

CTE Center & Ag Farm Update

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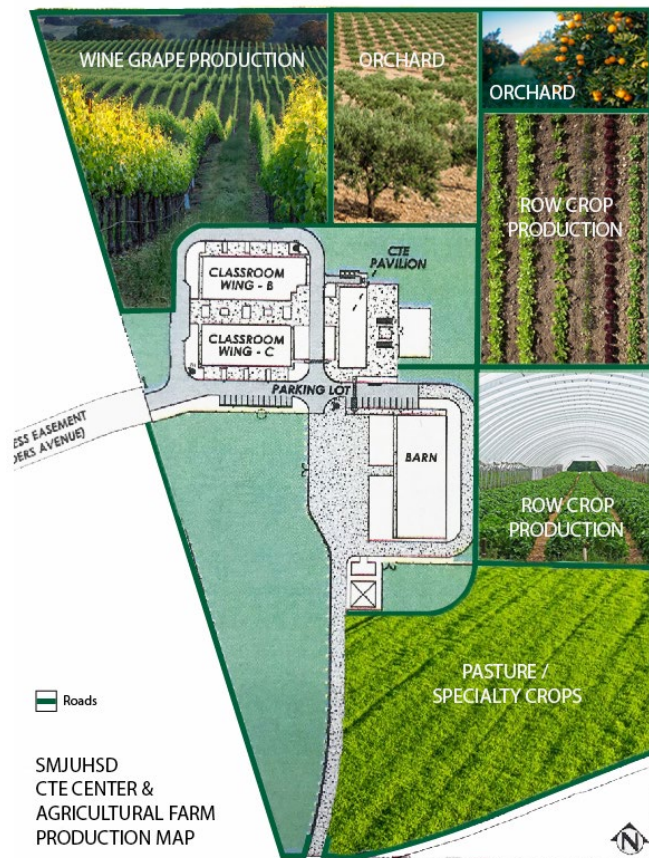
CTE Increases
Graduation Rates

*93% of high school
students who
participate in CTE
graduate with a
Diploma.*

Greetings from the SMJUHSD CTE Center & AG Farm. This is the first, of hopefully many, updates about happenings on the farm. I hope it finds you well during these trying times.

Startup

The SMJUHSD Board of Directors will officially accept substantial completion of “The Center” at our May 11th, 2021 Board meeting. This gives us the green light to start working the land and officially occupying the rest of the buildings. We have some AG advisory meetings scheduled for May and I have offered the facility to other programs too, so we are hitting the ground running. Below you will find a production map, timelines, hiring updates and more.



81 percent of dropouts say relevant, real-world learning opportunities would have kept them in school.

Plot Map

Getting Ready to Farm

I have worked with our District Agriculture Department Chairs to solidify some earlier planning of how we will layout the land for production. The current iteration is above and may change over time based on our needs. Current plans are to have plots for Vineyard, Orchard, Row Crop and Pasture or Specialty Crops. Crop rotation and specialty assignments will be decided upon as a district each year during crop planning in October/November. Big thanks to the DC's for bringing forward past planning efforts and Tyler Dickinson for making my Crayola drawings professional.

Getting Involved

Creating Space

We have heard from many folks that want to be involved in various aspects of the Farm. We will be forming interest groups for the different types of farming activities so that those that want to be involved and have a voice have a space to engage in and participate. Please navigate to:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=J13KY94RhEaGK5SuMdb_HAP_OeuN5UNPhKgRDdi-ySvtUNUlARFE4RDFVNINBVThNVFBJRVA0TkRLVC4u

To fill out an interest form. I will work with our DC's to form some groups and schedule dates so that all have a chance to be heard and contribute. We will meet with those interested in Crops around October/November to plan the season. Please be patient with us as we grow into a routine.

Pumpkins

“There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people.... Religion, Politics, and The Great Pumpkin” -Linus

We will be holding an interest meeting regarding pumpkin planting. This is something that has come up a few times and is an easy start for us here at the Farm. If you are interested in being part of a District-Wide Pumpkin Project, please join us on Thursday May 13th at 4pm at the Farm. This will be open to all and serve the entire district.

Landscaping

If you plant it, they will come...

We will be holding an interest meeting regarding Center Landscaping. Reese Thompson is exploring hiring a Landscape architect to work with us on design and execution. This may or may not be approved by Cabinet. Either way, this is the time to get your ideas known and get in on the ground floor. If interested, please join us on Tuesday May 18th at 4pm at the Farm. This will be open to all.

Industry Partners

Stronger Together

Ag DC's and Dr. Robinson have had tentative conversations with Jackson Family wines on helping with a Vineyard and will certainly continue to explore this and other opportunities for Industry Collaboration as time goes on. Dr. Robinson has had initial conversations with Quinn CAT, Santa Maria Truck Center (Freightliner Benz) and John Deere about our Diesel Program and Vernon Edwards and RDO about our Construction Program. Our goal is to grow these industry partnerships overtime to provide high quality and relevant experiences to our students.

Know an industry partner that wants to be involved, please contact Dr. Robinson @ probinson@smjuhsd.org.

Over 75% of CTE Completers pursued postsecondary education shortly after high school.

Hiring

Hiring is in process for two Farm Technicians and the Directors Administrative Assistant. Once employees are on board an announcement will be made.

Time Lines

Timelines are a thing of the past....present & future....

This one covers the next couple of months. ☺

