

NEWS UPDATE
January 14, 2019

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January CUCPTSA News Update

Welcome Back Message from Superintendent Vital

Welcome to 2019!

I hope that you and your families had the opportunity to relax (at least a bit!) during the busy holiday season. Personally, I traveled east to spend time with my family and enjoyed the colder weather. My daughter, Ivy, enjoyed playing in the snow and I especially enjoyed taking her to Florida to visit Walt Disney World and swim with manatees!

I hope the New Year is off to a great start for you and your families! I'm excited to share information with you on upcoming initiatives we will be implementing in 2019.

As a school district, we are committed to consistently raising the bar and building on our excellent reputation. Next Generation Science Standards, (NGSS), expansion of solar power at our four remaining high schools, and the addition of full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools for the 2019-2020 school year are a few of the wonderful programs our district is implementing in 2019.

Next Generation Science Standards

Parent information nights are scheduled for our families as an introduction to NGSS. Parents can experience a three-dimensional phenomena based lesson, review the District K-8 Science pilot and plan for instructional materials adoption, and discuss ways in which our parents can support students. Information nights are scheduled from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Location	Date
Vista del Mar Middle School Multipurpose Room	January 30, 2019
Niguel Hills Middle School Multipurpose Room	February 7, 2019
Las Flores Middle School Multipurpose Room	March 12, 2019

These two-hour sessions are scheduled for January 30, February 7 and March 12, 2019, and will be held at our middle schools.

In addition, Aliso Niguel High School and Newhart Middle School will begin construction of their new STEM buildings.

Solar Power

Four remaining high schools, Aliso Niguel, Dana Hills, San Clemente, and Tesoro high schools, and our District Offices will be converted to solar power.

Full-Day Kindergarten

Full-day kindergarten will be offered at all elementary campuses starting in the 2019-20 school year. Research indicates that providing students with a longer kindergarten school day will increase student performance and help ensure that students are not only prepared for first grade, but will have an excellent foundation for their entire K-12 experience. Parent information meetings, called “Kindergarten Roundups” will be held in January and February. Dates are posted on the district and elementary school websites and will begin January 22, 2019. We appreciate all we have learned from our pilot teachers this year and we look forward to full implementation in the fall. Please see additional details included in this news update.

Second Annual Innovation Showcase

You’re invited! Join us on Wednesday, January 23, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Capistrano Valley High School to learn about our extraordinary educational programs. Please see additional details included in this news update.

Welcome back! As always, I value the input and suggestions of our families, students and community members. My email address is superintendent@capousd.org.

Oath of Office and Reorganization of Board - Election of President, Vice President and Clerk

Trustees Jones and Bullockus took their Oath of Office. Trustee Jones was sworn in by Derek Reeve, San Juan Capistrano City Councilman. Trustee Bullockus was sworn in by her son. Trustee McNicholas was sworn in earlier in the week due to a previously scheduled engagement.

Following the Oath, CUSD held our annual organizational meeting to elect the Board President, Vice President and Clerk. Congratulations to Trustees Gila Jones (President), Gary Pritchard (Vice President) and Patricia Holloway (Clerk).

Santa Claus Shows Up After the Grinch at Concordia

A Grinch destroyed Mrs. Bassett's Legos during a break-in at Concordia Elementary School during Thanksgiving Break.

Just before Winter Break, we surprised her and her students with a Lego Millennium Falcon donated by a local organization and put together by a master Lego builder who works for Goodwill of OC.

Thank you OC Goodwill for your generous donation!

[Watch the Facebook Live](#)

[Read the OC Register Article](#)

Update on San Clemente Community Polling

True North Research was approved by the Board to conduct the community research. We are in the process of compiling a poll that we expect will take place sometime around the end of January/beginning of February in the city of San Clemente. We will also begin compiling a poll for the cities of Dana Point, Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel that may take place near the end of February.

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

Here is the link to our [Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Webpage](#)

On January 9, 2019, Channel 4 News broadcasted a news segment on the California Healthy Youth Act. While the segment was not about CUSD and did not mention our progress on curriculum adoption, the segment was filmed in Ladera Ranch and may have created some confusion on our progress in adopting a curriculum and what subjects may or may not be included.

The news segment can be found [here](#).

CUSD Sexual Health Curriculum

- The “Who am I” book referenced in the news segment is not used in CUSD
- CUSD elementary “Family Life” curriculum has not changed. The “Family Life” curriculum does not include any instruction on the topic of gender identity.
- The State Board of Education is still reviewing and has not yet adopted the new health framework. Pending State approval, the District would then examine next steps for elementary health curriculum. We currently implement the same “Family Life” lessons at the elementary level as in previous years.

Plans for MS Sexual Health Curriculum – background, law, process, communication can all be found [here](#).

Timeline for implementation of sexual health curriculum in District middle schools:

- February 2019 —Bring middle school sexual health lessons to Instructional Material Review Committee for board approval at the February 27th board meeting
- March 2019 – sites will provide overview of curriculum and provide parents process for opting out/ letters mailed home
- April 2019 – teacher training
- May 2019 – delivery of lessons (six to seven lessons in each grade level (seventh and eighth grade) delivered during Science class period)
- June 2019 – reflect and revise/update lessons where needed
- June 2019– August 2019– work on updating High School health curriculum to align to law
- Plans for elementary, there are no plans at this time to address elementary curriculum this year.

California Healthy Kids Survey

Parent Information, Survey links, including an overview of the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) can be found [here](#).

