



SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sierra Unified School District Board of Trustees

Cortney Burke
President

Ben Kimbler
Vice President

James Hoak
Clerk

Ginger Cardoza
Member

Connie Schlaefer
Member

Wes Qualls
Member

Joe Denham
Member

To inspire,
engage,
challenge, and
support all
students to
reach their
highest level of
learning and
personal
development.

Dear Sierra Unified Families,

As we wind down the school year together, I want to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation for the dedicated staff members across Sierra Unified School District. Every day, I see educators, counselors, support staff, and leaders going above and beyond to serve our students and families. Their commitment to creating a safe, caring, and engaging learning environment is the heart of who we are as a district and the key to moving forward together.

Whether it's a teacher staying late to help a student master a concept, a custodian ensuring our schools are welcoming and clean, or a bus driver greeting each student with a smile, these everyday acts of service shape the experience our students carry with them far beyond their time in school.

As I reflect on the impact educators have, I think often of my high school English teacher, Mrs. Akins. She was more than a teacher—she was a mentor, a guide, and someone who truly saw each of us. She nurtured our love of reading and taught us the power of kindness. Her expectations were high, and I still remember the first time I received a poor grade on a writing assignment—something I had never experienced before. It was humbling, but Mrs. Akins didn't leave me there. She coached me through multiple rewrites, helping me find my voice and structure my thoughts. That experience laid the foundation for the writing skills I would carry with me through college and into my professional life.

Mrs. Akins believed in her students, and she held us to a standard because she knew what we were capable of. Her influence has stayed with me all these years—and I know many of us can tell similar stories about the educators who shaped us.

This is the kind of lasting impact our teachers and staff make every day.

To the staff of Sierra Unified: thank you. Thank you for showing up for our students. Thank you for your high expectations, your patience, and your unwavering belief in the potential of every child. You are truly making a difference—one student, one lesson, one day at a time.

Around the District

We are excited to offer families an alternative option to receive the required vaccinations at a more convenient location. The Fresno County Immunization Mobile Clinic will be on site at Foothill Elementary on May 27th and at Sierra Jr. & Sr. High on May 29th. To take advantage of this convenient service, parents will need to accompany their students. In addition, Sierra Jr. & Sr. High will also be hosting a FREE Sports Physical Clinic for prospective 2025-26 student athletes, which will be held on August 15th. Just a reminder that California does require some vaccinations for students to attend any school in California. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make sure your child may attend school on the first day. This includes 6th grade students moving to 7th in need of their TDAP.

Good News

Congratulations to Coach Young and our Girls Swim Team on an outstanding performance at the League Championships, where they earned a 2nd place overall finish! The team brought home 2 gold medals, 2 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals, along with an impressive 28 top-10 finishes across events. Highlights from the meet included a record-breaking swim by the Medley Relay team, who broke their own school record set earlier this season. Freshman Layne Gilbert set a new League record in the 500 freestyle. Even more remarkable, every swimmer on the team achieved a personal best, a true testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the season. To top it all off, this year's team had a record number of girls qualify for the Valley Sectional Championships. We're so proud of them and can't wait to see what they accomplish next!

Measure U Update

- Darden presented renderings of the library furniture for District approval.
- Demolition has begun in the library in preparation for abatement that will occur May 26 through June 6.
- Bid packets are being prepared for the paint and carpentry in the library.
- Project Submitted to DSA for review on parking path of travel improvements.
- Plans for the groundbreaking are in full swing.

As always, thank you for being part of the Sierra Unified family.

Warm regards,



Dr. Lori Grace
Superintendent, Sierra Unified School District