



# District Newsletter

*from Superintendent Stephen Wehr*

November 2017 | EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (EDUHSD)

Dear EDUHSD Community:

It is hard to believe the 2017-18 school year is fast approaching the halfway point. Students will soon take first semester final exams concluding 18 weeks of rigorous and purposeful learning. We will all be able to take a well-deserved collective breath during winter break. The fall semester was again filled full of wonderful activities, and the spring semester holds many tried and true traditions as well as some new and exciting changes. Some of the fall activities included homecomings, fall sports, theatrical productions, and many other opportunities to show school spirit, including rallies, assemblies, and lunchtime activities. Participation among our students and staff at these events was outstanding. Whether it be the Morning Rally with Fox 40 at El Dorado, Red Ribbon Week at Oak Ridge, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at Ponderosa, the Regional College Fair at Union Mine, connections at the Virtual Academy via their new Leadership Peer Mentor Program, or Dream It Be It at Independence High School, our students and staff fully engaged in the high school experience and consistently demonstrated a spirit of inclusion and respect. I appreciate all of the time and efforts it

takes to make these events possible for our students.

The District Course Directory is currently being updated in anticipation of the registration process set to begin in mid to late January. Counselors will be in contact with students, and copies of course request forms will be sent out in late January into February. Please take the time to review the course request form with your students to ensure they line up with your student's post-high school plans. If you have questions, please contact the counseling office at your student's school.

EDUHSD continues to implement Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) as a framework for delivering a quality learning experience for our students. Our sites have made great strides in their MTSS implementation including efforts with AVID, Health Academy, Academic Support classes, Spanish Heritage classes, Reading Improvement classes, Algebra Foundations classes, and our Connections Programs. MTSS School Teams are meeting, reviewing student data, celebrating academic successes and spotlighting

areas for growth. Some of the highlights of our school site efforts are as follows:

El Dorado High School's Academic Support classes are specifically utilizing AVID strategies, meeting individually with students who are working on improving their grades, and offering "Blue Latte," an afterschool tutoring program for students by students. Additionally, EDUHSD held a successful College University Faire for second language families.

Oak Ridge High School has fully implemented the Universal Screener with their feeder schools and is in the process of implementing ATI assessment strategies into every classroom. They are also piloting "The 60 Second Fix" in nine classrooms and will begin implementing the Challenge Success Program as a Tier 1 support designed to provide students with the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to succeed now and in the future.

Ponderosa High School has developed an MTSS structure that implements academic, behavioral, and social supports within the system. There is continuous evaluation of student achievement data to impact decision making and school-wide improvement. To support students, the Universal Screening Tool has been instrumental in placing 8<sup>th</sup> grade students into appropriate classes including Connections, AVID, Reading Support, Geometry Support, Algebra Foundations, English Language Learners, Reading, and Learning

Centers. Ponderosa offers students a strong College and Career pathway to success.

Union Mine High School has created connections plans for "at promise" students that include both short and long term goals as well as efforts to identify significant adults in students' lives. College and Career Readiness and Connections classes provide 160 UMHS freshman and 32 sophomores with an introduction to AVID, as they develop a culture of college and career readiness.

Virtual Academy is improving student access to transferable college level courses while still in high school through a partnership with Folsom Lake College (FLC). Through this partnership, students will have access to FLC classes taught on site at the Virtual Academy during the school day starting in January 2018. Additionally, Virtual Academy teaching staff has embarked upon efforts to expand their instructional practices centered on differentiation so as to best meet the needs of all students. Through collaborative efforts amongst teachers from all subject areas, practices including alternative forms of assessment, flexible grading, and retesting for mastery have been implemented. The Virtual Academy has also greatly expanded upon their college and career advisory program in order to help guide students and families to make informed choices regarding post-secondary options. To address the personal/social needs of their students, they have embraced a mindset of considering the "whole student."

Independence High School, being a small school, continues to work as a close-knit team to identify the unique barriers that arise in the continuation setting, for both the individual student and the collective school community. The school focuses on positive behavior reinforcement to encourage students to re-engage in their educational success and transitions into the future.

I am looking forward to the spring semester; it promises to be filled with both tried and true traditions as well as some new innovations. Tried and true traditions include a wide array of school activities. Please encourage your student to get involved in at least one of these opportunities. These activities enrich the high school experience

and provide opportunities for students to get to know new people.

In closing, I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends and great joy. I always take a moment at this time of year to reflect on the many blessings in my life. I am thankful for a supportive and loving family and for working in a District filled with wonderful people who consistently have the best interest of students at heart. It is a true pleasure to support the students, staff and community that make up the El Dorado Union High School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Wehr', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephen Wehr, Superintendent