



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #28 2024-25 School Year – Week of March 10, 2025
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. I am teaching my students about being good stewards of the Earth. What activities is the District doing for Earth Day?

We are excited to share that our district is actively promoting Earth Day through a collaborative effort with community and higher education partners. Our upcoming Earth Day Celebration will be a vibrant street fair-style event near Stockton Alternative High School on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 12:00-5:00pm. This event will feature food vendors, free activities, and games, all geared towards fostering environmental stewardship. Attached is a flyer with more details:



2. How do parents receive more information on AP courses for their children?

SUSD is dedicated to providing a world-class education that prepares students for success in college, careers, and beyond. As part of this commitment, the district offers rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs designed to challenge students academically, enhance critical thinking skills, and promote global awareness. AP courses are currently available at three specialty high schools and three comprehensive high schools, while IB courses are offered through a comprehensive program at Franklin High School.

To ensure all students have access to these advanced learning opportunities, SUSD employs a strategic, multi-faceted approach to promotion and enrollment.

The district actively promotes AP and IB programs through:

- **Specialty Schools Fair** – A districtwide event that highlights advanced academic programs to students and families.
- **Pre-Registration Course Selection** – AP and IB course options are included on pre-registration materials sent home for student course selection.
- **Counselor-Led Guidance** – Counselors promote AP and IB pathways during course registration and Individual Graduation Plan meetings.
- **Recruitment Efforts** – Presentations at all K-8 schools as part of the transition process for eighth-grade students.
- **High School Parent Nights** – Informational events at each comprehensive high school to educate families about advanced course offerings.
- **Teacher Advocacy** – AP and IB teachers actively encourage student participation and engagement.
- **Curricular Expansion** – Beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year, required Pre-AP and IB (Middle Years Program) courses will be introduced at the ninth- and tenth-grade levels to expand access.
- **AVID Integration** – At designated sites, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program supports students in meeting the rigor of AP and IB coursework.

To further expand student participation and awareness of AP and IB opportunities, SUSD is exploring additional strategies, including:

- **Parent-Student AP and IB Information Nights** – School-hosted sessions to provide families with comprehensive program details.
- **Enhanced Communication Strategies** – Informational materials sent to all parents as part of the annual registration mailer.
- **District-Wide Representation** – Increased presence of AP and IB programs at district-sponsored meetings and community events.
- **On-Campus Student and Counselor Presentations** – Peer and counselor-led presentations to promote AP and IB pathways.

The expansion and promotion of AP and IB programs directly align with SUSD's core value of providing a world-class education. By ensuring access to advanced coursework, SUSD is equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and global perspectives needed to excel in higher education and beyond. These programs empower students to achieve academic excellence, develop a passion for lifelong learning, and compete on an international level. Through these strategic efforts, SUSD reaffirms its dedication to preparing every student for success in an increasingly competitive and interconnected world.

- 3. I saw that Stagg High's pool finally has water again. When will students be able to use it again? When was the last time that pool was operatable?**

The newly renovated pool at Stagg High School is set to reopen on or before Monday, April 14, 2025. The pool has been out of operation since November 5, 2022, due to significant damage caused by a 2-inch lateral irrigation line that separated from the 6-inch mainline, flooding the pool with muddy water. This incident not only compromised the filtration system but also stained the plaster. At the time, draining the pool was necessary to assess the damage, but the drying process led to further deterioration, causing the plaster to crack and requiring a full replacement. After extensive renovations, totaling \$1.6 million, the pool is finally restored and will soon be available for student use.

- 4. Hello, Can the labor relations page be updated please? Thank you!**

The Labor Relations page has been updated and is now available for employees to view: <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/17855>. To ensure the highest level of transparency, we have organized the information by bargaining unit for easy access.

- 5. Are the CPI training during spring break paid? It doesn't state on the flyer. Thank you for your time.**

Thank you for your inquiry regarding CPI training during spring break. Participants will be compensated for the two days of training as long as these days are considered extra workdays and not part of their regularly scheduled workdays. If you have any further questions or need additional clarification, please reach out to your site administrator or department supervisor. We appreciate your commitment to professional development.

- 6. I was just wondering, and a few of my colleagues were also wondering. The Panorama Survey that was really pushed on us to fill out as a site, will they really be looked at and taken into consideration, regarding the cultural and climate at our site as far as Leadership goes. I apologize for sounding so pessimistic, but a lot of the time we are asked to fill these survey's out and nothing is done regarding the frustrations that are felt. It makes us fill as staff, that these surveys are just to save face and they are all for not. It's just very disheartening, so if you can answer this question that would be great, and if there is something that does not sound right at sites, that you as our upper leadership will do the right thing and really talk and meet with staff at those sites to hear their concerns. I know that is something that needs to be looked at my site. Thank you for your time!**

The Panorama Survey results are not just collected but actively used to guide improvements at both the site and District levels. The insights we gain from the survey directly inform our decisions, including adjustments to professional development, the expansion of social-emotional supports for both students and staff, and enhancements to

campus safety. Additionally, by comparing this year's responses to last year's baseline data, we can better assess where we are making progress and where further attention is needed. I encourage all staff to participate in the survey so that we can gain an accurate understanding of the experiences at each site. If there are specific concerns at a school site, I welcome the opportunity for further conversation to ensure that voices are heard, and meaningful change is pursued.

7. What can we do for our English Learners who are not making progress during the summer? They need additional time to learn what they are missing.

We recognize the importance of providing additional support for our English Learners who need more time to develop their language skills. To address this, we are hosting a K-8 English Learner Summer Learning Academy (EL SLA) from June 2-27 at Huerta Elementary. This program is specifically designed to support newcomer students and long-term English learners (LTELs) by focusing on targeted language development and academic support. The program will be from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM. However, students can stay until 5:00 PM for ELOP enrichment sessions, providing a full-day learning experience. By offering structured language instruction in the morning and engaging enrichment activities in the afternoon, we aim to accelerate English language acquisition and ensure students build the skills they need for success.

8. Will students be receiving the book bag from ELOP the same as they did last year? What will they receive?

K-8 students participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) will once again receive a take-home book pack, designed to foster a love of reading and support literacy at home. Each pack includes 10 engaging fiction and nonfiction books, along with a think sheet for every title to encourage deeper comprehension. To further enrich the experience, students will also receive a summer reading journal filled with writing prompts, as well as a set of colored pencils to spark creativity and imagination. Our goal is to strengthen family engagement and help build home libraries, ensuring that reading becomes a meaningful part of students' daily lives.

9. I've heard that Stockton Unified School District is moving to online registration with Synergy and the ParentVue app for returning students. Can you please provide more information on this?

We are transitioning to online registration for returning students through the ParentVue application. This platform allows parents to complete online registration, access their child's grades (for grades 7-12), update health and school information, view attendance records, report cards (grades 7-12), class schedules, course history, discipline records, state assessment results, and the parent handbook.

To get started, parents must first create a ParentVue account and then download the ParentVue app on their phone. The app is available for both Android and Apple devices, and a web version is also accessible.

Below is a flyer with a QR code linking to the website, which provides detailed instructions on activating an account.



10. Could a QR code be added to the ParentVue Activation Key on Synergy? This would make it easier for parents to access the web address from the printed form. We appreciate your feedback on improving our processes. The flyer above includes a QR code that directs parents to a landing page where they can access the account activation page. Once they create an account, they should receive an activation code. If you have any difficulties or suggestions for further improvement, please let us know.