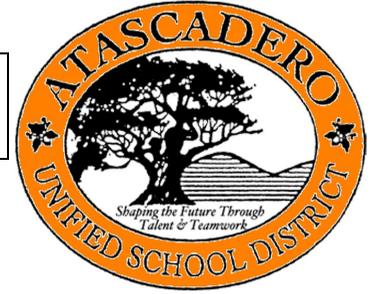


# ATASCADERO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



## STATE OF THE DISTRICT - Tom Butler, Superintendent

Recently, I provided the Board of Trustees with a State of the District Report. Based on the excellent work of all of our employees I can share that AUSD is experiencing great success across all aspects of our District. The Board of Trustees has set three areas for District Goals: Student Success, Staff Collaboration, and Community Partnership. These three areas support our ultimate goal of producing *the top students in the nation*.

### Student Success

The current information from Cuesta College speaks very highly of our last graduating class in 2015.

<u>Cuesta Indicator</u>	<u>AUSD Graduates</u>	<u>SLO County Graduates</u>
<i>Enrollment Rate</i>	46%	32%
<i>English – College Prepared</i>	70%	62%
<i>Math – College Prepared</i>	73%	61%

Wow, these are tremendous results! The entire school district and community can be proud of how well prepared our students are for life after high school. It's important to note that we also have approximately 30% of the class of 2015 attending four-year universities and I am certain they are excelling with academics and citizenship. I am also pleased to share that there is a significant effort underway to build and promote world class pathways for Career & Technical Education as well as the Fine Arts. This will result in our students truly graduating with a defined readiness for *College, Career, and Citizenship*.

The one-to-one student technology initiative is off to a stellar start at the Santa Rosa Academic Academy. Thanks to the staff, students, and parents at SRAA for leading and piloting this valuable work. Over approximately the next 18 months all of our elementary sites will have Chromebooks in place for the educational use of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Shortly after the successful elementary implementation will be the Middle School followed by the High School. Educational Services and the Technology Department have developed a thoughtful and intentionally staggered roll-out, under the premise that the devices support us in our goal to maximize student learning. I have been fully impressed by our staffs' willingness to embrace these devices in the learning equation.

### Staff Collaboration

I commend the Board of Trustees for their active recognition of our employees this school year. This is definitely one of my favorite aspects of our AUSD Board Meetings. It is fully recognized and greatly appreciated that every time we acknowledge an employee, student, or community member – it all traces back to a wonderful experience for our students. It means a lot to me that all of our employees put students first; it's the only way we can accomplish our goals.

The work that our Instructional Leadership Teams are engaged in around the *Framework for Teaching* is exactly what we should be focused on. The shared understanding of high quality instruction will allow our teaching staff to collaborate effectively. Personally, I love the fact that this is a shared effort between teachers and administrators; I am certain that this shoulder-to-shoulder model will bring out the best in all of us. Seeing our classified and certificated employees interact at the Aspiring Leaders Academy has been incredible. It's a fantastic group of people willing to invest time in learning about our organization and the complexities of education. The cupboard is full and the future is bright for leadership in AUSD.

### Community Partnership

Thanks to the support of our community and the I-10 and B-14 Bond Measures we have strong and visible momentum with facilities improvement. The Atascadero High School Master Plan is taking shape and will ultimately result in a campus layout that makes sense for staff and students. The final project will include a new Science building, a new CTE workshop building, a new (remodeled) Black Box Theatre, a new outside quad area, and the reconstruction of all classrooms. The Junior High, soon to be Middle School, is in the midst of eye catching construction. I commend the Junior High Staff for engaging in ongoing discussion about the academic programs that will be offered inside of the new facility. Santa Margarita is just beginning the reconstruction process and the Fine Arts Academy has been moved up to begin reconstruction this summer. Thanks to the entire staff and community for their positive attitudes through our construction projects. The inconvenience is well worth it as the final classrooms are wonderful environments for teaching and learning.

As you can see there is a lot to celebrate in AUSD. We are very, very, good and getting better all the time. It's a pleasure working with all of you. Thanks for the positive and lasting impact you have on our students.

**Go AUSD!**

### Elementary Update - Monterey Road - Julie Davis, Principal

We are excited to announce that Monterey Road Elementary, has been awarded Silver Recognition for the California Green Schools Award! Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate exemplary achievement in three “pillars.” Pillar I: reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and Pillar III: provide effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Monterey Road was one of only four elementary schools in California to be recognized for this award and the only school in San Luis Obispo County.

Monterey Road began this journey last June when they partnered with Cuesta Community College Sustainability Resource Center. Teachers attended professional development around the Next Generation Science Standards and designed sustainability units to be implemented throughout the 2015-2016 school year. In addition, Monterey Road partnered with *One Cool Earth*, a nonprofit organization, in an effort to increase recycling. In January, *One Cool Earth* conducted a Waste Audit with the students and staff at Monterey Road where a complete day's worth of waste was sorted and weighed. During the audit, students and staff learned how they could sort and recycle waste on campus daily. Upon completion of the audit, the students and staff made a commitment to increase recycling efforts and waste reduction. Soon a Green Team made up of student volunteers, was formed. The Green Team runs the compost stations at lunch where waste is either recycled or treated and transformed into compost to use in the school garden. In addition, the garden has been transformed to an outdoor classroom where students learn responsibility through planting and harvesting annual crops. Finally, the school's Garden Committee, which consists of students, staff, and parents, is participating in a Turf Replacement Project, where turf is being removed and replaced with native drought resistant plants. The vision of the School Board and the commitment of the community, through the Facilities Bond, has led to high performing classroom environments that are energy efficient and wonderful spaces for student learning.

