

# District Newsletter

*from Superintendent Ron Carruth, Ed.D.*

August 2019 | EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EDUHSD)

Dear EDUHSD Community,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! I would like to personally thank everyone for their collective efforts to make this a very efficient opening to the school year. For 2019-20, we will continue our focus on the teaching and learning of our students and the engagement of our community in our wonderful high schools. While no school is perfect, the quality of education that we are committed to provide students each day is nearly unparalleled in the state. Our academic achievement, co-curricular successes, and engaging faculty and staff do an outstanding job of creating learning environments that help all of our students be successful.

Although the school year is underway, it has been a very busy and productive summer. We would love to share with you some of our successes as well as the work that we are engaged in this fall.

First of all, you will notice solar panels at 3 comprehensive high schools with Union Mine coming later this fall. The District is set to save 12.8 million over the next 25 years.

As you look around the District, you will notice many new employees who have joined our learning community. We hired 20 teachers, 17 classified staff, and 2 administrators. Our new hires bring talent and skill that will help us continue to build an environment of quality teaching and learning. *Welcome to all – EDUHSD is fortunate to have you.*

## A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

One benchmark we look at in our LCAP is our students' participation and success in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Advanced Placement helps students develop better study habits, improve their writing and sharpen their problem-solving skills, all of which will be put to great use in their college careers. In 2019, 1,326 students took 2,744 AP Exams. Overall, EDUHSD students earned a 77% pass rate, which is truly outstanding.

This summer, we purchased 13 Chromebook carts, each with 36 Chromebooks with funding from a state grant. The additional Chromebook carts will allow English and mathematics teachers to have reliable student to device ratios.

At Union Mine High School, the District improved the Agriculture facility with the addition of a new barn. The barn will be used as a shelter for student's cattle, sheep and goat projects as well as animal grooming, feeding and demonstrations. At Oak Ridge High School, a new state-of-the-art culinary arts training classroom. This impressive professional kitchen facility allows students to learn basic knife skills, cooking techniques, food safety, ingredient classification, stocks and sauces and food preservation.

The District is excited about our college preparatory programs as evidence by offering 51 CTE programs and 22 pathways. We are proud to prepare students for today's workplace by offering career exploration courses taught by experienced educators.

## “STAKING A CLAIM IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY”

At the recent Management Team training in late July, a group of District administrators worked diligently together answering the question, “What is expected of El Dorado Union High School District students upon graduating from our schools?” Analyzing this question allowed the team to narrow its focus to determine how best to ensure that each of our students is prepared for success in life following graduation. As a result of this process, the District’s new strategic goals are as follows:

1. We envision all graduates contributing to their postsecondary communities academically prepared, economically competitive and ready for the workplace.
2. We envision students engaged and connected to peers and staff generating mutual respect, in a safe and emotionally supportive school culture.
3. We envision students collaborating, creating, communicating and problem solving in technology rich learning environments.
4. We envision leadership seeking out and listening to the voices of staff, students and parents to generate transparent, fair and fiscally responsible plans and policies.

## FACILITIES UPDATE

This summer proved to be a busy time with several construction projects taking place on each campus. The list below contains many of these that were completed over the summer, as well as a few that will carry over into the fall. Thanks to all involved for your dedication to our students and staff.

### El Dorado High School:

- Repaired and refinished the large gym floor
- Refinished all other hardwood floors
- Painted the exterior of Bldg V
- Solar panels in the parking lot
- HVAC controls replaced in the Foothill Grill

- Upgraded electrical in the Metal Shop
- Refrigerator repaired in the kitchen

### Independence High School:

- Repainted interior and replaced carpet in the security trailer
- Poured concrete for the graduation stage
- Re-plumbed the sprinkler system

### Oak Ridge High School:

- New culinary arts classroom
- Removed the trees and brush for a modular classroom project
- Created retaining walls near the basketball courts for a modular classroom project
- Re-striped the basketball, pickleball and volleyball courts
- Solar panels in the parking lot
- Installed a storm drain at the basketball courts
- Gas lines, sewer, electrical and water lines for food lab classroom
- Installed a hanging barn door in the auto shop
- Replaced the drain in the girls’ locker room

### Ponderosa High School:

- Removed trees for the parking lot expansion
- Solar panels in the parking lot
- Replaced the roof on portable classroom L-13
- Replaced the interior walls on classroom L-13
- Repaired a chain link fence around the parking lot
- Removed the old barn
- Installed a new metal building in the Agriculture area

### Union Mine High School:

- Installed a new 20x60 metal building at the Agriculture Farm
- Replaced existing attic heat detectors
- Replaced HVAC controls
- Solar panels coming late fall 2019

### **Virtual Academy at Shenandoah High School:**

- Removed the trees, brush and low ground cover for fire prevention
- Replaced the carpet in ROP C
- Installed a new water bottle filling drinking fountain

### **FOCUS ON SCHOOL SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

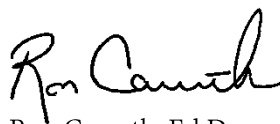
On October 17, 2019, the entire District will be participating in the Great California ShakeOut, which the largest state-wide emergency earthquake drill in California history. There are currently 7.7 million people enrolled across the state, and this number is growing every day. The drill includes a DROP, COVER and HOLD ON exercise followed by an evacuation. It allows the District the opportunity to practice what to do in the event of a major earthquake. The District has also increased the number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at each campus, including one in each of the school's cafeteria and key staff members are being trained in CPR and AED use. The District is also partnering with

Marshall Medical Center and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office for "Stop the Bleed" training.

The beginning of the school year is always busy with establishing academic and social expectations, scheduling, back-to-school nights, the start of the fall sports season, welcome back dances, the first rally and many other activities. Thank you for the passion, conviction and talent you bring to our learning community. Our collective opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students is beyond measure.

Wishing you a wonderful year!

Sincerely,



Ron Carruth, Ed.D.

Superintendent

El Dorado Union High School District