

December, 2013



San Dieguito Union High School District Superintendent Rick Schmitt's Monthly Update

Superintendent Schmitt plans to update the greater San Dieguito Union High School District community through our local media with a monthly update. Topics covered will include curriculum, facilities, budget, safety, and other specific and special interest topics. Today's update focuses on the High School Selection Process.

The San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD) serves students in grades 7-12 from the communities of South Carlsbad, Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe, Cardiff, Solana Beach, Del Mar. Families from all over the world are attracted to SDUHSD for its stellar reputation, built upon years of educational excellence and high achievement. Our mission is to develop a community of lifelong learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals, by providing innovative and top-quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment. When it comes to providing students with a well-rounded experience encompassing academics, athletics and extra-curricular opportunities, SDUHSD is second to none, with our graduates prepared to pursue higher education at top universities and to pursue fulfilling careers.

One of the unique features of SDUHSD is our High School Selection program. Through this process, families in the San Dieguito Union High School District may choose to send their children to any of our four excellent high schools – Canyon Crest Academy (CCA), La Costa Canyon High School (LCCHS), San Dieguito Academy (SDA), or Torrey Pines High School (TPHS). Each of our high schools offers a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum, which differs in unique and distinct ways. We believe that offering students a choice of unique schools helps families select a school that best meets the unique needs of each individual student.

All students in the district live in the attendance area for either Torrey Pines HS or La Costa Canyon HS and are guaranteed attendance at their "boundary school." Canyon Crest Academy and San Dieguito Academy do not have attendance boundaries and are open on an equal basis to any student residing within our district, regardless of where within the district the student resides. With the High School Selection Process students and families have three options: 1) To attend their boundary school; 2) To apply for an intra-district transfer to attend the other boundary school (either TPHS or LCCHS) – admittance to a boundary school via intra-district transfer is guaranteed unless the school is already at or over capacity; 3) To apply to attend one of the academy schools.

Each year all 8th grade students, students new to the district and students wishing to change high schools must declare which of the four high schools they would like to attend through the High School Selection Process. Students may select only one school for attendance. Students currently attending the high school of their choice do not need to make a new selection unless they wish to change schools for the following year.

Historically, more students have applied to Canyon Crest Academy and San Dieguito Academy than there have been spaces available. When this occurs, a lottery is conducted to determine, in an equitable manner, who is admitted. The lottery is random and students may not earn priority status for any reason other than having a sibling who already attends and will continue to attend Canyon Crest Academy or San Dieguito Academy. If a student applies to attend one of the Academies and is not admitted due to lack of space, that student is automatically enrolled in the "boundary school" of residence (TPHS or LCCHS).

For the 2014-15 school year, students will make their selections online beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, February 3, 2014 through Monday, March 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. If students do not declare which high school they want to attend during this selection window, they will automatically be enrolled at their "boundary school" (TPHS or LCCHS). If applications exceed available space at one or both of the Academies, a lottery will be held on Tuesday March 18, 2014 and families will be notified of the results by March 25, 2014.

In order to assist students and families in making a thoughtful and informed high school choice, each of our high schools provides information to prospective students online and through campus tours and information nights. For more information about each of our high schools, the High School Selection Process, and SDUHSD go to the district's website at <http://www.sduhsd.net/>.