

# District Newsletter

*from Superintendent Ron Carruth, Ed.D.*

September 2020 | EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EDUHSD)

Dear El Dorado Union High School District families,

I want to provide the latest information on our efforts to re-open our high schools. First of all, I want to recognize how hard this situation is on students, families and staff. This is the most complex challenge that we have ever faced and we all realize the shortcomings of distance learning, but we have been diligently working on our plans to re-open schools to the hybrid schedule.

As I write this, the number of active COVID-19 cases in the County continue to drop. If this trend holds, our County will move to the “Orange” level with greater flexibility.

The El Dorado County Office of Education, in collaboration with El Dorado County Public Health, has set in place both a surveillance and responsive testing system to support schools and districts throughout the county.

By September 28, 2020, several new regionalized surveillance testing sites will be established to resolve the issue of testing capacity and ensure timely results that are foundational to opening schools safely.

Currently, we anticipate all of our feeder elementary districts are planning to open to hybrid around September 28, 2020 with a few middle schools opening hybrid the following week.

Currently, our Quarter 2 opening plan looks to be on schedule for us to open all schools in the hybrid schedule the first week of October 2020. The Board is set to make

the decision to open in hybrid at our September 22, 2020 Board Meeting effective Quarter 2.

I want to thank everyone in our school community for helping our students succeed in this challenging time. Let’s hope that the downward trend of COVID-19 continues and we can increasingly move back to normal as fast as it is safe. Here are further updates about the school year.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

Following the announcement that schools would open utilizing distance learning, teachers in the El Dorado Union High School District rallied together and collaborated about the professional development faculty would need to provide the best possible opportunity for students to learn. For three consecutive days prior to the start of school, teachers participated in training that prepared them to connect and engage with students using meeting software, learning management systems, video recording, and content specific software. All of these trainings were led by District expert teachers.

To prepare for the implementation of distance learning, the District purchased additional Chromebooks and has partnered with both AT&T and Verizon to acquire hotspots which provide internet access for students. Teachers were also provided webcams and headsets in order to facilitate online class meetings through Google Meet and Zoom.

In addition, every Monday, teachers will continue to adapt and adjust their distance learning strategies with ongoing training and collaboration meetings. Teachers are excited about the new school year and have prepared Back-to-

School welcoming videos for parents to introduce themselves and their curriculum. We encourage families to explore the students' Google Classroom pages and see how teachers are presenting content and information.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

The Student Success Office works to connect students to school, families to resources, answer questions, and navigate challenges. Recently, school sites held "New Student Orientation" to welcome newcomers to EDUHSD. School site staff organized outreach efforts to ensure that new students feel welcome and have the information needed to get off to a good start in our District.

The EDUHSD Wellness Centers are available to serve members of the learning community. Please visit [www.scfswellnesscenters.org/](http://www.scfswellnesscenters.org/) to learn more about how they can help students, staff, and families of the El Dorado Union High School District. Wellness Center staff are eager to support those in need.

Health Office staff are working diligently to address the challenges of education during the global pandemic of COVID-19. In cooperation with El Dorado County Public Health, our school nurses have implemented health and safety protocols to assist with school in distance learning and with safety planning for the eventual return to in-person instruction.

As you look around the District, you will notice new employees who have joined our learning community. We hired 11 teachers, 1 classified staff, and 1 administrator. 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.*

## YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

The El Dorado Union High School District has always been honored to uphold the annual tradition of celebrating our faculty and staff who have achieved a "Years of Service" milestone in their service to the District. Historically, this has been a part of our Back-to-School Breakfast at the

beginning of each school year. Sadly, we were unable to gather as a District this year. In light of these extenuating circumstances, we invite you now to recognize our esteemed colleagues who have achieved this honor.

