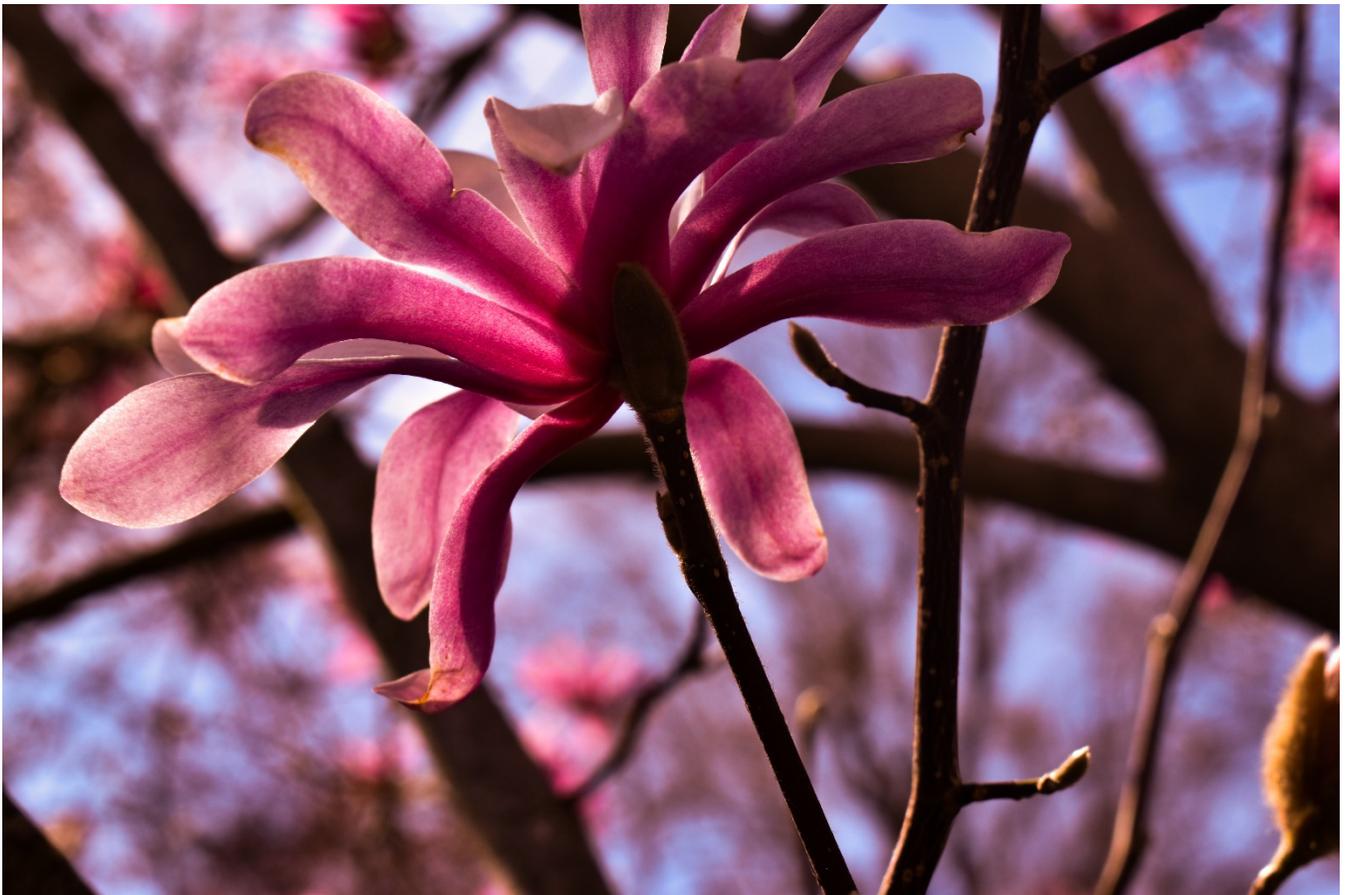




Amador County Unified School District

2019 – 2020
Accomplishments



Baylee Emery Class of 2021
Amador High School Student

Amador County Unified School District
2019-20 Accomplishments

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I. Introduction

Dear Staff and Community:

Congratulations to Amador County Unified School District for another productive school year, despite Public Safety Power shutoff events and the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to make progress to attain our mission and meet our goals, it is clear there is a deep commitment on the part of our teachers, principals, central office administrators, support staff, classified staff, families, students and Amador County citizens to the success of each of our students and schools. Thank you for being there and for supporting our students every step of the way.

Each time I visit a school, talk with a teacher, collaborate with another leader, or meet with a parent or community partner, I clearly see our community fully accepting the challenge of promoting students' social-emotional well-being and increasing student achievement with creativity, innovation and passion. These are our two Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals and we are determined to move forward to attain these goals as we prepare, support and inspire each student.

Special thanks to the Board of Trustees and our Amador County community for your continued focus on all students and your demonstration of hope and willingness to move forward with the important work of educating our students. With your help and support, great progress is being made. Together, we've set a firm foundation for even more student success in 2020-21.

This Accomplishments Report provides a sampling of the countless efforts of teachers, staff, principals, parents, administrators and community volunteers to make extraordinary things happen for our students. As you read the report, I hope you will join me in communicating your appreciation to everyone who has worked so hard to make these accomplishments possible.