Monterey Road Elementary School is very proud of this award and wants to thank everyone who has supported them with Sustainability Projects this year! It has been an amazing learning experience for the students and staff and the school looks forward to expanding this program in the years to come!

[Slideshow](#)



### Secondary Update - Atascadero Junior High School - Jessica Lloyd

We have exciting events taking place at Atascadero Junior High School! Open House will be held the evening of Wednesday, April 13th. An orientation for incoming 6th graders will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Baro Gym and an orientation for incoming 7th graders will begin at 5:30 p.m. Following the orientations the talented AJHS band and choir will perform at 6:00 p.m., also in the Baro Gym.

Classrooms will open at 6:30 p.m. It's sure to be an excellent evening that celebrates the hard work of the AJHS students and teachers!

AJHS is also well underway with another fantastic track season. Over 100 student athletes are participating from grades 6-8. Go Saints! Speaking of running - Be sure to join us for the second annual AJHS Splash of Color Fun Run! This event will be held on April 30th at 10:00 a.m. You can walk, run or dance through the course that will take you around a scenic 3.1 mile loop near Atascadero Junior High School. This is a positive, fun-filled family event with lots of great energy! All proceeds will benefit Atascadero Junior High Students. For more information and to sign-up, please visit: [Splash of Color Fun Run](#).

If you have not already done so, take a few minutes to drive by Atascadero Junior High School. We are building the dream! Steady progress is being made on the new building. We are excited to move the 7th and 8th grade core classes into this building, along with the administrative offices and library/tech room during the

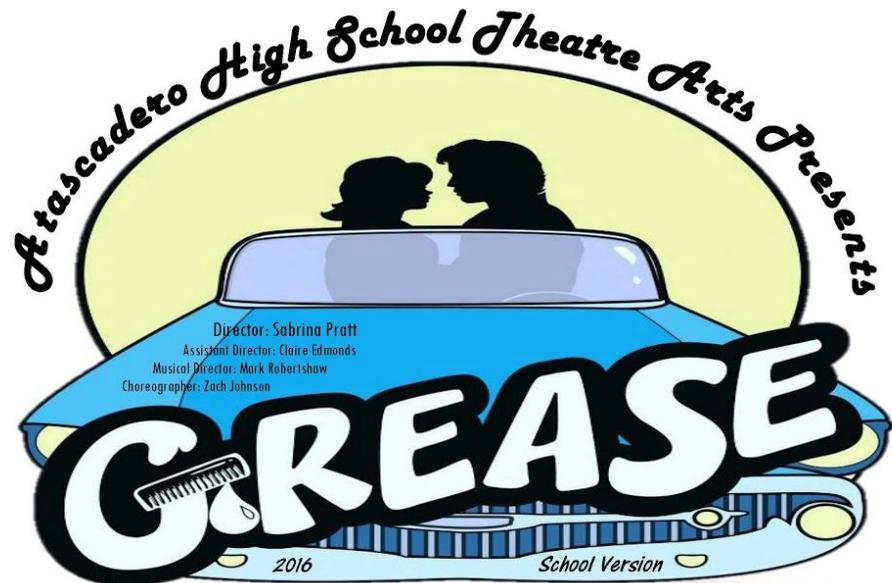
2016-2017 school year. We will not only have a state of the art building, but the staff and students on the AJHS campus are committed to the AUSD core values.

Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence will continue to be modeled within these walls as we prepare our students for college and career.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all 6th grade classes from Carissa Plains, Creston, San Benito, San Gabriel, and Santa Margarita in August 2017. The AJHS campus will be fully modernized and ready to accommodate the additional students and teachers. This will be a time of celebration as we transition to a middle school and provide exemplary programs for grades 6-8.

The students, families and staff have a lot to be proud of and a lot to look forward to on the Atascadero Junior High School campus.





A very special outdoor performance in the iconic Atascadero High School Courtyard

April 15...5pm  
 April 16...1pm & 5pm  
 April 22...5pm  
 April 23...1pm

Dinner and Treats available at the Show!  
 Rainy Day Location: AHS Gym



Check us out  
**f** AHS Drama Boosters  
 for more information!



General Admission \$20  
 Students/Faculty \$15  
 All Tickets include FREE Popcorn!  
 brownpapertickets.com  
 atascaderodramaboosters@gmail.com  
 805.466.7110

GREASE: SCHOOL VERSION  
 Book, Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey  
 "Grease: School Version" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC

**ATASCADERO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**"GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME!"**



# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



Directed by  
 Donna Kehl

**April 22, 23 & 29, 2016**  
 Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 2 PM  
 Atascadero Junior High School Baro Stage  
 General Admission \$7.00, Children Age 5 & Under \$4.00

Book by  
 David Simpatico

Based on a Disney Channel Original  
 Movie Written by  
 Peter Barsocchini

Music Adapted, Arranged and  
 Produced by  
 Bryan Louiselle

Songs by  
 Matthew Gerrard & Robbie Nevil, Ray Cham, Greg Cham & Andrew Seeley, Randy Petersen & Kevin Quinn,  
 Andy Dodd & Adam Watts, Bryan Louiselle, David N. Lawrence & Faye Greenberg, Jamie Houston