Superintendent's Message

Dear Livermore Community,

I am grateful to be able to start the month of November by giving thanks that our district schools continue to be safe, our staff members continue to demonstrate their dedication to our students and families, and our students themselves are showing and showcasing the results of their learning. Elementary fall teacher/parent conferences have concluded. Next week, our high school students will complete Trimester 1 by demonstrating their accomplishments as they take final exams. Students are also showing their substantial progress in both Language Arts and Mathematics as they complete online interim assessments, modeled after the Smarter Balanced Assessments that all students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take this spring.

These assessments provide us with real-time data that shows student progress. Daily, our teachers see evidence of student growth in many ways. We continue our work to develop mental wellness through ongoing training of both students and adults in Teen Mental Health First Aid. Our work with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and with social emotional learning combine to provide our students with the skills and resilience they need to be successful as learners and members of our community. Our LVJUSD Framework for Success, based on a Multi-Tiered System of Support, is designed and resourced to boost academic achievement, promote a positive school climate, and build social emotional competence.

Now more than ever, with the uncertainties we face in our world, education must encompass a broad range of skills (academic, technological, multi-linguistic, interpersonal, and critical thinking.) In our district, we are wholeheartedly committed to supporting the whole child. Thank you to our employees, families, partners, and community members for your ongoing support of our students as they learn and grow.

With Gratitude,

Kelly Bowers

Kelly Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Math Mindset
What about Facts?
Many people believe that speed demonstrates knowledge in mathematics. While it may help with rapid recall, the use of timed tests and drills has been found, in many cases, to have a detrimental effect on students’ overall attitudes towards math. Adults who believe they are not good in math often identify timed tests as an indicator of when they first felt they were not “math people.” Timed tests can also increase “math anxiety.” Parents can help students develop number sense and math facts by playing games, counting objects, and using estimation in everyday situations. Research indicates that students who are most successful in the long run are the students with strong number sense, not the rote memorizers. Read more about math fact fluency from Stanford’s Jo Boaler by clicking on the buttons below.

Learn Math Without Fear

Fluency Without Fear

Family Counting Nights
About 100 families participated in our three LVJUSD Family Counting Nights and great fun was had by all! Over 20 teachers and principals hosted the events. Families learned about activities to promote mathematical concepts for their Pre-K, TK and Kindergarten children at home and in our community including counting, measuring, sorting, making patterns, and learning about shapes. These events were held as part of our Early Learning Mathematics Initiative, funded by the Alameda County Office of Education.

Social Emotional Learning
The focus is clear on the face of this kindergarten student from Mrs. Palomo’s class at Junction K-8 school. The lesson on this day was the “brave breath.” Through the Choose Love social emotional learning curriculum, students are learning how to take a brave breath. A brave
breath helps to calm us down and regulate the natural fight or flight response we feel when we sense danger or experience stress. Oftentimes our bodies are sending us a false alarm and there isn't any danger. At those times, people may feel worried and anxious. When we learn to manage our stress response with a brave breath, we become more aware of ourselves and can build courage to face difficult situations with a sense of calm. When we are calm, we are better able to cope with challenges, express ourselves, and relate better to others.

Livermore High Teens Learn How to Help One Another in Crisis

Sophomores at Livermore High School are learning how to help their friends who may be facing a mental health challenge or crisis through participation in a pilot study for Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) training. More than half of Livermore High School sophomores completed their Teen Mental Health First Aid training on October 31, 2019. The remaining 10th graders will be trained in January 2020. To read more about the success of this training, see our October 31, 2019 press release.
Nurse's Station

Students perform better when they feel well. It’s hard to stay focused in the classroom when a tummy aches or itchiness invades a student’s body because of a food allergy or other health condition. While we agree it’s fun to celebrate birthdays or reward students with yummy treats, it can have unintended consequences. This school year we are encouraging non-food rewards and asking classrooms to limit parties to one per month. We understand there will be times when food is brought into the classroom and in these instances, we strongly recommend the use of only commercially prepared food items because the ingredients are listed on packaging.

If you’re stumped and need inspiration for non-food rewards, check out the links below from Action for Health Kids.

Healthy & Active Non-Food Rewards - English

Healthy & Active Non-Food Rewards - Spanish

What’s New on the LVJUSD Website

Care Solace is an online resource with a live 24x7 concierge line that assists individuals in finding local mental health related programs and counseling services. To use Care Solace, individuals answer ten basic questions in order to receive an extensive list of referrals to applicable care providers. Care Solace takes into account all types of private insurance including Medi-Cal, Medicaid, and Medicare and those that have no insurance. The system also filters by age, gender, zip code and special request.