Sincerely,
Dr. Amy L. Slavensky
Superintendent

2019-2020 Board of Trustees

Mrs. Susan Ross, Board President
Mrs. Kandi Thompson, Board Clerk
Mrs. Deborah Pulskamp, Board Member
Mr. James Marzano, Board Member
Mrs. Janet White, Board Member
Sophia Davis, Student Board Member
Hailey Dacier, Student Board Member
Rebecca Morla, Student Board Member
Kailey Pace, Student Board Member

2019-2020 Administrative Cabinet

Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Jared Critchfield, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
David Vicari, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources & Employee Relations
Sean Snider, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Kathryn Brown, Director, Special Education

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II. Overall Highlights

- Successfully navigated through unexpected school closure associated with the Public Safety Power shutoff events in October 2019 and unexpected school closure and distance learning for all students in March through June 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Successfully experienced a 4-month Special Education Study Team consisting of a broad-based stakeholder group that studied and made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees regarding the potential transfer of the mild-moderate Special Education services and staff from the Amador County Office of Education to the District
- Successfully negotiated and processed the transfer of all classified employees related to the mild-moderate Special Education program and the Transportation Department from the Amador County Office of Education to the District
- Implemented the third year of the joint ACOE/ACUSD three-year Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), aligned with the Strategic Plan, with a high implementation level of actions and services
- Facilitated a broad-based, collaborative process throughout the community to gather data and feedback in order to revise and strengthen the three-year LCAP, aligned with the Strategic Plan
- Responded to students' social-emotional learning needs through a variety of school-wide programs (i.e., school counseling services, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, supplemental curriculum, professional development, Link Crew, Where Everyone Belongs, etc.)
- Deepened and focused the work of quality, standards-aligned professional learning opportunities through site-based work, collaborative cohorts and instructional coaching to support TK-12 reading and writing across all content areas, mathematics, science, and history-social science teaching and learning
- Continued many collaborative planning groups including the Elementary Assessment Committee, the TK-12 Next Generation Science Standards Cohort, the Career Technical Education Planning Team, and the TK-12 Multi-tiered Systems of Support Team
- Implemented and supported year three of Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) at Jackson and Ione Junior High Schools and year one at Amador and Argonaut High Schools, significantly increasing the success of students
- Collaborated with local law enforcement and many local community partners to proactively make plans to meet students' needs and to responsively address a variety of school safety issues

III. School Highlights

Of the many great accomplishments at our schools this year, when asked to tell us about highlights, this is what our principals said:

Ione Elementary School ~ Principal Jeni DeWalt

We had many celebrations during the year. We kicked off the school year with Back to School Night on August 13th and our annual Olympic Day Parade on August 30th where each class collaborated to make a banner representing their class. We march around by grade level cheering all students towards a great school year. Every Wednesday morning was “Walk to School Wednesday” and teachers and students met in town and walked to school together. 9/11 Remembrance Day where the entire school walked to the fire station to watch the Ione Fire Department provide a ceremony. Our 4th and 5th grade teaching team hosted the annual Family PE Night which was a great success. Special thanks to Mrs. Griffith and Ms. Mandeson who facilitated our annual Talent Show. We also appreciate all that Amador Arts does to support our students by providing art lessons for each class.

We have been striving towards students taking more ownership of their learning and their role as a leader at our school. A group of student leaders worked during the summer on our behavior matrix and practiced how to teach the school rules and expectations to the rest of our students. During the first few weeks of school, these student leaders taught the rules and expectations to every class. We are very proud of these students and their leadership.

As adults, we collaborated in committees including Positive Behavior Intervention and support (PBIS) leadership, School Site Council, English Learners Advisory Council (ELAC), and Parent Faculty Club (PFC) to support all students. Collectively, we help provide learning opportunities, field trips, fund special activities such as the Bulldog Store (supporting positive behavior at school), and treats and parties to honor students and their hard work.

Ione Police Department (IPD) worked with us this year to offer Cops 4 Kids. This was a wonderful opportunity for our 4th and 5th graders to learn leadership skills and focus on respect and responsibility. We ended this program with a great celebration. We have plans to continue this great program into the future. Thank you IPD for your support of our students.

Jackson Elementary School ~ Principal Barbara Magpusao

Our School Site Council and Site Leadership Team supported professional development including the TK-1 team attending the California Kindergarten Conference in January, grades 3-5 CAASPP preparation collaboration, attending CDE’s California Distinguished Schools Awards ceremony to receive our award, and the purchase of additional Chromebooks to support classroom instruction.

Our parent leadership group, JUSTAP, provided art lessons and classroom music opportunities for all grade levels, campus beautification projects, Father/Daughter Dance, Fall Festival, and other activities for our families. Our JUSTAP fundraisers also support our school wide PBIS efforts such as Paw Store and Jamba Juice certificates for monthly Cougar Pride Award recipients and “Pawsitivity” awards for weekly drawings.

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Our students continue to participate in the music program in which 4th-5th graders are provided music instruction by our District Band teacher twice weekly. This ensures all intermediate students have a solid music foundation, learning how to read music and how to play the recorder. They are prepared to play an instrument at the junior high school if they choose. Our K-1 students performed at our Annual Holiday Performance in December. It is always a family favorite!

