

THE SIGNAL

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Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear SMJUHSD Staff,

Thank you to all for your efforts in getting the new school year off to a positive start for our more than 9,200 students in the district.

During the summer, staff spent countless hours improving and deep cleaning facilities, upgrading technology infrastructure, coordinating professional development, planning curriculum, teaching summer classes, facilitating student orientations, planning staff meetings, finalizing master boards and student schedules, onboarding new staff, and much more.

The Human Resources Department was also busy hiring numerous positions through the summer. We opened the school year close to 100% staffed in certificated positions. Dozens of classified staff positions were also filled. However, it is not often we are fully staffed on the classified side due to year-round hiring. We are particularly short on bus drivers and instructional aides at this time. Please help us spread the word if and when you have the opportunity.

Moving forward, we will soon begin our district-wide baseline study with Orenda to assess our internal systems. As previously mentioned, this will involve surveys and focus group interviews with staff, students and parents. I encourage everyone to participate so that your collective voice and perspectives are well-represented. This input will be triangulated with student shadowing and the analysis of multiple quantitative data points. Future plans will be based on the findings of the study.

Have a great year and thank you for all that you do for our students in SMJUHSD...where greatness grows!

Antonio Garcia
Superintendent

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Where greatness grows.

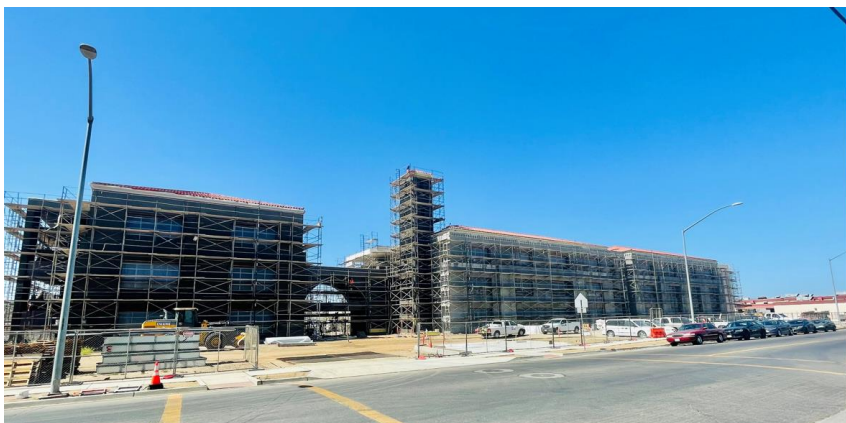
CELEBRATING COLLEAGUES

Certificated & Classified staff were celebrated at the Mark Richardson Career Technical Education Center & Agricultural Farm on June 14, 2022. The Employee Recognition lunch included retirees and award winners.



The Human Resources Department is still recruiting for multiple positions . Please check our website for vacancies and send the link to others you know that may have the skills we are seeking.

<https://www.applitrack.com/smjuhsd/onlineapp/>



Summer does not mean school is out for everybody at the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

Staff has been busy designing, improving, and constructing new facilities according to Facilities Planner Mary T. Gallas.

“It’s a privilege to prepare the schools for the upcoming year so that our students have the best possible high school experience,” said Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Reese Thompson.

Within the campus of the district’s oldest school - Santa Maria High School - construction on the 50 classroom/administration building is about 72 percent, according to Director of Support Services Gary Wuitschick. Painting, stucco, concrete, and other work is underway. The new building will help ease the congestion on Camino Colegio near the front entrance. It will also create permanent classrooms and eliminate nearly all portable classrooms. The three-story 88,774 square-foot structure will face Morrison Avenue and feature visitor parking and a bell tower. The structure’s architectural design will complement the older buildings. It’s paid for through Measure H, passed by voters in 2016, and is expected to be completed in spring of 2022. The cost is about \$59 million. Six new portable classrooms have also been placed at the Saint campus to accommodate the growth at the site. The temporary classrooms are located on the southside of the institution.