Click the image below For more information.
Granada High School Hosts Elementary Special Olympics Soccer Games

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt" is the Special Olympics Oath that opened the October 3rd primary and the October 10th secondary soccer games of the 2019-20 Tri-Valley Special Olympics Northern California Schools Program. Student athletes representing the four Tri-Valley school districts of Castro Valley, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore accompanied officers from the Livermore Police Department as they led the parade with the Olympic torch. As the Granada High School (GHS) band played from the stands, athletes marched through a tunnel of support created by Mayor Marchand, City Council Member Munro, Livermore School Board Trustees, Superintendent Kelly Bowers, administrators, GHS cheerleaders and students, teachers and families.

Read full press release.

Staff Awards and Recognitions

Alameda County Office of Education hosted the 30th annual Alameda County Teacher of the Year Awards ceremony on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts. Congratulations to our very own Megan Clappin from Jackson Avenue Elementary.

Pictured below: Craig Bueno, Chris Wenzel, Megan Clappin, Shari Johnston, Emily Prusso, Dr. Kelly Bowers, Mike Biondi
Board Recognitions - 2019-2020

October 15, 2019 Meeting

LVJUSD Yard Duty & Campus Supervisors
The yard supervisors in our district were recognized for their commitment to supporting our students by helping to keep them safe while on our campuses.

Livermore High School Visual and Performing Arts Team
Carol Hovey, Justin Enright, Helen Gladden, Robert Carpenter are pictured here after they were recognized for their dedication to the students and LHS and for their commitment to building strong visual performing arts programs. (Not pictured Marion Borst, Zach Moser, Gabe Castro, Christopher Filice)

Livermore High School Students Perform
As an example of the work led by our VPA teachers, all in attendance at the Board meeting were treated to a mini-performance of Puffs, the LHS Fall Play, by students.
Spotlight On Our Schools

Joe Michell wins at Tri-Valley Pace for Peace

Congratulations to our talented Joe Michell students! They all entered art pieces in the Tri-Valley Haven Pace for Peace Art Contest 2019. Josh Yelavich was awarded first place, Teagan Bailiff won second place, and Annie Verbinski and Elysse Yepiz were awarded Honorable Mention. As the first place winner, Josh's artwork was printed on the Pace for Peace 2019 T-shirts; he received a $100 Target gift card and two free race-day shirts. The other winners also received a prize and award certificates. LVJUSD has extremely talented artists in our schools and we appreciate that they share the beauty of their work with our community.

First place artwork design by Josh Yelavich.

Reclassification Ceremony

The Livermore High School Premier Quartet greeted guests with classical music as they entered the gymnasium at Granada High School for the annual Reclassification Ceremony held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Families, principals, and District leaders celebrated 141 students who have achieved fluency in English, their second language. These students represent the many native languages in our district, including Arabic, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Marathi, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tamil.

Read full press release.
We rotate spotlighted schools so that each of our 19 schools will be featured throughout the year. Each month, we share a brief article about the schools that were recently recognized at a School Board meeting.

Attention to Attendance

It's important to provide students the opportunity to learn in class by scheduling time off during Thanksgiving Break days. Just a few extra days missed equals lost learning and may leave students feeling behind when they return to school. Read the graphic below for information on when the second trimester of this school year begins.
ATTENTION TO ATTENDANCE
A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Thanksgiving Break  🍁 November 25 - 29, 2019
Give students the opportunity to learn by scheduling time off during Thanksgiving Break days.
Just a few extra days missed equals lost learning and may leave students feeling behind when they return to school.

ATTENDANCE FACTS . . .

Trimester 2 begins on November 12, 2019. This is a change from last school year. Missing even one extra day before or after Thanksgiving Break can mean missing important learning for the new trimester.

Time with family is important, especially around the holidays. If a student must miss school days, please communicate with his/her teacher ahead of time to avoid falling behind or to make a plan for missed tests, quizzes or instruction.

ATTENDANCE ZONES . . .

SATISFACTORY ZONE
Students who miss 0 or fewer days are considered to be in the “Satisfactory Zone.”

WARNING ZONE
Students who miss between 10-17 days are considered to be in the “Warning Zone.”

CHRONIC ZONE
If your student is missing 18% or more about 10 days, this is considered the “Chronic Zone.”

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS THROUGH YOUR ATTENTION TO ATTENDANCE. - SCOTT VERONI, DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES

Contact your school for site-specific attendance information
Resources for attendance improvement from the California Department of Education

Save the Date!

- November 6: International Stress Awareness Day
- November 8: End of Trimester 1
- November 11: Veteran’s Day - No School
- November 12: Beginning of Trimester 2
- November 15: Art Contest for Science Odyssey Due Date
- November 16: International Survivors of Suicide Day
- November 22: National Family Health History Day
- November 25-29: Thanksgiving Break - No School

The 2019-20 District calendar is available to download on our website: 2019-20 LVJUSD Calendar.

To be notified of upcoming events, be sure to download the Livermore Schools app from the App Store or from Google Play. Follow your schools, and see all of the calendar dates through the app!

For site-specific information on events and celebrations, please visit school websites.
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world.

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