



June 2014

Dear Community,

The 2013-2014 school year has been an extraordinary year. Our students, our district, and our schools have accomplished so much. I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in many areas this past year and am grateful for the support from our parents and the community. Please take a few moments to reflect on just a few of the amazing things we have achieved together.

Some of our school sites' accomplishments include:

- Five of our elementary schools, Donlon, Hearst, Mohr, Vintage Hills and Walnut Grove, were named 2014 Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education.
- Our two comprehensive high schools, Amador Valley High School and Foothill High School, were listed as U.S. News & World Report's 2014 Best High Schools in the Nation and Top 100 in the State.
- Amador High School came in second place in the Nation in the We the People Civics Competition for the second consecutive year.
- Foothill High School's We the People Competition Civics Team came in second in the State.
- Foothill High School's Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science Academy completed its first successful year with over one hundred forty students participating.
- Amador Valley High School's Project Lead the Way Engineering Program completed its second successful year and was the host to the Chevron Project Lead the Way Challenge.
- Harvest Park and Pleasanton Middle School will be joined by Hart Middle School in offering Project Lead the Way Pathway to Technology.
- Valley View Elementary School offered School Smarts to empower parents and guardians in Spanish and English.
- Our high schools and middle schools continue to have award-winning jazz, choir, marching band, orchestra, art and drama programs.
- Our strong sports programs continue to produce high caliber athletic teams and athletes competing successfully throughout the State and nationally.

This year, our district also:

- Implemented the *Local Control Funding Formula* (LCFF), the state's new funding system for public schools.
- Developed a robust Local Control Accountability Plan with the help of our newly selected advisory group, the Local Control Accountability Committee comprised of parents, staff and students.

- Worked to prepare for the full implementation of *Common Core State Standards (CCSS)* by providing professional development to our teachers, purchasing technology for state-mandated computer testing, and administering the first CCSS assessments, the SBAC field test.
- Instituted instructional coaching with eight phenomenal coaches, five focused on literacy, two in mathematics and one in technology supporting ongoing, job-embedded, professional development.
- Achieved 90% AP Participation and passing rates and maintained a 99% CAHSEE passage rate
- Maintained a 96% graduation rate.
- Maintained an A++ credit rating and strong credit rating of 'Aa2' with Moody's Investors Service despite five years of budget cuts.
- Successfully completed a bond refinancing which saved local taxpayers \$1,543,243.81 over the term of the financing.
- Held a successful Education Summit highlighting the District's STEAM programs for the second year in a row.
- Published our quarterly newsletter, School STARS, highlighting many accomplishments by our students and schools.

I am extremely honored to serve our students and families. I am grateful to our employees, our parents and guardians, and our community partners who are all integral to our continued success as one of the highest performing school districts in California.

I wish you a safe and relaxing summer and look forward to another wonderful school year when you return in August.

Sincerely,



Parvin Ahmadi, Superintendent
Pleasanton Unified School District

PUSD Mission: "Our students will make a better world."