

THE SIGNAL

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Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear SMJUHS Staff,

As we head into the 6th week of school, I am grateful for the collective efforts to get the new school year off to a great start. A special thanks to staff who helped prepare our school facilities, update infrastructure, coordinate trainings, teach summer programs, hire/onboard new staff, set up new classrooms/workspaces...all in time for the arrival of 9,000 students and 900 staff.

I am excited for what the new year brings for our school district to further enhance the wonderful opportunities that we already provide for our school community:

- Sixty new Certificated staff and twenty-four new Classified staff
- New wellness services for staff
- A brand new, state-of-the-art fifty-classroom building at Santa Maria HS
- All classroom modernization projects completed at Righetti HS
- The opening of new wellness centers at each school
- Continued partnership with Orenda
- A new EGS course paired with the college/career readiness class for all 9th graders
- Saturday Academy (ELA and Math) for Long-Term English Learners
- Close to three hundred 9th graders who placed into an advanced Spanish class
- The return of new School Resource Officers to help keep our schools safe

These developments and many others are reflected in our district's guiding principles. As the school year unfolds, let us stay grounded in our purpose by keeping these principles in mind:

- Student learning and well-being
- Safety of students and staff
- Equitable access to a quality educational program

Have an amazing year and thank you for all that you do for our students across SMJUHS ... where greatness grows!

Antonio Garcia
Superintendent

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Where greatness grows.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCH



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.



| TACO TUESDAY 2023-24 | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Date | School Site |
| 9/19/23 | PVHS |
| 10/17/23 | RHS |
| 11/14/23 | CTE |
| 11/28/23 | SMHS |
| 12/5/23 | DELTA |
| 12/15/23 | SSC |
| 2/20/24 | PVHS |
| 3/19/24 | RHS |
| 4/16/24 | CTE |
| 4/30/24 | SMHS |
| 5/21/24 | DELTA |
| 6/7/24 | SSC |



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



City of Santa Maria Hometown Heroes

Several employees were recently recognized by the City of Santa Maria as "Essential Workers." Their pictures have been placed on banners as part of the Hometown Heroes campaign. The banners are displayed along College Drive, starting at the roundabout on South College Drive and Southside Parkway, going towards Rotary Centennial Park.

"This recognition is also on behalf of all district employees who were essential workers during the school year."

Superintendent Antonio Garcia



From left to right:
SMHS/Retired Teacher Ginny Barnett, ERHS Teacher Patricia Villalobos, DHS Teacher Lisa Adams, PVHS Food Dept Lead Amy Argentieri with Mayor Alice Patino, ERHS Maintenance Department Lead Leo Avila, Bus Driver Kevin Kolthoff, and PVHS Teacher Jennifer Montanez

DISTRICT EVENTS

District-Wide Staff Symposium

SMJUHSD Classified and Certificated staff joined management and a few school board members for one district-wide symposium to kick off the school year.

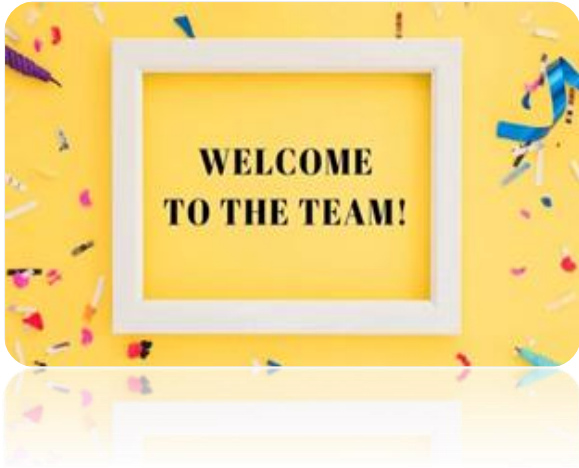
The events featured delicious breakfast burritos, sandwiches, salads, drinks, and easy-going conversations between staff prior to the presentations.

Superintendent Antonio Garcia welcomed staff and highlighted successful drama performances, sporting events, retirees, a group of employees from PV who saved a life with Narcan and college access data. Mr. Garcia also took some time to honor staff who were recognized for awards they received. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robin Avelar La Salle, the driving force behind Orenda. She explained the work her team and our staff are doing to improve the high school learning experience for all students.



STAFF NEWS

On Aug. 3rd and 4th, about 60 new teachers were off to a great start, thanks to a few orientation days. During the first day, the teachers participated on Technology Onboarding. They received laptops/iPads and information on Aeries, Gradebook, Canvas, and other programs at the District Office. After, they were treated to lunch at the Mark Richardson CTE Center and Ag Farm.



On the second day, they were introduced to District Administration. Afterward, they headed to their sites to meet with site administration and start setting up their classrooms.

"It's a pleasure to welcome all our new employees to the district," said Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Kevin Platt. "We are excited about their abilities to be successful."

There were also about 24 new classified employees hired for the school year, according to Classified Human Resources Director Joni McDonald.

STAFF ASSESSMENT TRAINING

Nearly all SMJUHS D employees have participated in a threat assessment training. The trainings were designed to give employees the tools they need to navigate an emergency.

Instructors began with an overview of safety solutions (Run, hide, fight) that can be used during a crisis and then moved on to situational awareness (have a plan/know where the exits are). They also showed employees how to lock down, evacuate, stop the bleed, and the proper use of improvised weapons - fire extinguishers etc.

"Now, our employees are better informed," said Director of Services Steve Molina. "Thank you for coming."



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/>

BACK TO SCHOOL

Thousands of parents and students attended Back-to-School Night at Pioneer Valley High School, Righetti High School and Santa Maria High School on Aug. 24.

Families got a chance to experience a student's schedule, meet staff, teachers, and members of the administration. Teachers were also available to answer questions about course expectations and academic progress.

RHS Principal Ted Lyon said the event was a great opportunity for parents to "connect" with staff and visit classrooms.

"We love to open our doors for our families to see what makes Righetti great!," Lyon said.

PVHS Principal Shanda Herrera agreed, "Back-to-School night is always fun. Parents get to walk the campus, meet the teachers, and hear about what their student is experiencing. We enjoy having the families here."

Delta High School completed the Back-to-School Night series on Aug. 31.



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