Our students participated in extra-curricular activities such as Kindness Club, Reading Buddies, and school sports. Our 5th graders attended the YMCA Point Bonita Outdoor Education Science Camp in November. They always return with an appreciation for their experience and the outdoors. Through LCAP funds, we also provided Sanford Harmony (social/emotional) classroom lessons and counseling support through our school counselor. During Distance Learning, our teachers embraced the challenge and continued to provide our students with a rigorous curriculum. It was definitely an adjustment and learning experience for all of us. We believe Jackson Elementary School is a nurturing learning community committed to preparing students, academically and socially to be college and career ready. We believe: all belong, all learn, all lead to succeed.

Plymouth Elementary School ~ Principal Joseph Horacek

We started the 2019-20 school year off strong by overcoming the challenges of construction and completion of a Safe Route to School in collaboration with Plymouth City Hall and Caltrans. We adopted and implemented the 'Recess Before Lunch' program and provided free breakfast and lunch to all students. Our second annual Dia de los Muertos cultural celebration was improved over last year and enjoyed by many from our community and beyond. Our parent club sponsored a very successful Fun Run fundraiser. It was another strong year for ARTS implementation with 4th grade music, 5th and 6th grade band, and an after school choir. Students also participated in PEP supported visual arts classes with Stephanie Strong and performing arts classes with Suzie Evans. Amador High School brought "Newsie's" to our multi-purpose room and our "Littles" performed in a Holiday Pageant complete with the 12 Days of Christmas, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and a Readers' Theatre version of the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

Pine Grove STEM Elementary School ~ Principal John Hawley

Our school continues to recognize the significance of community involvement while focusing on science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and other curricular areas. Teachers and students engaged in hands-on projects and problem-based teaching and learning with our unique Project Lead the Way curriculum. Our students were recognized by the UC Davis C-STEM program for their outstanding robotics video presentation. Pine Grove staff also offered several community and family engagement events to showcase our continued curricular growth and community involvement including Family Art Night, Fall Festival, Science/Engineering Night, Board Games Night and Math Night. Our staff and families, with the support of the community, hosted the annual Blue and Gold Gala raising funds to send students to science camp! Even with COVID-19 restrictions and distance learning, we held a week long Virtual Science Camp for our 6th graders. Pine Grove STEM School is proud to have made great strides all around in the 2019-20 school year! We are looking forward to increasing our social-

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emotional support for our students, while maintaining our outstanding academic achievements and expectations especially in the areas of STEM.

Pioneer VAPA Elementary School ~ Principal Carmen Glaister

What an exciting year we had at Pioneer Elementary School! Everyone was eager to get back to school last August and we started the year off with several fun assemblies, including a visit from two cows and a back pack giveaway from one of our community partners, Young's Payless Market IGA. Volunteers from Amador Upcountry Rotary Club also repainted our beloved pencil at the entrance to our school. Our sixth graders spent an incredible week at science camp at the Sly Park Conservation & Environmental Education Center in September. The Halloween parade was especially thrilling since we had missed several days of school due to PG&E's PSPS events and everyone missed their friends.

In November, we had our first annual Veterans Day assembly. Some of our local veterans, including members of Up Country 88 Lions Club, came to school where they enjoyed a hot breakfast and fellowship with other veterans. This was followed by a flag ceremony and a patriotic song sung by each class. Ten veterans stayed after the assembly to speak with our fifth and sixth graders and answer their many questions. This was a wonderful experience for everyone. We had our 16th annual school-wide holiday sing-a-long before leaving for Winter Break in December and the house was packed! Parents, grandparents, staff, and students all had a wonderful time as each class performed a holiday song. Santa even visited our school and gave each student a gift, thanks to our community partner Gallagher's Pub.

February was Kindness month at Pioneer. We had an assembly on bullying and students learned how to show kindness to others through class lessons and discussions. One class even made goody bags to distribute to our local homeless. Each of our third graders received a brand new dictionary from the Rotary Club right before spring break.

While these are just a few of our many exciting accomplishments at Pioneer, the one that makes us the proudest is how well our teachers, students, and families jumped into distance learning when the global pandemic came to our community. It was truly inspirational to see everyone, from teachers to office staff to support staff, and especially our beloved "lunch lady" Ms. Jen, do whatever it took to make sure our families had what they needed for their students to be successful. It was definitely not the way anyone wanted to spend the last months of school, but the Panther Family is strong and dedicated. In spite of everything, this was a very exciting year at Pioneer Elementary School!

Sutter Creek Elementary/Primary School ~ Principal Tia Peters

Through the many challenges, including public safety power shut off events, coronavirus and distance learning, our students, staff, and families persevered. Even with these challenges, we had many accomplishments to celebrate this year. Taking on distance learning, the use of new and different technology, and finding new creative ways to teach and learn were challenging at times but also rewarding. Now we are more adept and willing to expand our way of teaching, learning, and thinking. Art and music were stronger than ever with Mrs. Strong and Mr. Roberson providing high quality lessons, even during distance learning. We were fortunate for the art and music programs to continue thanks to donations, fundraising, the support of our

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local businesses, community members, and a lot of hard work by SCEPTOR, our parent teacher group, and many parent volunteers. We had a school newspaper run by Mrs. Henry and a group of dedicated students, and even had the final paper published in the Ledger Dispatch in May. We continue to make great strides in our mindfulness, positive behavior interventions and supports, and restorative justice work. Our students were able to enjoy many field trips, including science camp for our 6th graders. Some of our students participated in honor band with our band teacher, Mr. Fellman, who also taught general music to our 4th grade students. They made great strides learning to read music and play their recorders. Professional development and collaboration opportunities for our teachers and staff were another positive outcome this year. Our focus remains on the positive relationships we build with our students, families, and each other, and the rich environment that creates for our school family. GO WOLVERINES!!

