

# District Newsletter

*from Superintendent Ron Carruth, Ed.D.*

August 2018 | EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EDUHSD)

Dear EDUHSD Community,

Welcome to the 2018-19 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 2018-19, 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.

As you look around the District, you will notice many new employees who have joined our learning community. We hired 37 teachers, 12 classified staff, and 5 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 2018, 1,340 students

took 2,829 AP Exams. EDUHSD students earned a 78.4% pass rate compared to 63.6% for the State of California and 61.3% globally. All four of our comprehensive high schools ranked in the top 15 high schools for AP pass rates in the Greater Sacramento Region.

This summer, we purchased 300 new computers for our schools. The computers support the electronic resources made available to students, teachers, and staff. Additionally, we increased network bandwidth from 1gb to 10gb across the District.

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

At the recent Management Team Retreat 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 and spring. Thanks to all involved for your dedication to our students and staff.

### **El Dorado High School:**

- Building V
- Repainted track lines
- Repaired the concrete wall crack on Building C
- Repaired the floor tile in Building C
- Replaced the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway in Building C
- Refinished all hardwood floors

### **Independence High School:**

- Replaced the siding and gutters on Room 1
- Removed the cabinets and repaired the floor tiles in Room 10
- Repaired the sprinkler system on the athletic field
- Removed three dead trees from the athletic field and grinding the stumps

### **Oak Ridge High School:**

- Added a new walk-in freezer to the kitchen
- Set the new mathematics portable classroom on the basketball courts
- Updated the fire alarm panel in PL-1 and 2
- Prepped for the new culinary arts portable classroom on the basketball courts

- Replaced synthetic turf on the football field
- Installed drains and repaired the sprinkler system on the JV softball field
- Refinished all hardwood floors

### **Ponderosa High School:**

- Recoated the roof on Building A to extend the life of the roof by 15 years
- Site staff replaced field sprinklers on the JV softball and baseball field.
- Site staff painted the lockers and doors throughout campus
- Repainted the track lines
- Refinished all hardwood floors
- Repainted safety lines throughout campus
- Repainted basketball court lines
- Installed 8 view-sonic screens
- Installed security cameras in the kitchen
- Replaced broken skirting on P-portable classrooms

### **Union Mine High School:**

- Buildings A, D, R, N, S roof coating project
- Smoke detector replacement in Building A
- Refinished all hardwood floors
- Removed sod and leveled off JV baseball infield berm
- Refreshed landscape bark throughout campus
- Relocated 6 view-sonic TV's
- Installed two large TV's and two whiteboards in the weight room
- Repaired water leaks on water supply lines on Buildings E & F
- Repainted the Theater stage
- Repaired locker room doors

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

In the spring of 2018, the District Action Task Force on School Safety set out to conduct site assessments to inventory what emergency preparedness supplies were at

each site and classroom across the District. The group also sought to define what should be included in each classroom and office emergency kit/bucket. With the assistance of the Red Cross and our team of District nurses, the classroom and office emergency kit/buckets are being updated with additional supplies, including emergency trauma packs. The Purchasing Department is in the process of procuring these supplies, and school sites will be receiving them in the very near future.

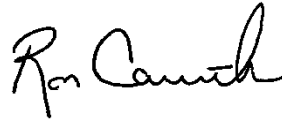
Additionally, on October 18, all schools in the District will be participating in the *Great California ShakeOut*, which is the largest state-wide emergency earthquake drill in history. There are currently 6.1 million people enrolled across the state, and this number is growing every day. The drill includes 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 is also scheduling additional fire, lock down and active shooter drills throughout the year. Furthermore, our District hired two additional School Resource Officers (SROs) to increase

campus safety.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Carruth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "C".

Ron Carruth, Ed.D.

Superintendent

El Dorado Union High School District