



Pittsburg Unified School District

Every Scholar, Every Day. They Deserve Nothing Less Than Our Best.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Matthew Belasco, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation

Phone: 925-473-2362

Email: mbelasco@pittsburgusd.net

Pittsburg Unified School District

2000 Railroad Ave, Pittsburg, CA

www.pittsburgusd.net

Pittsburg Unified School District Breaks Ground on \$1.5 Million CAL FIRE–Funded Green Schoolyard at Stoneman Elementary

Event Date & Time: Friday, September 5, 2:00 pm

Event Location: Stoneman Elementary School, 2929 Loveridge Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Pittsburg, CA— Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is proud to announce the groundbreaking of its new Green Schoolyard project at Stoneman Elementary School on Friday, September 5 at 2:00 pm. This transformative project is made possible through funding from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, supported by the Inflation Reduction Act and administered by CAL FIRE’s Urban and Community Forestry Program.

PUSD’s proposal was the only project in Northern California awarded in the most recent funding round, highlighting the district’s leadership in advancing sustainability and student well-being. The new construction will bring much-needed greening features to Stoneman Elementary, including tree planting, natural elements, and outdoor seating areas—providing students with daily access to nature during the school day.

“We are grateful for the CAL FIRE grant,” said Dr. Jeannine Megia, Principal of Stoneman Elementary. “This project will deepen learning at Stoneman by giving all our scholars enrichment opportunities beyond the traditional classroom walls and into the environment in welcoming, shaded, outdoor learning spaces.” Beyond enhancing the landscape, the

project will integrate an environmental curriculum for grades 2 through 5, developed and implemented by Sonoma Ecology Center, to complement Stoneman's science program. Students will engage in hands-on environmental education and stewardship, deepening their understanding of sustainability while building stronger connections to the natural world."

This initiative is part of a growing movement to transform traditional school grounds into vibrant, nature-rich spaces that reduce stress, improve focus, and foster social connection. By weaving green spaces into the fabric of everyday school life, Pittsburg Unified is helping to prepare its students for a future where resilience and environmental awareness are key.

Partners on this project include Sonoma Ecology Center, DC Architects, Gates & Associates Landscape Architects, and Valley Construction.

Join us on September 5 to celebrate this exciting milestone for PUSD, Stoneman Elementary, and the Pittsburg community.