Ione Junior High School ~ Principal Richard Modesti

We completed our first year as an AVID certified site during the 2019-2020 school year. More than 100 7th and 8th grade students were enrolled in the AVID elective and all 6th grade students had an opportunity to learn about AVID through AVID Lite on the 6th grade enrichment wheel. All teachers at Ione Junior High use WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies as a part of their instruction, and staff continues to engage in bi-monthly professional learning about using highly effective strategies in the classroom. Students at Ione Junior High are regularly exposed to opportunities that will help them gain skills for success in high school and beyond, and staff is focused on continuing to provide opportunities that engage ALL students in genuine learning. Despite the challenges associated with COVID-19, staff worked very hard to ensure all students received appropriate instruction, were effectively supported, and engaged in some social/emotional development throughout the distance learning process during 4th quarter. While COVID-19 certainly disrupted many plans and routines at IJHS, it also provided further evidence of the commitment that our staff and students have to learning and to one another.

Jackson Junior High School ~ Principal Andrew Gardner

Under new leadership this year, Jackson Junior High School continues making substantial progress in four priority areas. Due to the important work and leadership of the AVID Site Leadership Team, we strengthened the AVID program and supported our AVID certification which was achieved at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The school strives to include AVID strategies such as Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR) across all classes and programs. Staff developed consistent processes and interventions that support student academic achievement and positive behavior across the campus. The development of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) has allowed staff to swiftly identify student needs and develop support plans that help them be academically and behaviorally successful. Staff and students made great strides developing a healthy and positive campus culture. With the addition of the Living Healthy and Social Emotional Learning electives, as well as the efforts of our WEB program and ASB student leaders, the school community took action to curb negative behavior and promote a campus of respect and kindness. Framed posters are displayed across campus and classrooms messaging the 6 B's of Jackson Junior High School: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Mindful, Be Responsible, and Be Positive. Finally, staff committed to piloting a co-teaching model in English Language Arts,

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Math, and Social Studies in order to provide more students with access to the core curriculum and provide additional support in the general education classrooms. This resulted in incredible professional development and growth as we learned together about how to address rigor, maintain high expectations for student achievement, and provide individual support for all students. We look forward to continuing our work together to empower, educate, and prepare students for high school and beyond.

Amador High School ~ Principal Jessica Dorris

The staff and students at Amador High worked diligently throughout the 2019-2020 school year to overcome unprecedented challenges with school closure days in the Fall and Spring. Despite these challenges, the staff was able to unite in order to provide the Amador experience even from afar. Our culminating events were a diploma pick-up celebration and virtual commencement ceremony that captured best how deeply our staff care about each student and their future endeavors. When faced with such adversity that turned education as we knew it upside down, the Amador High staff chose to rise to the challenge, buffering the impact and uplifting our students through consistent messaging of encouragement and pride. Behind the scenes, Amador staff has continued to work on important improvement goals such as AVID implementation and expansion, MTSS support, and professional collaboration, regardless of the circumstances. 2019-2020 was a unique year, but it was not a lost year. Amador is ready to move forward with important plans for the new school year.

Argonaut High School ~ Principal Troy Gassaway

The class of 2020 earned a great legacy as the first graduating Distance Learning class in Argonaut High School history. Our motto reads that Argonaut students are expected to have the Courage to Compete while demonstrating the ability to be Respectful, Responsible and Resilient in everything they do in school and in life. During the 2019/20 school year, our motto was put to the test. Our students and community responded resiliently when a global pandemic presented unprecedented challenges in education. This year, our students can be defined as Distance Learning achievers that let nothing stand in their way to college and career readiness. Students were expected to attend school online, from a distance, and the term “distance learning” was coined. ACUSD “front line hero” employees assisted with an incredible logistical transition, and students were learning from home within two weeks of a stay-at-home order issued by the Governor of California. A collective effort was made by the Mustang Family to ensure seniors had celebrations for milestone events. The Academic Top Ten Awards Night, Scholarship Night and the Argonaut Graduation Commencement ceremonies were all transitioned to drive-through and virtual celebrations with the skilled support of counselors Clarissa Bellotti and Tiffany DiGirolamo, career technician Jennifer Putnam, and especially Matt King, our Video Production and Career Technical Education pathway teacher.

Following our largest CAASPP score increase in recent memory, the faculty and staff set a goal to increase the academic achievement of our students to even greater heights, which we attacked with fervor. A team of Argonaut High School teachers attended AVID summer institute. New AVID strategies called WICOR were implemented school wide with an emphasis on Focused Note Taking in every class. In an effort to support students' social emotional wellness, the faculty was formally trained in Trauma Informed Practices. In response to increased school threats nationally, our faculty was trained in a new procedure to

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increase safety called Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate (ALICE). Faculty members emphasized student support as part of a district-wide MTSS initiative, and our counselors documented over 1700 academic interventions and the staff recorded almost 200 positive interventions while interacting with students.

