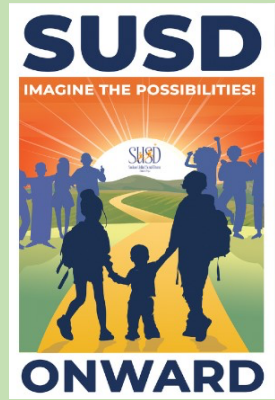




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #3 2024-25 School Year – Week of August 19, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. I saw the Stagg FFA Floricultural class on Good Day Sacramento on Wednesday. I want to order their flowers. How do I do that?

We take great pride in the exceptional floricultural department at Stagg High School. Through the support of dedicated teachers, supportive staff and committed students, the floricultural department has a monthly subscription. You can pre-order them by Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at the following [link](#).

Stagg FFA Floral Subscription



Do you love flowers? Is there someone in your life who would love to receive a beautiful, hand-designed arrangement? Stagg FFA is bringing back our floral subscription and arrangement fundraiser for the 2024-2025 school year! Each arrangement is created by students enrolled in floriculture courses at Stagg High School. This membership guarantees a beautiful floral creation each month, and each subscription and arrangement sold provides another opportunity for a student to practice their design skills, and helps prepare them for careers in the floral industry.

This fundraiser is pre-order only. Don't miss out!

Check Out the Arrangements Available for the 2024-2025 School Year:

September Delivery 9/26/24 	October Delivery 10/24/24 	November Delivery 11/14/24 	December Delivery 12/11/24 
February Delivery 2/13/25 	March Delivery 3/6/25 	April Delivery 4/17/25 	May Delivery 5/8/25 

Flowers in each arrangement are subject to change based on availability (for example: If orange carnations aren't available, we may substitute with yellow carnations). Feel free to contact Mr. Arcosa at darcoo@stocktonusd.net with any questions

2. Last year, you did town halls. Are you going to continue with them this year?

We remain dedicated to fostering open dialogue and encouraging ongoing feedback as we work to improve systems and policies for the benefit of our students, staff, families, and community. We invite you to join us at our upcoming town halls, scheduled from 5:15 to 6:30 PM, to discuss important topics that impact our district:

- **African American/Black Student Achievement and Success:** Monday, September 9, 2024, at Primary Years Academy Cafeteria
- **School Safety:** Thursday, September 26, 2024, at Chavez High School Theater

- **English Learner Achievement and Success:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at Hong Kingston Elementary
- **Special Education Achievement and Success:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at Walton Special Center

3. How are we supposed to access our time when it does not show up on the new portal nor does it show up on frontline? What happens if we need to take time, but our new time is not accessible? Will we end up getting doc?

Leave balances have been granted for the 24-25 school year for all employees in ESCAPE, even though they are not visible yet in the new employee portal. Leave balances from 23-24 from Business+ are still available in our [old employee portal](#). Old balances will be uploaded to the new employee portal by the end of the month. There, you can see your balance and usage up to June 30th, 2024. If you are concerned about your balance and need detailed information, please contact Leticia Burrise, HR Operations Manager at lburrise@stocktonusd.net.

4. When will be able to track our leave on the new Frontline site?

They should be available to all employees by the end of the week.

5. I am an 821 employee and I was wondering when will our salary schedule (steps) be updated?

Salary schedules have been approved by the board and posted on our [website](#). All units, except NUHW, received their new negotiated rates on their July 31 paycheck.

6. Hello, The CSEA union provided an AA or BA degree tuition-free program. Unfortunately, the program was removed a few years back. Since we work in education, I would think that SUSD would provide tuition reimbursement to classified staff members so that we may further our careers. Are there any programs for classified employees or programs for the future?

The district values its employees and believes in the benefits of higher education. Currently, there is no tuition reimbursement program in place. We will continue to collaborate with our union partners, grant writers, and other agencies to explore options for our employees.

7. I have received several emails to fill out the online Parent Handbook. Why do you keep sending notices to me?

We are sending reminders to families who have not yet completed the online Parent Handbook. Completing the Annual Parent Handbook is essential because it ensures we have up-to-date emergency information, can effectively communicate important updates, and can accurately identify the needs of our students, such as eligibility for free or reduced lunch. This information is crucial for us to secure the appropriate funding allocations from the State and Federal government, directly benefiting our students and

community. Your prompt response helps us provide the best possible support for your child. Here are the links if you have not completed the Annual Parent Handbook:

- [Parent Handbook Elementary English](#)
- [Parent Handbook Elementary Spanish](#)
- [Parent handbook Secondary English](#)
- [Parent Handbook Secondary Spanish](#)

8. Do I have to fill out all of the online forms in the Parent Handbook?

No. Not all forms are required; however, we highly encourage you to fill out and submit all forms with the information requested. The required fields are highlighted in red.

9. Does Stockton Unified still provide the "GATE" program for students identified as "gifted & talented?" If so, what is the application process and which schools provide it? Thank you!

SUSD offers a range of opportunities tailored to our gifted and talented students across different grade levels. At the high school level, SUSD provides Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) at all high schools, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Franklin High School. Our Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings align rigorous coursework with students' passions, interests and talents. For K-8 students, we offer academic clubs and electives such as Project Lead the Way and the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Schools Program. Primary Years Academy serves as our primary and middle years program for the International Baccalaureate. Across all levels, we enhance learning through Expanded Learning Opportunities and foster leadership via the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) program. I encourage parents to reach out to their site administrator to discuss the unique opportunities at each individual site. As a District, we are developing a GATE cluster program model for future years for the K-8 sites to meet the unique needs of our exceptional students.

10. Has there been any discussions of installing EV chargers at schools? Many people are purchasing EVs and California is encouraging the transition to EVs. It would be nice if we could charge at school during the day and with most schools having solar and State and Federal grants, I would think it would be a very low cost or no cost to the district to provide these chargers.

Stockton Unified is actively pursuing the installation of charging stations at each school site and building. Our first priority is to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support the required number of chargers for district and staff vehicles. This foundational step is crucial as it involves ensuring adequate power and software support for the charging stations.

This process requires careful planning and implementation, which will unfold over the next couple of years. Currently, we are exploring various grant opportunities to help fund this initiative while ensuring we own the equipment so that SUSD receives the full

benefits of the projects. Subsequently, a comprehensive policy will be developed to ensure adherence to best practices.

Advancing towards our goal of achieving net-zero emissions, reducing our carbon footprint is a top priority. Throughout this process, we will provide regular updates on our progress through the Energy Education Office webpage at [Stockton Unified Energy Education Office](#).