working for a local business or organization. I especially would like to see internships emphasizing the skilled trades. This is our last newsletter before the New Year. I hope all of you have a joyous holiday season. It continues to be my privilege to serve you as Superintendent.

The Real Deal

I continue to get great feedback from this portion of the newsletter. Our community members don't want to hear that everything is well; they know education is challenging.

- The district has policies and procedures in place to investigate employee issues. It is the law that we cannot publicly comment on any employee matter. That can be frustrating to stakeholders who want to be informed. It is also challenging for us as we cannot control the narrative, and the perception is that we need to be operating more transparently. All can be confident that we take all issues seriously and that safety remains our highest priority.
- It is already time to begin working on next year's school calendar. It looks like it is going to be quirky. By law, we can't start school before August 23, and that is a Friday. The December holiday break looks to be two whole weeks. It will be difficult for us to end the school year before Memorial Day.
- An enrollment decline means almost a \$240,000 decrease in funding per year. We will have to be very savvy with our spending and staffing.



Creighton Jenness

Director of Special Education & Middle School Assistant Principal

To say that the year has gone by too fast would be an understatement. We just had the opening kickoff to the school year, and we're planning for 2024. We've made great strides in learning for students, teachers, and administrators.

At the Middle School, our teachers have noticed a significant classroom learning growth by the fewer failing classes in the first quarter. We only had a few students who failed a class, and for most of those who did, we knew they had circumstances that affected their grades. The teachers and administrators are also learning a new way of teacher evaluation. This teacher evaluation is called the "Danielson Rubric" and has been in the works for a while. We're seeing the fruits of this by having better conversations about teaching practices, and the teachers have had opportunities to work on their reflective practices while we are going through the "Essential Elements." These "Essential Elements" are the areas that we want

all of our teachers to be proficient at. There are more, but we are working to set ourselves up for better success for our teachers and students by focusing on these.

Some things need to be improved on as well. One of these things is focusing on a systematic approach to helping students better. We're working on this from the building and district perspectives and seeking help from our AEA (Area Education Agency) to put our students in the best possible learning environments that Humboldt can offer.



Jessica Goodenow

Assistant High School Principal Director of Safety and Mental Health

Our high school staff has several goals that we are diligently working on this school year related to decreasing failure rates, increasing attendance, and increasing the graduation rate. Many students have shown improvement in their attendance. Our high school consistently reports above 93% of students attending class daily. We know that good attendance is tied to a better understanding of content and is also a positive attribute in future employability. Part of my job is encouraging good attendance by emailing/calling parents, meeting with students regularly, and being present at times they may want to skip. I enjoy celebrating growth with students, which is an area of significant improvement!

We have assembled a district-level crisis team that will meet on Thursday, November 16, along with community stakeholders from law enforcement, emergency services, and the hospital. The goal of this team is to proactively discuss crisis events and improve the effectiveness of the crisis plan. This team represents the uniqueness of each building at HCSD. We are also continually assessing the mental health support in our district and seeing growth through our school-based therapists. This program allows therapists to meet with students (based

on referrals from administration and guardians) in a confidential setting at HCSD. Parents have shared that they are thankful for the ease of transportation and on-site support. Students have built trusting relationships with their therapists, allowing for more time to be devoted to academics. Mental health matters!

I am continually impressed with our F.U.E.L (Food, Uplifting, Essentials, Learning) program at HHS. Heather Johnson has a wonderful skill set in helping individual students and families in our district access support related to food, hygiene, clothing, and more. She works closely with Megan Douglas who has built relationships with families to remove barriers in the safety and belonging of students across the district. Many extracurricular activities and outside organizations have helped F.U.E.L give students access to essentials. The most recent is our HHS Powderpuff Game, organized by Student Senate, raising \$1,400 to purchase hygiene products. Making a difference in a student's life can be as simple as offering them a free body wash or a stick of deodorant.

We all need a break to have a renewed focus between the end of November to semester 1 completion. Having time with family and friends, frying a turkey, and being grateful are top priorities for my Thanksgiving break. Basketball games and wrestling matches will soon fill our schedule. I look forward to cheering on the Cats through the upcoming winter months!