

# STAFF NEWSLETTER



## In this issue:

- Superintendent's Message
- COVID Guidance
- Walking Challenge Results
- Staff Testing Changes
- Incoming Student Important Dates
- Season's Greetings

## Coming Up:



**Payday is  
December 29th!**

Checks will be sent to the school sites for pick up as usual. All check stubs will be mailed.

The stipend checks will be available at your site on Friday, December 17th. These are all paper checks. No direct deposit. Please pick up your check before the end of the school day on Friday otherwise we will mail it to you.

**District PD Day  
January 28, 2022**

## Superintendent's Message

As we approach winter break and another semester complete, I want to remind everyone of how proud I am to work in this district with a team that truly puts kids first. So much has changed for all of us and for our kids. For so long we threw around words like the "new normal" and "when we go back to normal" and the like. But, more and more I truly believe that we will never go back to the way it was. The reality is that society is different and we are in the industry of serving and preparing kids for that society. We can mourn that change (Remember, Change is Loss), or we can

adjust and grow. To a great extent that evolution was in progress before the pandemic. We decided to implement MTSS in response to a growing need for student support and RTI even before that. We have always adjusted and grown as student needs have changed. But, while so many districts are scrambling to implement structures for a student and parent population that has changed and evolved very rapidly, I am proud to say that we at least had built a foundation. Is it perfect? No. Are we on the right track? Yes, and that is thanks to all of you.

## Is anything happening with COVID Guidance?

There have been a lot of questions, a lot of misunderstandings, and some misinformation about COVID guidance and mandates. Yes, there have been some very minor changes in guidance over the semester, but nothing that really has affected our general plan and practices. The most notable ones have been to indoor sports and such which we have implemented. Just yesterday, the CDPH made some short-term, indoor mask wearing changes through January 15th. This does not impact us too much as schools as we have masks required indoors, but it does impact some athletics and other indoor events for the public.

The other is the requirement for unvaccinated staff to test weekly, which we have also implemented successfully and fairly seamlessly. Where the confusion is coming from is the "vaccine mandate" or at least the perception that there is a current vaccine mandate in place. Some parents, community members, and even staff have expressed concerns over such a mandate. The reason the district has chosen to not send anything out to parents, students, or staff regarding the proposed vaccine mandate is because there simply is not enough information to make a meaningful statement. There are so many variables in the proposed mandate and language in SB 277 which mandated ten vaccines back in 2015, that it will take legislatures and lawyers a very long time to sort through what will happen. As soon as more is known, we will share with all stakeholders. The general consensus among state leaders is that a mandate by July as proposed by the governor that would not include a fairly wide range of exemptions, is very unlikely.

## Staff Weekly COVID Testing Schedule Change

Beginning January 10, 2022, the COVID testing schedule for staff that is required to test weekly will change. The new schedule is as follows and an email will be sent with more details the final week of winter break.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	
1:30 - 4:00PM	1:30 - 4:00PM	9:00 - 9:30AM	1:30 - 4:00PM
Hanford High	Hanford West	Adult School	Sierra Pacific

## Extensions of Some Key District Supports

Although we have made tremendous progress in working through the pandemic, there are still some items that remain a challenge and that we need to continue to address. Several of the supports that we put in place, including extending COVID leave, higher sub pay rates, and extra pay along with PBC's for period subbing, are set to expire on December 31st. We believe it is prudent and in our staff and student's best interest, to extend these items as they have been up until this point, through April 8, 2022 which is just before the start of spring break.

1. Current COVID leave language as released on October 1, 2021 will remain in effect through April 8, 2022.
2. Substitute rate of pay for teacher subs will remain at current higher rate through April 8, 2022.
3. Personal Business Credit (PBC) plus \$40 will remain in effect through April 8, 2022.



The Annual Walking Challenge, held September 1 - October 31st was our most successful to date. This year we had 66 participants, 31 met the goal of 427,000 steps walked. Total steps walked by our group was 26.2 million! That is the equivalent to 4.4 trips across North America and equates to 1,176,826 calories burned and 336 pounds lost!


## Next Year's Freshmen Begin the Enrollment Process

Incoming HJUHS families are receiving the following message. We thought you should have these dates too.