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Kevin Balzer, ORHS
- Carissa Drummond, EDHS
- Erin Fechter, UMHS
- Bruce Kimball, EDHS
- Marti Zizek, DO

## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Erin Arthur, ORHS
- Timothy Brown, UMHS
- Jerry Byer, ORHS
- Karen Carrillo, EDHS
- Debora Clark, PHS
- Donna Davis, UMHS
- Maria Duke, UMHS
- Suzanne Everett, ORHS
- Nathan Freeman, ORHS
- Laura Hedegard, PHS
- Shoshana Henderson, IHS
- Chris Herrman, EDHS
- Michael Inks, EDHS
- Kelly James, PHS
- Robyn Keirse, EDHS
- Terri Kessler, PHS
- Ronald Mies, ORHS
- Sean Moloney, UMHS
- Rebecca Pecoraro, ORHS
- Krista Potter, EDHS
- Robert Ralph, PHS
- Kacee Shryock, EDHS
- Molly Smith, IHS
- Jennifer Zimny, PHS

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Silvia Arredondo, ORHS
- Lisa Baughn, DO

- Cindy Burkhardt, VA
- Balkar Chima, EDHS
- Conrad Dizon, EDHS
- Kimberly Dougherty, PHS
- Brandon Fulp, PHS
- Kristine Harrison, EDHS
- Kimberly Hopwood, UMHS
- Eva Johnson, PHS
- Jay Peabody, EDHS
- Susan Pebley, ORHS
- Christian Pereira, DO
- Susan Prior, UMHS
- Curtis Shampine, UMHS

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Andrea Brannon, PHS
- Nancy “Sam” Felcher, UMHS
- Britta Fletcher, PHS
- Mark Hall, EDHS
- Cathy Kauffman, ORHS
- Patricia Selk, PHS
- Steve Thomas, PHS
- Kelly Truax, PHS
- Paul Varoff, ORHS
- Donna White, Transportation

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Kari Buhman, DO
- Kimberlie Hassian, ORHS
- Steven Hummel, ORHS
- Ronald Parker, EDHS

Congratulations on achieving this anniversary with us!

### FACILITIES UPDATE

Over the summer, some basic maintenance work was needed at each of the school sites. Below is a brief summary of the work that was completed.

#### El Dorado High School:

- Replaced sheetrock and painted the majority of the

Cafeteria.

- Painted handrails, curbs, doors, bollards, and fire hydrants.
- Repaired wood decks in the quad, announcer booth stairs, and dugouts.
- Tree trimming.
- Replaced several broken/leaking valves.

#### Oak Ridge High School:

- Repairs were made to the water heater room in the kitchen that involved fixing six leaks, patching wallboard, and paint.
- Patched and painted sheetrock in B3 and B4.
- Replaced siding on the north wall of PA4.
- Repaired the leak and patched asphalt in the staff lot.
- Plumbed and replaced the water heater in the Copy Room.

#### Ponderosa High School:

- Replaced the roof and ceiling tiles on the K Building.
- Lockers were cleaned out and reprogrammed for incoming freshmen.
- New board siding was installed in the Weight Room.
- Repainted E6 and window frames.
- Patching and painting the stucco in the M Buildings.

#### Union Mine High School:

- Extended the Welding Building by 1,125 square feet.
- Replaced the main circulation pump for hot water in the F Building.
- Rebuilt a large backflow preventer that had a leak.
- Pulled cat 5 cable and mounted a Wi-Fi access point outside of the Administrative Office.
- Begun replacing thin brick and water sealing all brick in the Small Gym.

### SANITIZATION & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

As we have been preparing for the new school year, we will be acquiring the necessary Personal Protective Equipment

to minimize exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. Through donations by the State and County, as well as purchases made by the District, the items include:

- Hand sanitizer bottles and dispensers
- Hand sanitizing wipes
- Cotton face masks
- Disposable face masks
- Gloves
- Face shields
- Disinfectant
- Spray bottles
- Improved air filters for air conditioning units
- Plexiglass partitions

### **SOLAR UPDATE**

The solar system at El Dorado High School is fully operational and helping to save the District in utility costs. PG&E is scheduled to complete their interconnection at Union Mine High School later this week, so progress is underway. The solar projects at Oak Ridge High School and Ponderosa High School are both moving forward, and we anticipate all of these projects will be running soon.

### **FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES UPDATE**

Since schools were closed to on-campus instruction in March 2020 through early June 2020, our Food & Nutrition Services team members have served over 70,000

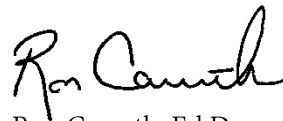
meals to our community. To learn if you qualify for free or reduced meals, please visit our [café fresh website](#).

Now that the new school year has begun in distance learning mode, meals are available on our four comprehensive campuses Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free lunch and breakfast is being offered for any child age 2-18 in our community now through December 31, 2020.

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, 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