



PASO PROUD

An Inside Look at Paso Schools • Issue 8 • Fall 2026

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Liam and LaRhett Clark. Photography by [Whitney Whitaker](#).



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Superintendent's Message

Dear Paso Schools Families and Community,

A new school year always brings a sense of possibility, and this fall that feeling is especially strong across Paso Schools. Students are returning to new spaces, new programs and new opportunities to learn, connect and discover what comes next.

In this issue of Paso Proud, you'll see that growth taking many forms. We celebrate Paso Robles FFA students who represented our community with distinction at the California Mid-State Fair, new playgrounds and Expanded Learning classrooms at Kermit King and Pat Butler, and an Expanded Learning program that now provides no-cost after-school care and enrichment for students from TK through eighth grade. You'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at the people and local partnerships that help make our schools such a special part of the Paso Robles community.

This issue also looks at the spaces where learning happens. A decade after voters approved Measure M, its impact can be seen across our District in rebuilt campuses, new classrooms, improved playgrounds, upgraded infrastructure and the Paso Robles Aquatics Center. At the same time, our draft Facilities Master Plan is helping us take a thoughtful look at the long-term needs that remain, particularly at Paso Robles High School, and how our facilities must continue to evolve alongside the students and programs they serve.

What connects all of these stories is opportunity: opportunities for students to develop new skills, for families to access meaningful support, and for our schools to continue growing with the community around them.

Thank you for the many ways you support Paso Schools and the students we serve. I hope you enjoy this issue and take pride in the work happening throughout our District.

With appreciation,
Jennifer Loftus

Superintendent, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

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New Spaces Big Smiles

Kermit King and Pat Butler celebrate new playgrounds and expanded-learning spaces

Students, families and staff at Kermit King and Pat Butler elementary schools kicked off the new school year with even more to celebrate: brand-new accessible playgrounds and additional classroom space for the ELOP after-school enrichment program.

The new classrooms significantly expand after-school capacity at both campuses, creating more room for students to learn, play and connect beyond the regular school day. New playgrounds give students welcoming, accessible spaces to move, explore and build friendships.

Ribbon-cutting celebrations at both schools in August marked the official opening of the new spaces—and the beginning of countless school-day memories still to come.





A BANNER YEAR AT THE FAIR

Paso Robles FFA students bring home top honors at the 2026 California Mid-State Fair.

For Paso Robles FFA siblings **Liam and LaRhetta Clark**, the 2026 California Mid-State Fair ended with a finish few families get to experience.

Liam's market steer was named Supreme Champion Market Steer, while LaRhetta earned Reserve Supreme Champion Market Steer—putting the brother and sister in the top two spots at one of the biggest events of the fair.

Briley Bowen also brought home two of the chapter's highest honors, earning Champion FFA Replacement Heifer and Supreme Champion Bull. Bowen joined **Reese Raymond, Donovan Correa** and **Liam Clark** among the Top 10 in Beef Showmanship, while Paso Robles FFA was also recognized as the Champion Chapter Group.

PRHS FFA's successes extended well beyond the beef barn.

On the swine team, **Rudy Hamm** earned Reserve Champion Light AOB. Rabbit team members **Mary Andros** and **Cheyenne Coddling** placed second overall in Novice and Senior Showmanship, respectively.

Among Paso FFA's sheep exhibitors, **Halyn King** earned first place in the costume contest. In goats, **Brooklynn Agapay** earned Reserve Supreme Champion Wether Dam, **Janeli Avila** was named Reserve Novice Showman, and **Hayden Bridges** took first place in the costume contest.

And as anyone with FFA experience knows, behind every ribbon is considerably more work than fairgoers see from the grandstands.

Students spend months selecting and raising animals, tracking their growth and nutrition, learning proper handling and showmanship, maintaining facilities and preparing for competition.

Livestock projects require students to take full responsibility for a living animal while developing skills in agriculture, animal science, recordkeeping, communication and problem-solving.

The students who earned recognitions and placements represent a much larger Paso Robles FFA program, built around hands-on agricultural education, leadership and career preparation. Paso Robles FFA students have a long tradition of representing their school, chapter and community with professionalism, sportsmanship, and pride—and bringing home plenty to celebrate. Congratulations to our 2026 PRHS FFA students on yet another successful Mid-State Fair experience!



