



WINTER 2023



THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Sharing Our Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Here in the Sunnyvale School District it's always a season of gratitude. Every day we are grateful for your support and trust, which allow us to foster learning success for our community's children.

This issue of The District Bridge focuses specifically on your support of our Facilities Master Plan, the comprehensive roadmap that guides us in creating the best educational environment for our students. Our Facilities Master Plan will be a cornerstone of our new Strategic Plan, which integrates all our work to provide an exemplary education for every child.

Thank you to the student families and community members who helped develop our Facilities Master Plan, all of you who help fund it, the committee of local residents and educational partners who oversee its expenditures, and the families and neighbors who patiently tolerate ongoing construction!

In accordance with our plan, we designed our new and renovated learning spaces based on best practices for teaching and learning. And of course, we incorporated extensive input from our teachers, staff, and students, our front-line experts on the campus experience.

Our Facilities Master Plan is designed to guide our efforts until 2032, so we intentionally made it flexible to allow us to make changes as the District evolves.

In this issue we share snapshots of the wonderful progress we have made to date. We invite you to take a walk with us through the nurturing environments you helped to build, and to look at them through our students' eyes.

With deepest appreciation for your ongoing support,



Michael Gallagher, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District



OUR SCHOOLS

Bishop Elementary
Cherry Chase Elementary
Cumberland Elementary
Ellis Elementary
Fairwood Explorer
Lakewood Tech EQ
San Miguel Elementary
Vargas Elementary
Columbia Middle
Sunnyvale Middle

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Isabel Jubes-Flamerich
Eileen Le
Michelle Maginot
Nancy Newkirk
Bridget Watson

Thank you for classrooms where we can all learn.

Our new classrooms were intentionally created to spark our best learning. With our centrally located smart TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems, and spaces designed with visual and audio flow in mind, it is easier for all of us to see and hear what our teachers are sharing. In addition, we now have flexible seating that can be easily reconfigured for groups, pairs or independent learning, as well as chairs that let us stretch or wiggle, change direction or stand up, or relax with a book!

Our new two-story buildings have elevators, so everyone can reach classes held on the second floor. These features make learning easier for all our needs and learning styles.

My new classroom is better because now there are roly chairs.

Micah, third grade





Thank you for helping our teachers do their best teaching!

Now we have special furniture like “peanut tables” that have built-in whiteboards, so our teachers can sit in the middle of the peanut and easily help all of us with our work. The new furniture means we can sit in small groups, work in pairs, use the peanut tables, or switch around to different stations, depending on the lesson. We get to do more collaboration, which will be helpful when we go to high school and beyond!

Since our audio-visual systems and Internet connection are better, our teachers have more useful tools to use in our lessons. The nicer, better-equipped staff lounges also help our teachers do their best work; just as running around on the playground with friends at recess gives us more energy for learning, being able to go to the staff room to recharge and build community is important for our teachers.

Now we have all this space that people can learn in, and it's easier to move around.

Adalie, fifth grade



Thank you for tools and structures we need to learn.

Since we upgraded our technology infrastructure our Internet is more reliable and we can look up information and use learning apps and tools whenever we need to. Also now that our school-wide sound system has been improved, morning announcements are loud and clear and assemblies are better!

Our new libraries have more books and resources and are good for relaxing or when we just need some quiet time. And our renovated multi-purpose rooms have lots of room for us to eat lunch, watch performances, or have all-school activities. They also have better kitchens where they can now make more food from scratch.

I like how there's a library with tons of interesting books.

Ben, fifth grade



Thank you for helping us stay safe and healthy!

Our new and updated playgrounds have play structures sized right for younger kids, and fun games like tetherball for the older ones! The ground in the play areas is soft and bouncy, and we have trees and room to run around and get fresh air.

Inside, we have calming corners and quiet spaces tucked into classrooms. That's where we go when we need to slow down, where we can take the break we need to get back to learning without disrupting other kids. We also have updated HVAC systems that keep our classrooms at just the right temperature so we can focus on learning.

Our closed campuses have water filling stations so it's easy to drink lots of water, and new restrooms that are clean and bright. Our new kitchens are better equipped to serve nutritious, delicious meals. These are just some of the features at school that help keep us safe and healthy!

**The drinking fountains here...
they're like the best water.**

Eric, fifth grade



Thank you for helping us take care of ourselves and the Earth!

Our schools are designed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind, with electric vehicle chargers, solar power, and special landscaping called bioswales that reduce stormwater runoff. We also have electric school buses, and electric cars that District staff use. They all charge up at the electric vehicle charging station at the District Office.

We love our beautiful new campuses. The new classrooms, libraries, multi-purpose rooms, and labs are great places to learn, and seeing fresh paint, new buildings, and nice landscaping makes us happy and proud and shows us the community cares about us!

My favorite thing on the playground is the slide. You can see the whole world over there.

Oliver, kindergarten



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www.sesd.org



SCAN THIS CODE
to watch our short
thank-you video!

Without you, none of
this would be possible.

Brandt Burns,
Director of Facilities and Operations

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