How the CHKS data is utilized:

1. The survey covers topics such as school safety, health-related concerns such as physical activity and nutritional habits, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, risk of depression, and sexual orientation. The data provides guidance for specialized Tier 1 counseling, targeted presentations by community partners, and critical data in the development of site plans to address social emotional and behavioral components of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). In addition, each high school is required to include information regarding social and emotional health as part of the atmosphere section of the WASC study process. The CHKS provides data for that section of the report. The CHKS data is important to strengthening MTSS and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) so teachers and administrators are able to pinpoint areas of focus for continuous school improvement. This data supports staff in identifying resources and supports to address the needs of high-risk youth. In addition, CHKS data is used for the new State accountability local indicator and also in grant applications.
2. Parents have begun to receive letters about the CHKS administration and parents of middle and high school students will be able to return a form to have their child opt out. Parents of elementary students will be required to return a permission form to have their child participate. Collecting permission forms for elementary students is an Education Code requirement. Student personally identifiable information is not collected or released when participating. Parents will be notified multiple times through multiple means and will have access online and in hard copy the survey questions and content for their full review. Prior to each survey administration, staff will continue to hold parent meetings

both during the day time and evening to share survey questions and answer questions about the survey content.

Eighth Grade Expositions

During the months of January and February, CUSD high schools host 8th Grade Expositions advertising and informing students and parents about the various programs offered at each site. All District high schools provide a broad course of study that includes most middle school elective offerings providing a chance for students to specialize in areas of their choice. In addition, each high school provides different, unique opportunities that enable students to study topics that are of interest to them.

The following dates have been identified for upcoming Eighth Grade Expos:

High School	Exposition Date	Exposition Time
Aliso Niguel High School	February 25, 2019	5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Capistrano Valley High School	February 7, 2019	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dana Hills High School	January 14, 2019	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
San Clemente High School	February 4, 2019	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
San Juan Hills High School	February 9, 2019	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tesoro High School	February 5, 2019	5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Read the News Advisory [here](#).

Second Annual Innovation Showcase

Join us to learn about CUSD's extraordinary educational programs and pathways for CUSD families!

This showcase will provide parents the information necessary to make decisions regarding placement for the upcoming school year.

The event will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Read the flyer [here](#).

Full-Day Kindergarten Coming to CUSD

The Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) will offer full-day kindergarten starting in the 2019-2020 school year at all elementary school campuses. Research indicates that students, teachers and parents benefit from a full-day kindergarten program (See link below).

“Our mission as a school district is to prepare students to meet the challenges in a rapidly changing world. Research indicates that providing students with a longer kindergarten school day will increase student performance and help ensure that students are not only prepared for first grade, but will have an excellent foundation for their entire K-12 experience,” said Superintendent Kirsten Vital.

Full-day kindergarten was approved by CUSD and the Capistrano Unified Education Association (CUEA) in early 2018. During the 2018-2019 school year, CUSD implemented full-day kindergarten program at twelve elementary schools. For seven of these schools, it was their first year of implementing a full day program. “Both CUSD and the Capistrano Unified Education Association (CUEA) recognize the benefits in partnering to enhance student academic and social achievement,” said Vital, who added, “We received positive response from our full day Kinder teachers and appreciate their feedback on strategies and challenges that need to be worked through.”

A typical full-day program will run approximately six hours and will be consistent with the elementary start time at each school. “Research shows that a full-day program results in greater reading and math gains, more time for support of students at-risk, and indicates that 5-year-olds are more than ready for a longer day and do better in a setting that allows them time to learn and explore activities in depth,” said Brad Shearer, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary. “Full-day kindergarten is attractive to our families because it helps eliminate transportation challenges for families with other elementary aged children and reduces child care expenses,” said Shearer.

Each elementary school will hold parent information meetings, called “Kindergarten Roundups” in January and February. Dates are posted on the district and elementary school websites and will begin January 22, 2019.

[Kindergarten Roundup Schedule](#)

[Full-Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Superintendent’s Roadshow Update

Our Superintendent and members of Executive Cabinet are working on a goal to visit every CUSD school site this year to meet with parents and families as well as teachers and staff.

Since our last meeting on December 7, the Superintendent and Staff have visited the following:

- Tesoro High PTA 12/11
- Benedict Elementary Staff 12/17
- Reilly Elementary PTA 12/19
- Palisades Elementary PTA 1/7
- Marco Forster Middle Staff 1/9
- Bernice Ayer Middle PTA 1/9
- Carl Hankey K-8 Staff 1/9
- Oak Grove Elementary Staff 1/10

Upcoming Roadshow Visits:

- Carl Hankey K-8 PTA 1/16
- Wagon Wheel Elementary Staff 1/16
- Castille Elementary PTA 1/22
- Castille Elementary Staff 1/23
- Arroyo Vista Middle Staff 1/23
- Del Obispo Elementary PTA 1/24
- Chaparral Elementary Staff 1/30
- San Juan Hills High Staff 1/30
- Oak Grove Elementary PTA 1/30
- Don Juan Avila Middle Staff 1/31

Attorney General Opinion on Charter School Transparency

The state Attorney General on Dec. 26 published a [report](#) on charter school transparency. The 23-page opinion assessed issues of transparency, accountability and conflict of interest **and concluded that — contrary to current practice — charter schools should have to comply with the same laws on these matters as other public schools.**

Upcoming Events

- Holiday - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 21, 2019
- Second Annual Innovation Showcase: January 23, 2019

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