

Dear San Diego Parents and Community,

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year!! It brings me great pleasure to summarize a few of the San Diego ISD first semester milestones. With our nation undergoing so much change at the federal level and at a time that our country seems to be at an all-time tumultuous peak, it is a perfect time to reflect on what is always our saving grace, our children.

Yes the future for San Diego ISD and its' student's looks to be very bright and our first semester proves it:

- After 2 ½ years of construction our new Bernarda Jaime Jr. High is in full operation and the students are loving it!
- Our Lady Vaqueros Volleyball team made the playoffs for the first time since 1999!
- Our High School Band received straight 1's
- We had multiple boys and girls reach the regional cross country meet!
- Destination Imagination (D.I.) program is now in its 5th year and has now expanded to the high school level so all 3 campuses will be representing SDISD for the first time.
- The Botqueros got 2nd place out of 12 teams in a Robotics regional meet!
- Basketball season is underway and both girls and boys teams look to be very strong, more great news to come I'm sure.....

At the district level:

- All three campuses and the district have met state academic standards with the BJJH receiving 4 academic distinctions!
- First grade teacher Mrs. Dolly Toews was recognized as the Region 2 teacher of the year!!
- The district received a Financial First Rating of Superior in the fall of 2016.
- Our San Diego Early College has grown from 50 to over 100 students for the 16-17 school year. Not only will we have seniors finishing up associate's degrees before they graduate. This year we are going to have a handful of juniors with associates degrees before their senior year! Truly amazing!!
- The San Diego ISD Nature and Fitness Trail is open to the community and getting lots of use.
- Safe Routes to Schools side-walk project will begin this Spring.
- Collins Parr Elementary has recently been awarded the TTIPS Cycle 5 2016-2020 grant. **Over 5 Million dollars!** Yes this award is tremendous and it's going to help us reshape our Pre-K and Early Childhood education for years to come at SDISD.
- We have signed an MOU with Delmar for Early College High School and we are working on one with TAMUK for the 17-18 school year.
- We recently received a grant, "Engineer Your World", from the University of Texas to start a High School Engineering program at the San Diego High School for 2017-2018.

It is a very exciting time. There is an authentic movement in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at the San Diego High School that is blending in well with our ECHS. In a time that college expense is going through the roof our school district has found a way to create a college-going atmosphere for our children that leaves me in awe every time I think about it. The opportunity that we are providing with our dual credit and ECHS partnerships is tremendous. To think that our students, if they apply themselves, can graduate with an associate's degree and begin at a four-year university as a junior and be done in two years. It makes me want to start college all over again! Just think about it. That is two years of rent, utilities, car payment, fuel, plus tuition and books that the school district is saving our students and parents! I beg of you, if your son or daughter is not taking full advantage of dual credit or ECHS, please schedule a meeting with our H.S. Administration early in 2017!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Dr. Samuel Bueno

San Diego I.S.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Vaqueros Dream Big, Work Hard and Live Right!