Argonaut's athletic programs continued a tradition of excellence. We were highly successful with back to back San Joaquin Section championships in girls' basketball and earned a semifinal visit to the California Interscholarship Federation Northern California tournament with our boys' basketball team. Numerous construction projects improved student life and athletics on campus this year with the support from the community and district office. A new water fountain, concrete pad and benches were placed in the center of the quad. Our stadium was upgraded with a new flag pole and Mustang on the Mountain statue. A much anticipated track facility ribbon cutting was held to celebrate its official opening for the 2019/20 school year. Student involvement in Career Technical Education classes and pathways was at an all-time high in FCCLA, FFA, Game Design, and Video Production. Dual enrollment classes in Culinary, The Arts, Health Internships and Fire Sciences are all ready to begin during the 2020/21 school year which is a step forward because they are the first dual enrollment courses to be offered at Argonaut High School.

Independence High School ~ Principal Butch Wagner

At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, our team participated in a competitive process and was accepted to the yearlong High Tech High Project-Based Learning Academy. Staff deepened their understanding and knowledge of effective implementation of a project-based learning platform in the alternative education setting. All staff continued taking advantage of the professional development opportunities with positive social-emotional learning strategies deepening their understanding of Trauma Informed Practices. Our students who participated in the 4H program of "Teens as Teachers" continued working with our elementary schools teaching 3rd graders at Jackson Elementary the benefits of Healthy Eating and sustainable gardening, plus three students went to the Teens as Teachers Leadership conference in Washington D.C. A majority of students experienced great success. Again our senior class had one of the highest percentages of graduates, including a fast-tracked Junior!

North Star Independent Study School ~ Principal Kelly Hunkins

North Star Independent Study continues on a journey of offering a variety of options for student learning. Students have many choices when attending North Star that include pathways to a CSU/UC, community college, concurrent enrollment in community college, the California High School Proficiency Exam (CAHSPE), accelerated graduation as well as a general high school diploma. Students are beginning to take advantage of these opportunities. In 2019-2020 North Star attendance was 84 total students. Of those students, 19 chose a blended learning experience at a comprehensive high school, and some blended students participated in extracurricular activities such as athletics or FFA. 12 students graduated early during their senior year and 5 juniors accelerated to graduate an entire year early. Many of our students also work at least part-time and some even began their college experience a semester early. Our plan for the 2020-2021 school year is to continue to provide more options to meet the unique needs of our students.

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Community Court School ~ Principal Butch Wagner

The district had another low number of expulsions this year due to the continual development of Restorative Practices and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) at the comprehensive high schools. We are happy to report that a majority of the students who attended successfully completed their rehabilitation plans and successfully transitioned back to their comprehensive campuses.

Amador County Adult Education School ~ Principal Kelly Hunkins

This was another year of growth for Amador County Adult Education. We assisted 241 total clients with 73 participating in more than one program and 202 students receiving personalized transition services. 65 students worked on earning their high school diploma with 28 clients successfully completing and graduating with a diploma. 55 students engaged in learning English as a Second Language and digital literacy skills. The GED/HiSET testing center is nearly completed and 11 students participated in courses to assist them in passing the test. 14 clients earned workforce readiness certificates in our Instructional Assistant and Word Press courses; this is also an area where we are actively seeking new partnerships and where we plan to grow substantially next school year. We recently began an affiliation with Amador College Connect and look forward to the benefits we can provide our clients with this new collaboration. We continue to provide “Playcare” for students with families which increases engagement hours. Amador County Adult Education employees 2 full-time employees and 15 part-time staff who are dedicated to improving outcomes and employment skills for individuals and families in our county. Next year, we will begin the process to become WASC accredited so our clients entering college will have more financial aid opportunities.

IV. Board Governance and Policy

The Board of Trustees and the Superintendent comprise the governance team for Amador County Unified School District. The Board of Trustees engaged in a variety of professional development, governance team-building, and collaborative activities including the following:

- Two summer Board Study Sessions focused on Special Education research, instructional programming, and related public school funding
- Deep learning in public school finance and budget development through one Board Study Session, monthly financial updates during Board meetings, informational meetings with the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and related webinars
- Orientation, coaching support, and participation of three new student Board members as sworn-in members of the governance team
- A fall Board Workshop on student achievement including the California Schools Dashboard and California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) information
- A winter Board Study Session on cultural competence and equity for all students
- A spring Board Workshop on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Annual Budget development processes to build the Board's understanding and engage them in the process
- Participation by two Board members on the Special Education Study Team
- Participation by two Board members on the Reopening of School Stakeholder Committees
- Participation in the Annual Board Self-evaluation and reflection process
- Participation on hiring panels for all administrative positions
- Participation on various Amador County community-based committees and boards such as the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, and the Amador County Recreational Association
- Board subcommittees to review and make recommendations for revision on various Board bylaws and policies

V. Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Amy Slavensky developed goals based on priorities set by the Board of Trustees. The goals are SMART goals with each letter of the acronym standing for sustainable, measurable, attainable, results-driven, and time-bound. For each SMART goal, some highlights of various action steps and/or outcomes are indicated below:

By June 30, 2020, growth related to making connections, use of feedback loops, and two-way communication strategies will be demonstrated, measured by employee survey data and anecdotal feedback.