HJUHS realizes that registering your incoming freshman is an exciting but intimidating time. We strive to make this important event as seamless as possible. Below is a timeline of important events and dates to be aware of when registering incoming freshmen for the 2022/23 school year. Please check out the Educational Services page on the HJUHS website for all information related to enrollment and registration.

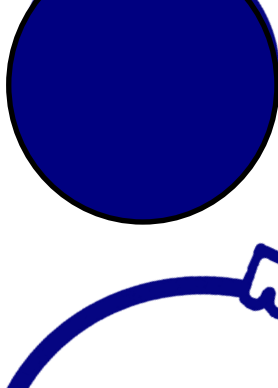
- January 2022 - Receive the 2022/23 course catalog from your student's feeder school; it is also available on the HJUHS website. The course catalog will include important curriculum information and details on the upcoming registration process.
- January 17, 2022 - Application window OPENS for the Business Finance Academy, Medical Academy, NJROTC program, and Intra-District transfer requests.
- January 28, 2022 - Application window CLOSES for the Business Finance Academy, Medical Academy, NJROTC program, and Intra-District transfer requests.
- February 4, 2022 - Receive notification on approval/denial of the application.
- February 7, 2022 - Online registration window opens, parent/students will be invited to join ParentSquare to fill out forms and course requests.
- February 18, 2022 - Registration window closes.
- TBD - Sierra Pacific High School Registration Night.
- TBD - Hanford High School Registration Night.
- TBD - Hanford West High School Registration Night.





I want to personally thank you all for your hard work and perseverance over these past nearly two years. It is because of all of you we have done well through crisis. For those of you who do have some extended time off, enjoy! For the many who will be working over winter break, thank you so much for your dedication to HJUHS and our students.

Victor Rosa



May you make the best memories with your friends and family this holiday season.

Julie Fagundes



Food Services would like to wish our staff a very happy holiday! We are thankful for the continuous hard work and helping hands that make our department great. Have a restful and joyous break!

Brooke Kenney



The Ed Services department couldn't be more thankful for the many efforts and tireless hours you've given to our team. Thank you for everything you've done to make this a successful semester. Reflecting on the year, it's clear to see how hard you've worked. Your drive and determination helped us to get where we are today, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Bobby Peters



Oh 2021, what a ride it's been! From distance learning to cohorts to opening up again, we have been through a lot together! If we learned anything this past year, it is that WE ARE STRONG! Resilience is a quality of any great school district, and HJUHS definitely has shown it. And the truth is, we would have never made it through without YOU! Thank you all for hanging in there when things got tough, thank you for having each other's back when positions needed to be filled, thank you for continuing to service our student's when resources were limited. We are grateful for each and every one of you! Let us embrace 2022 with full confidence, knowing that together, we can persevere. Again, THANK YOU and have a great holiday season!!

Ward Whaley



I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy holiday season with your family and friends! This has been another interesting and challenging year, but there are many things to celebrate. Enjoy your downtime!

Renee Creech



The HJUHS Technology Department wishes you all peace, goodwill, and happiness this holiday season and through the coming year.

Richard Braswell



A new year means a new chapter. I hope 2022 is an incredible part of your story! Here's to hoping that all the bad juju is over and we have a safe, loving, and lighter new year.

Janice Ede



May you make the best memories with your friends and family this holiday season.

Ben Stidman



I wish you and yours all the best this time of year has to offer. I hope you get some needed rest and relaxation. If you are like me, the holiday break means quality time with family, warm fires, good books, and plenty of reflection. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Scott Pickle



May your holidays be packed with an abundance of laughter, peace, fun, and may the year ahead be filled with good health.

Heather Keran



Wishing warmth and well wishes to all. Here's to a healthy and rejuvenating vacation with your loved ones. Make sure to self-care!!

Katy Culver



May your days be filled with laughter, lasting memories, and the warmth this time of year brings. Take time to express your love and appreciation for those who are dear to you. I hope you find time for rest and that your new year is filled with good health and joy!

Delbert Ray



As we wind down the semester and move into the holiday season, I want to thank all of you for the hard work with our students and community. I hope that this holiday season is filled with quality time with your family and friends, and a time to relax. Enjoy the time and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Darin Parson



May you find peace and much-needed rest during this Holiday season. Happy Holidays! Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Yolanda Bell