

ChalkTalk

SUMMER 2025

Celebrating Our Present, Honoring Our Past

The current *Chalk Talk* edition celebrates the outstanding achievements of our schools. North, South, and West Elementaries received the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. This honor reflects the thoughtful, innovative, and inclusive work happening across our campuses each day, as well as our shared commitment to students' academic success and well-being. The recognition brings immense pride to our district, as all three elementary schools were honored for their exceptional dedication to educational excellence.



Congratulations to Principals Heather Mata (West), Heidi Beames (North) and Lina Butte (South) - 2025 California Distinguished Schools recipients!



Another highlight of the season was the Crocker Time Capsule reveal. The event brought back fond memories as members of the Class of 2000 returned to share recollections and help identify the capsule's contents, sealed for twenty-five years. Let's just say the elements weren't particularly kind to the contents, though surprisingly, the VHS tape held up better than expected!



Class of 2000 Time Capsule Opening

The guest list reflected the deep pride and care for the Crocker community, spanning former and current students, educators, Town Council members, Trustees, and Superintendents. But at its heart, the event was about the Class of 2000 passing the torch to the Class of 2025.

In a beautiful nod to legacy, today's Crocker students watched with great interest and curiosity as the time capsule contents were revealed (or at least described) by the 2025 and 2000 Crocker Student Body Presidents. The audience erupted in laughter and cheers as songs from the Class of 2000's playlist played, much to the delight (and slight embarrassment) of the alumni. The video recording of this event is available to watch on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwfQIPfh4dc>

Our HCSD educators deserve our deepest appreciation for creating such meaningful and unforgettable experiences. These moments reflect the enduring bonds within our community and our shared commitment to supporting students in achieving academic excellence. Stay tuned for more updates and celebrations in the next edition of *Chalk Talk*!

Warmly,
Ana & Kim

Ana de Arce, HCSD Superintendent | Kim Oliff, School Board President



ChalkTalk Highlights

Measure H: Investing in Our Schools and Community

In 2022, our community passed a local school improvement bond measure—Measure H—on the June ballot. This measure passed with 61% voter approval, providing up to \$140 million for essential upgrades and repairs to our schools that meet academic standards and remain safe for learning.


Measure H Projects on the Horizon

HCSD has successfully completed several key projects utilizing Measure H funding. Completed projects include roofing and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) upgrades at North and West Schools, Smart Boards in every classroom across the District, marquee signs on all campuses, lighting upgrades at South School, and upgraded science classrooms at Crocker Middle School featuring new height-adjustable furniture designed for science experiments.

West School: New Multipurpose Room Groundbreaking in June 2025

We are thrilled to break ground on a new state-of-the-art multipurpose room (MPR) designed to serve as a dynamic space for school events and activities. This new space will feature a sports court for basketball and volleyball, a large stage for student performances, storm drainage upgrades, and an optimized kitchen layout. Additionally, West School will have long-awaited infrastructure projects completed this summer, including upgrades to both water and sewer lines.

Construction of the new MPR is expected to take between 12 and 15 months, beginning with site work in June 2025. Construction will occur five days a week, with potential weekend work if needed to stay on schedule. Expect increased traffic and typical construction noise around Barbara Way. We are committed to minimizing disruptions and will follow stringent environmental guidelines to mitigate dust and noise.



For detailed updates, please visit our website at: www.hcsdk8.org/Page/432
If you are interested in receiving regular project updates and would like to be added to our West School Communication Distribution List, please call the HCSD District Office at 650-342-5193 or use the QR Code to access a form to complete online.

SCAN HERE



Artist's Rendering: Designs are subject to change as the process progresses

Security Updates: Cameras and Access

Security upgrades are also in the spotlight. Security cameras have been installed at the District Office and are beginning to be installed at each of the school sites. Once operational, notices will be posted on all campuses to inform students, staff, families, and the community that security cameras are in use 24 hours a day. The cameras are being installed in common areas such as entrances, parking lots, hallways, and other public spaces. The primary purpose of these security measures is to enhance the overall safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors by deterring potential security threats and providing an additional layer of protection. Along with the security cameras, the District has added an additional feature to the camera systems that grants First Responders access to our camera system when an emergency has been activated. In case of an emergency, the Hillsborough Police Department and First Responders will have access to detailed maps showing where to find shut-off valves for gas, water, electricity, and communication between law enforcement and site staff.