MEASURE M

A DECADE OF INVESTMENT

More than \$91.1 million in school facilities projects completed or underway as of September 2026



Paso Robles Aquatics Center, March 2026



Marie Bauer Early Childhood Education Center, August 2021



Glen Speck Elementary School, November 2022

\$91.1 M
COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY

38 New Classrooms

44 Upgraded Restrooms

1 Aquatics Complex

13 Modernized Classrooms

7 Playgrounds

7 Shade Structures

In 2016, Paso Robles voters approved **Measure M**, a \$95 million bond to repair aging facilities, expand classrooms, improve health and safety, and create better learning environments for local students.

A decade later, that investment is visible across Paso Schools. Measure M supported the rebuilding of **Glen Speck Elementary School** and **Marie Bauer Early Education Center**; construction of new classrooms at **Lewis Flamson Junior High**;

campus improvements and expansion at **Georgia Brown Dual Immersion**; new, accessible playgrounds; shade structures at all elementary schools; roof, HVAC and restroom upgrades; and the new **Paso Robles Aquatics Center**.

The work ranges from major campus projects to less-visible improvements that keep schools safe, functional and ready for learning. Since 2020, not a year has gone by without major Measure M projects reaching completion.

That work continues today, with the new TK/K complex at Georgia Brown scheduled for completion in October 2026.

Measure M made significant improvements possible across the District, particularly at elementary and junior-high campuses. It did not, however, provide for a comprehensive modernization of **Paso Robles High School**. The draft Facilities Master Plan provides a clearer picture of the long-term needs that remain at PRHS.

PASO ROBLES HIGH SCHOOL

THE WORK AHEAD

The draft Facilities Master Plan identifies long-term needs for Career Technical Education, student gathering spaces and aging facilities at PRHS.



Conceptual renderings from the draft Facilities Master Plan. Designs subject to change.

01 CAREER-READY CLASSROOMS

Approximately 57% of PRHS students complete at least one Career Technical Education (CTE) course, and participation in CTE pathways continues to grow.

Designed and constructed in the late 1970s, many existing PRHS classrooms struggle to accommodate current CTE programs or adapt to evolving workforce needs.

The draft Facilities Master Plan (FMP) recommends expanded and modernized CTE classrooms and labs, including spaces for Modern Manufacturing, Health Sciences and Culinary Arts.

02 ONE PLACE TO COME TOGETHER

Designed in the late 1970s for approximately 800 students, PRHS now serves more than 2,000. Today, the campus has no indoor venue large enough to bring the entire student body together.

The draft FMP proposes replacing the aging Gil Asa gym with an air-conditioned event center and competition gymnasium seating approximately 2,200 people. The Gil Asa name would be retained.

The facility could host schoolwide assemblies, athletics and community events while also housing Health Sciences classrooms and labs—creating a natural connection between healthcare, athletics and a sports medicine CTE pathway.

03 A CENTRAL STUDENT COMMONS

Food service is currently spread across campus, with heavily used serving lines and very limited shaded places for students to eat and gather.

The draft FMP proposes a student commons bringing together a new cafeteria, centralized dining, a modernized library, specialty classrooms and shared student space.

Outside, dining areas, shade trees and covered gathering spaces would extend the commons into a revitalized central quad—giving students a more comfortable place to eat, collaborate and connect throughout the school day, rain or shine.

The draft Facilities Master Plan identifies options for meeting today's needs across PRJUSD campuses. It is a planning document only; no projects in the draft FMP have been approved for construction. Measure G was developed to provide funding for these and other facilities needs identified in the plan, if approved by voters.

[Click to view the draft Facilities Master Plan website](#)

WHILE STUDENTS WERE

A summer of upgrades across Paso Schools

SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

11 New classroom buildings and spaces
6 at Georgia Brown | 3 at Pat Butler | 2 at Kermit King

2 New accessible playgrounds
at Pat Butler and Kermit King

GEORGIA BROWN

A NEW HOME FOR TK & KINDERGARTEN



Six new modular classrooms were ready to welcome our youngest learners! Each classroom includes an in-class restroom, giving our TK and kindergarten students a safe, modern and convenient learning environment.