- Annual All Staff Kick-off message with vulnerability and integrity
- Attendance at site staff meetings
- Attendance at site parent/community meetings
- Superintendent's Leadership Advisory Council
- Regular site visits to all schools
- Monthly principals' leadership team meetings
- Quarterly management team meetings
- Collaborative committees for shared decision making
- Quarterly APAC meetings
- Monthly guest commentaries and regular press releases for the Ledger Dispatch newspaper
- Regular KVMC Hometown Radio interview visits
- Facebook/Twitter/Instagram messaging

By June 30, 2020, staff support and appreciation will continue and be strengthened through wellness, collaboration, and recognition opportunities, measured by employee survey data and related board documents, records, logs, etc.

- Employee recognition Board resolutions
- Individual employee recognition at Board meetings
- Retirement recognition
- Birthday cards sent to all employees by the Superintendent
- Appreciation events
- Feedback loops with projects and initiatives

By June 30, 2020, the Special Education Study Team will convene, work together, and make a recommendation to the Board for potential program transfer, evidenced by Board documents.

- On August 14, 2019, the Board approved a request to consider and study partial or complete transfer of the Special Education Program and Administrative Unit from ACOE to ACUSD jurisdiction, effective July 1, 2020.
- The Study Team met in full-day sessions November 2019 through January 2020 with support from external facilitators who led a consensus reaching process and professional learning of effective communication and collaboration tools which assisted the team in accomplishing their work.

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- The Study Team engaged in a complex and challenging endeavor which has its root cause in a 1997 decision to disband the Tricounty SELPA, consisting of Calaveras County, Tuolumne County and Amador County.
- On January 22, 2019, the Board heard a full report from staff regarding the work of the Study Team and the history and current reality of Special Education in Amador County Public Schools.
- The Study Team worked hard to collaborate, learn together, and understand the complexities in both our history and our current reality in order to better address them and made a recommendation to the Board on February 12, 2020.
- On February 12, the Board of Trustees took action to approve the transfer of the mild-moderate Special Education services and related staff from the Amador County Office of Education to the District, effective July 1, 2020 for classified employees and the Transportation Department, and effective no later than October 31, 2020 for certificated employees.

By June 30, 2020, Board members, leaders, teachers and paraprofessionals will build understanding and use of best practices to support students with disabilities (SWD), evidenced by improved CAASPP scores. (See the next goal regarding CAASPP.)

- Monthly principal coaching and support
- Professional learning
- Formative/interim assessments
- Site-based professional learning and data inquiry cycles
- Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and interventions
- Increased Special Education/General Education teacher collaboration
- Co-teaching and other inclusive practices
- Increased levels of rigorous teaching and learning within the least restrictive environment

By June 30, 2020, SWD in grades 3-8, 11 will show a 5 percentage point increase in meeting/exceeding English language arts standards on the CAASPP from 15% to 20%. By June 30, 2020, SWD in grades 3-8, 11 will show a 5 percentage point increase in meeting/exceeding mathematics standards on the CAASPP from 9% to 14%. *Due to COVID-19, the California Department of Education did not administer the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP); therefore, the data to measure these goals is not available.*

- Gradual implementation of new high school graduation requirements
- Strengthened and expanded Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways
- College Career Readiness grant
- Advanced Placement (AP) course alignment
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies
- Grades TK-12 professional development
- Monthly coaching protocol and support for all school principals

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During the year and by June 30, 2020, communication about financial matters with all stakeholders will continue to be a priority, evidenced by written communications, board reports, etc. By June 30, 2020, interim budget reports will be certified positive and the board will adopt a resolution to maintain a healthy reserve fund, evidenced by board documents.

- 2nd Interim Budget Report certified positive (March 2020)
- Monthly financial updates to the Board of Trustees
- Board workshops and study sessions
- Board member 2:1 informational meetings
- Written communications and press releases to all staff and the community
- Spending within budgets
- Staffing/enrollment at negotiated ratios
- Implement LCFF base ratios and practices
- Aligned LCAP implementation

By June 30, 2020, the CA Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) will be administered in grades 5, 8 and 11 with growth indicated in multiple areas from 2019 to 2020, measured by CHKS data. *Due to COVID-19, the California Department of Education did not administer the CHKS; therefore, the data to measure this goal is not available.*

- School climate strategies
- Anti-bullying and kindness clubs
- Counselors' whole class lessons and intervention strategies
- Strategies from professional learning related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Trauma Informed Practices (TIPS)
- Professional learning and use of Sanford Harmony and Second Step supplemental curriculum
- AVID, WEB, and Link Crew
- Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) strategies
- Restorative Justice practices

VI. Educational Services

Overall Highlights

- Supported school staff and families with the immediate shift to distance learning in March 2020 due to COVID-19
- Provided over 250 Wi-Fi routers to families and collaborated with Volcano Communications on special service packages for families for distance learning
- Successfully led and completed the California Department of Education's Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) review. It had been over 10 years since the previous state review had been done
- Assisted with the implementation of the first ever co-teaching initiative at JJHS to support students with disabilities accessing the core curriculum
- Assisted with the launch of the new district and school websites
- Led a pilot process and adoption of new 11th grade U.S. History and AP Government textbooks
- Collaborated with Columbia College to reach an agreement to bring dual enrollment opportunities (earn college and high school credit at the same time) to our students for the first time starting in the 2019-2020 school year
- Launched "ASPIRE" program referral process for counseling services to support student social-emotional needs
- Year 1 implementation of the grades TK-6 assessment plan
- Continued our work with our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) planning and implementation
- Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) expansion to 9th grade, supporting our career and college-going work
- Strengthened our career technical education (CTE) pathways, supporting our career and college-going work
- Continued actions, services and opportunities for supporting social-emotional learning
- A deepened focus on standards-aligned teacher collaboration at many levels and across content areas
- Summer school at the high school level for credit recovery
- Supported 18 teachers through the induction program to assist with clearing their credential
- Created "New Teacher Network" for supporting and collaborating with new and not so new teachers
- Used the 2019 California Healthy Kids Survey data to target students in need