HVAC Upgrades at South School and Crocker Middle School

Beginning in June 2025, this long-awaited project will bring air conditioning to all learning spaces on both campuses. These plans include using energy-efficient heat pumps for approximately 20-30% of the new HVAC units across all District sites. This initiative balances energy efficiency with our current electrical infrastructure, positioning the District as a leader in sustainable solutions.

Crocker Middle School: Pause on Three Projects

Crocker Middle School was slated to begin construction in June 2025 on a new multipurpose room, an administrative building, and a front-of-school parking area. These projects were estimated to cost approximately \$26 million, however, the unexpected global supply chain disruptions and tariffs have added significant and unanticipated costs to the project. The HCSD Facilities Team is now having to reconsider all cost-saving factors before we begin construction. We will spend the coming months re-evaluating the project for cost-effective savings. The goal is now to begin these much-needed projects in June 2026.

Crocker Middle School: New Culinary and Makerspace Classrooms Moving Forward!

We are pleased to announce that both the Crocker Culinary and Makerspace Programs will find new homes this coming school year. Both programs will be relocated to different campus locations over the course of the 2025-26 school year in preparation for the demolition of the current multipurpose building in June 2026. The current lecture hall will be transformed into a Makerspace, offering students an inspiring environment for hands-on creativity. Simultaneously, the Culinary Arts Program will be relocated to a redesigned space in the staff workroom, developed in collaboration with Crocker staff and WRNS Studio. These projects exemplify HCSD's commitment to fostering dynamic elective opportunities for students.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)

When a Proposition 39 General Obligation Bond is passed by voters, such as Measure H, state law requires the school district to appoint an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure the funds are spent appropriately. The Citizens' Oversight Committee is tasked with:

- Keeping the public informed about how the bond funds are spent.
- Reviewing the district's expenditure reports to ensure the funds are used only for the intended purposes.
- Providing an annual written report to the Board, sharing their findings and activities related to bond spending.

If you are interested in joining the CBOC, please contact Antionette Henson at 650-548-4209. Additional information can be found at www.hcsdk8.org/domain/33

New Alumni Organizations for HCSD

The Hillsborough Schools Foundation and Associated Parents Group are excited to introduce two new alumni groups designed to keep our community connected well beyond graduation.



PATHS (Parents of Alumni of The Hillsborough Schools)

PATHS helps alumni parents stay engaged through events and important District updates—celebrating the lasting bonds built during their time in the Hillsborough schools. To join PATHS, visit HSF.org and click on *Community*.



Crocker Alumni Organization (Launching This Fall)

This new group will welcome graduating 8th graders—and all Crocker alumni—into our broader alumni community, helping them stay connected to the friendships and memories that made their time at Crocker so meaningful.

We look forward to building these new traditions together!



Board of Trustees

Kim Oliff, *President* | Don Geddis, *Vice President*
Gregory Dannis, *Clerk* | An Huang Chen, *Member*
Gilbert Wai, *Member*

District Leadership

Ana de Arce, *Superintendent* | Leilani Bell, *Director of Human Resources* | Mathew Lindner, *Director of Educational Services* | Bhavna Narula, *Director of Student Services*
Joyce Shen, *Chief Business Officer* | Maureen Sullivan, *Director of Technology* | Alex Friex, *IT Manager*



Calendar Highlights

June 13	Last Day of School
June 14	Construction begins at Crocker, South, and West
June 17	Board Meeting • 9:00 AM • District Office
August 20	Board Meeting • 6:00 PM • North Library
September 2	First Day of School



Stay Connected:

 @HillsboroughSchools  @HCSD_K8

www.hcsdk8.org • (650) 342-5193