



Turlock Unified School District

Superintendent's Update

July 25, 2022

Dear TUSD Community—

Welcome back, or welcome, to Turlock Unified—we're eager to begin the 2022-23 school year with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead for our students, families, and staff as we embark on a year of traditions, in-person learning, and renewed expectations for rigorous and engaged learning and professional development. To confirm these expectations, we will begin referring to all TUSD students as TUSD scholars in our conversations to demonstrate our confidence in their learning and abilities to perform at the highest level they are capable; we believe *high expectations yield greater levels of performance*. It's our commitment to you, your children, and my colleagues—and one I make with great honor.

Although the summer months brought about changes in COVID-19 statistics, variants, and mitigation guidelines, TUSD will do what is necessary to keep schools open and our TUSD community safe; hence the reason in forgoing our annual 2,000 in-person staff opening in the PHS gymnasium this year in order to maintain fully-staffed schools to accommodate our scholars. More specific information related to COVID mitigation guidelines can be accessed at the following: <http://www.turlock.k12.ca.us/covidinfo>. Because our scholars learn and thrive in-person, we will maintain required mitigation efforts and evaluate those recommended. Academic and social-emotional growth from in-person learning this past school year was evident in the improved results and participation levels on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), third trimester *Next Step* Reading Diagnostic in grades 1-6, and Advanced Placement (AP) exams; preparing ALL scholars for choices that lead to college, career, and military options upon graduating from high school continues to be our greatest goal and accomplishment.

And finally, mental health and safety are at the heart of our work to provide the most impactful and memorable educational experiences for our TUSD community. Counselors at each of our 15 schools, increased access to clinicians, and positive behavior expectations that are posted in every classroom and office will support our scholars' well-being. Perimeter school fencing, locked classroom doors, and increased campus supervision will further support safe & secure schools at all sites. Additionally, we will continue to align professional resources to this very important work to best support our colleagues' expertise and dedication.

The first bell will ring on August 10th and our schools and classrooms will welcome their communities with compassion and sensitivity to support inclusive school cultures—*environments that build connections and seek input*. Everyone's voice is important, especially when it comes from a place of heart, resolution, and respect so collaborative efforts can make great things happen for ALL in TUSD—our scholars are the worthy recipients.

Sincerely,
Dana Salles Trevethan
Superintendent
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