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Professional Development

- Partnered with Amador County Sheriff's Office to offer ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training to all interested staff
- Led designated and integrated English Language Development (ELD) professional development for all teachers in February and March
- Coordinated implicit bias professional learning for all principals and vice principals
- Elementary team of administrators attended the 2020 National Literacy and Reading Recovery conference
- Arts Integration training in conjunction with Stanislaus County Office of Education
- Continued professional learning and support for implementation of standards-aligned Benchmark Steps to Advance intervention materials through collaboration among elementary Special Education and General Education teachers
- Grade level professional development and collaboration in the California Mathematics Framework focused on grades 6-8
- Provided professional development offerings on the following topics:
 - Benchmark Universe elementary English language arts adoption
 - Full Option Science System (FOSS)
 - CAASPP Interim Assessment Block (IAB) and the Digital Library
 - Aeries Gradebook
 - English Language Development
 - Arts Integration
 - District Website
 - Math Struggle Problems
 - Google Classroom
 - Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) 101
 - Assessment in Illuminate
 - Number Talks
 - Website and Word Press
 - Naviance

Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)

- Revitalized the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and engaged this important team in shared decision-making

Principal Leadership Team

- Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) aligned to LCAP
- Using Data to Develop SPSA Goals
- Collaborative development of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Coaching: Monthly Principal Coaching Sessions
- District English Language Advisory (DLAC) committee meeting

Amador County Unified School District
2019-20 Accomplishments

Parent and Community Outreach

- Quarterly Amador Parent Advisory Committee (APAC) meetings
- LCAP Parent and Community Outreach meetings
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)
- Spanish interpretation on the Amador County Public Schools website
- Spanish Facebook page

Extended Learning Program (ELP)

After starting a fingerprint-based security system pilot in 2017/2018, we are happy to report that all ELP sites are up and running online. Only authorized individuals whose fingerprints have been entered in the system are able to pick up a student from ELP. Not only does this diminish paperwork for staff and administration but, most importantly, this system adds a new layer of security for parents and caregivers. Standardized ELP curriculum was established this year. By doing this, staff shares lesson plans of the same topic, theme, or curriculum as well as align and improve curriculum to reach common positive results. Standardization has provided more time to develop and tailor curriculum to students' learning styles.

California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

Our program received a sizeable state grant to update and upgrade our facilities. A new playground will be installed at the Jackson and Plymouth State Preschools. A new building will be installed at the Ione Elementary campus to house an Inclusive Preschool. We are working with the TK staff to bridge learning and teaching for all pre-kindergarten students. Our staff will be involved in additional assessments and evaluations to continue improving our programming and instruction. Many of our preschool teachers and instructional aides furthered their education by participating in staff development opportunities. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, preschool teachers supported their families using a distance learning model from March through May.

Child Care Council

We will continue to explore opportunities for licensed childcare and preschool spaces for our growing communities. The Council is participating in a regional support and assessment program that will provide increased opportunities for professional development, assessment, and support to our existing licensed care centers.

VII. Special Education & Amador County SELPA

- The Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to convene a Special Education Study Team to consider and study partial or complete transfer of the Special Education Program and Administrative Unit from ACOE to ACUSD jurisdiction, effective July 1, 2020.
- The Special Education Study Team met in full day sessions, studied, and collaborated to form a recommendation to the Board of Trustees regarding a partial or complete transfer of the Special Education program and Administrative Unit from ACOE to ACUSD effective July 1, 2020. The final recommendation and Board action included transfer of the Mild/Moderate Special Education program, including all classified (July 1, 2020) and certificated personnel (no later than November 1, 2020).
- Renamed Amador County SELPA with the SELPA Director employed by ACUSD and the Administrative Unit remaining with ACOE
- Collaborated with Educational Services to offer grade level Special Education collaboration and professional learning days for elementary and secondary teacher.
- Supported collaboration opportunities among Special Education teachers, General Education teachers and paraeducators
- Supported planning, professional development and implementation of co-teaching at Jackson Junior High School
- Continued to build increased collaboration between Amador County agencies to support foster youth
- Continued the Foster Focus program to allow Amador County Public Schools to more efficiently share important foster youth information between county agencies
- Continued to build employee and community capacity to become Trauma Informed Schools
- Continued providing training in mental health supports
- Continued successful implementation of an Intensive Intervention class at the elementary and junior high levels
- Developed pilot Intensive Intervention class for high school, beginning fall 2020
- New buildings for ACOE Special Education students are in process with completion projected for fall 2020 at Argonaut High School and Plymouth Elementary School
- Special Education representatives worked with elementary and secondary MTSS development committees to strengthen MTSS implementation at all schools