The Righetti High School Modernization, which started on July 2021 and has five phases, is moving forward and is about 59 percent complete. Work is expected to be finished by June of 2023. In early August, crews finished the southside 200s and 300s – or phase 3. That included the library, band, choir rooms and regular classrooms. The 21st century upgrades feature moveable whiteboard walls, mounted big screen monitors with the capacity to display from the teacher’s tablet, desks and chairs on wheels that separate easily into different arrangements and other learning aids. The fourth phase will focus on the eastside or 100s buildings (industrial arts etc.) The cost is about \$15 million and paid for through Measure H, which was passed by voters in 2016. Work is also winding up on a new maintenance shop near the senior parking lot on the southwest part of the Warrior campus. The shop replaces an old facility that was demolished to make room for the recently completed three-story classroom building.

On the Pioneer Valley High School campus, tennis courts were resurfaced, two portable roofs were replaced, a dozen classrooms received new carpeting and new weight room equipment and flooring was installed.

At the Mark Richardson CTE Center and Agricultural Farm, additional computer tables and wiring were installed to accommodate increased enrollment in the metal forming and machining shop, the residential commercial shop and the diesel mechanic’s shop.

At Delta High School, a teacher work room was converted to office spaces as additional student support services have been added. In addition, the Lincoln Center, which is across the street from SMHS, had its parking lot resurfaced.

Districtwide, the Maintenance and Operations Department cleaned, repaired, and updated 800,000 square feet of classroom and support space as well as 110 acres of grounds and play space.

“While summer is shorter today than it was 30 years ago, we managed to refresh the campuses so that they are clean and inviting when school starts again next week,” Thompson added.

SYMPOSIUMS

SMJUHSD Classified and Certificated staff joined management and school board members for two district-wide symposiums to kick off the school year on Aug. 8th and 10th. Both symposiums are also on the district's [SMJUHSD YouTube Channel](#).

The events featured delicious breakfast burritos, drinks and easy-going conversations between staff prior to the presentations.

Superintendent Antonio Garcia welcomed staff and touched on several points including the challenges, successes and highlights of the 21-22 school year and district rebranding. Mr. Garcia announced new hires, an upcoming equity study, new logo and other key points. During the program, he also introduced PVHS alumnus Marc Cabeliza as a special guest speaker. The former FFA State President spoke about his high school experience and the vital roles staff played during his high school career.



TACO TUESDAY 2022-23	
Date	School Site
9/20/22	PVHS
10/4/22	RHS
11/15/22	SMHS
12/6/22	DELTA
12/16/22	SSC
2/14/23	PVHS
3/14/23	RHS
4/4/23	SMHS
5/16/23	DELTA
6/6/22	SSC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development activities kicked off before school started August 11th. Trainings included:

Nearly 90 SMJUHS Instructional Assistants gathered for professional development at PVHS on Aug. 9. The keynote speaker was a school district attorney who covered topics including mandated child abuse reporting, special education requirements for complaint IEPs, alternative dispute resolution, and instructional assistant responsibilities supporting students with disabilities, according to Director of Special Education Frances Evans. On Aug. 10, some of the instructional assistants began self-paced online courses that address issues in education and meeting the needs of students with disabilities. The coursework can be accessed throughout the year, Evans added.



On July 27 and August 19, SMJUHS Student Services Director Steve Molina met with more than a dozen non-profit agencies from the Santa Maria community to determine what services they could offer our students. The providers spent time explaining their programs and goals to the SMJUHS. The follow-up meeting involved the formation of a presentation that will be given to parents at a later date to ensure they know what services are available. During a future meeting, a resource pamphlet will be shared with staff. "The District looks forward to this collaboration and access to services for our students and families," Molina added.

On August 22nd & 23rd, about 50 new SMJUHS teachers were off to a great start, thanks to a few orientation days. On the first day, the educators met at the D.O. for Staff Technology Onboarding. They received laptops/iPads and information on Aeries, Gradebook, Canvas and other programs. On the second day, the group was introduced to the D.O. Administration and then boarded a school bus to tour all the sites.



**SUBMIT PHOTOS
AND
STORY
IDEAS**



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