VIII. Human Resources and Labor Relations

- Processed and updated 967 classroom volunteers
- Recruited, processed and hired 43 new substitute teachers and 32 substitute classified employees
- Created/edited 7 certificated & 7 classified new job descriptions for Board of Trustees approval
- Queried and downloaded personnel data from the QCC Personnel Database for approximately 65 data-driven employee reports and spreadsheets for government agencies, auditors, collective bargaining units, and administrators
- Amended 4 salary schedules and added 1 salary schedule
- Processed 163 Requests for Personnel for employee new hires, transfers, promotions and changes
- Recruited for and coordinated 88 interviews
- Hired 24 new certificated employees and 16 new classified employees for ACUSD
- Hired 8 new certificated employees and 36 new classified employees for ACOE
- Issued 246 Changes of Status (COS) to payroll to document employee changes
- Updated and rolled over the backbone database for the Personnel and Business office, the QCC database, to the 2020-21 school year
- Coordinated, assembled and presented Personnel Consent Agendas and additional personnel agenda items for the Board of Trustees
- Generated 44 ACOE and 173 ACUSD annual teacher contracts
- Recruited, processed and hired coaches for three athletic seasons
- Implemented a new automated online mandated training program for all employees
- Processed and updated 967 classroom volunteers
- Recruited, processed and hired 43 new substitute teachers and 32 substitute classified employees

IX. Business Services

- Collaborated with Educational Services and Human Resources to ensure reduced spending and fiscal health
- Provided principal training and ongoing support for budget monitoring and fiscal health
- Provided support and oversight of new construction and upgrades to existing facilities
- Provided site support for attendance, ASB training, Health and Welfare information and purchases for student learning
- The Business Office:
 - Issued 4,449 accounts payable
 - Processed approximately 3,301 Reports of Absences
 - Issued 1,182 Purchase Orders
 - Managed health and welfare for 410 employees
 - Processed 350 employee conferences
- Processed end of month and supplemental payroll for 1,140 permanent and substitute employees

X. Technology Services

- Supported Distance Learning implementation:
 - Restricted YouTube and moderated restrictions for students
 - Established email for students with objectionable content monitoring and outside restrictions
 - Provided mobile filtering for offsite Chromebooks
 - Established and supported Google Meet and Google Classroom
 - Reviewed hundreds of YouTube videos for safe student viewing
- Upgraded virus protection
- Upgraded operating systems on 18 critical infrastructure servers extending their useful life by 3 years and improving network security
- Completed e-Rate RFP to secure needed network switching and bandwidth upgrades for high-schools
- Implemented DKIM, email authentication, and Google email safety features to help protect against malicious links, spoofed emails, phishing, etc
- Implemented Naviance-Google single sign-on (SSO) for students and staff

Amador County Unified School District
2019-20 Accomplishments

- Installed Adobe software for Independence and Google integration
- Upgraded systems monitoring infrastructure
- Moved Aeries archive to new up-to-date server
- Assisted with security camera system standard and vendor evaluation
- Implemented Employee Self Service for QSS
- Processed thousands of Technology Service requests for staff, students, and parents
- Installed Adobe Acrobat and Adobe CC on high school labs and website administration computers
- Set up librarians to learn the latest version of Follet Destiny with a preview website
- Upgraded most ACUSD and ACOE computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10
- Set up sourcing for new e-waste management options
- Refreshed hundreds of new Chromebooks for student use

XI. Food Services

- Added two more schools to the Community Eligibility Program (Plymouth Elementary and Jackson Junior High Schools)
- Served 57,450 breakfast meals and 57,450 lunch meals during the spring pandemic
- Distributed 2,300 food boxes during the school closure with the support of Amador County Interfaith Food Bank
- Distributed 600 dental kits with the support of the Amador County Oral Health Department
- Served a total of 491,205 meals

XII. Maintenance and Operations

- Replaced water main and installed new fence at Sutter Creek Elementary
- Repaired numerous HVAC units, including air compressor replacements by district staff
- Repaired and replaced irrigation lines at various sites including Ione Jr. High, Ione Elementary and Argonaut High
- Installed Plexiglas barriers in school office spaces for COVID19 safety precautions
- Reconstructed district office conference room and educational services department (near completion)
- Replaced and installed new carpet in various classrooms throughout the district
- Installed concrete border around Argonaut High pole vault runway and landing zone
- Installed 7 new water bottle filling stations at elementary and junior high schools

XIII. Facilities/Construction

- Completed concrete ADA work around the Amador High School and Argonaut High School gymnasiums
- Executed bids, site work and near completion of new Special Education facilities at Plymouth Elementary and Argonaut High Schools
 - Paid by a state facilities grant
 - Facilities will serve the elementary intensive intervention program and the special education preschool
- New ADA path and concrete entrance at Plymouth Elementary School
- Completed crack repair and resurfacing on all Argonaut High School tennis courts
- Installed new discus ring and netting allowing for safer and more effective track practices at Amador High School
- Through mostly community donations and the efforts of the softball coach, replaced the softball field, repaired sprinkler system and installed new sod at Amador High School

XIV. Transportation

- Purchased two used wheelchair school buses, allowing the department to transport special needs students in school buses rather than general purpose vans increasing safety to our students
- During the COVID pandemic, school bus drivers delivered breakfasts and lunches throughout Amador County, with buses going to specific schools, picking up meals and traveling to more remote areas to distribute the meals
- Delivered an average of 200 to 250 meals daily to remote areas
- Successfully completed the Shenandoah Valley School 5-year asbestos inspection and report due to the California Environment Protection Agency (EPA), with duration through 2025
- Completed testing of school bus drivers and updating of their credentials which had expired due to the pandemic induced closure of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), with records successfully submitted to both state agencies