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- New TK/K play area and courtyard (due to be completed October 2026)
- New restroom building near the science wing
- ADA ramp
- Intervention-room remodel
- Expanded nurse's office
- New library carpet

MORE ROOM TO GROW

PAT BUTLER ELEMENTARY

KERMIT KING ELEMENTARY



- 3 new classroom buildings
- New accessible playground
- Relocated garden
- New student furniture
- ball wall restoration



- 2 new classroom buildings
- New accessible playground
- New student furniture
- Musical garden play equipment
- ADA parking lot improvements

AWAY...

Summer break may mean quieter campuses, but it's one of the busiest times of year for school facilities. From new classrooms and accessible playgrounds to renovated kitchens, learning spaces and infrastructure, crews worked across Paso Schools this summer to get campuses ready for students' return.

6 New TK/K Classrooms with in-class restrooms

at Georgia Brown

1 Brand-new cosmetology salon

at Paso Robles High School

10 New picnic tables at Winifred Pifer

PASO ROBLES HIGH SCHOOL COSMETOLOGY COMES TO LIFE



A new cosmetology salon is nearing completion at PRHS, creating an exciting new space for hands-on learning and career preparation in the beauty and wellness industry.

JOIN US to celebrate the completion of this beautiful new facility!
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY:
September 18, 1:30 PM

ALSO AT PRHS THIS SUMMER:

- Exterior painting
- Building 900 special-education classroom improvements
- Leadership room and attendance office relocation
- Locker repairs and painting
- Private shower stalls in boys' and girls' locker rooms
- War Memorial monument work
- Tree trimming

SMALLER PROJECTS, BIG IMPACT

From new furniture to upgraded systems, these projects may be smaller in scale, but they make a big difference in our students' day-to-day experience.

VIRGINIA PETERSON ELEMENTARY

- New 4th - 6th grade desks and chairs
- Ball wall restoration

WINIFRED PIFER ELEMENTARY

- New 4th - 6th grade desks and chairs
- 10 new picnic tables
- Musical-garden equipment
- Tree trimming

LEWIS FLAMSON JUNIOR HIGH

- HVAC controls (upgraded system)

LIBERTY & INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOLS

- New marquee

GLEN SPECK ELEMENTARY MORE SHADE, A MODERNIZED KITCHEN & MORE



- New shade structure
- Kitchen Modernization
- Blacktop expansion
- Musical-garden equipment
- New restroom building (estimated completion: November 2026)



Expanded Learning Expanded Opportunity

PRJUSD expands free after-school care and enrichment for students in grades TK-8

For many working families, the school day ends hours before the workday does. PRJUSD's Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) helps bridge that gap by providing after-school care and enrichment for students in grades TK-8—at no cost to PRJUSD families.

Students can remain in a safe, supervised school environment until as late as 6:00 p.m., with afternoons that include much more than childcare. Students have access to homework help, athletics, art, STEM, music, library activities and other enrichment designed to keep them learning, moving and connected after the final bell.

And the program continues to grow.

Over the past three years, participation in school-year Expanded Learning programs has increased 46.9%, adding 417 students. Summer participation has more than doubled, growing 112.9% and adding 297 students.

This year, the opening of the new Lewis Flamson Club extends after-school programming through eighth grade, serving up to 110 junior-high students. Elementary after-school athletics are also expanding, giving more students opportunities to participate in sports without adding another cost or transportation burden for families.

Through District programs and community partnerships, PRJUSD now supports up to 210 days of Expanded Learning programming each year—giving families more flexibility and students more opportunities to learn, explore and belong beyond the traditional school day.

+47%

School-year growth

+113%

Summer growth

110

Students at the new Lewis Flamson Club

210

Days of year-round programming



THE PASTA-BILITIES ARE ENDLESS

A local partnership helps Paso Schools serve up lunch for thousands of students

Cooking pasta for a family is one thing. Cooking enough for thousands of students is something else entirely.

For the past several years, Paso Schools Food Services has partnered with Paso Robles pasta maker Etto Pasta to bring locally made pasta to school cafeterias across the District.

On pasta day, the work starts long before students reach the lunch line. Food Services staff prepare the pasta in approximately 60-pound batches, repeating the process again and again until enough is ready to serve students across Paso Schools.

The partnership is one example of the work happening behind the scenes to make school meals more than simply convenient.

Whenever possible, PRJUSD Food Services works with local producers and farmers to bring fresh, high-quality ingredients into school kitchens while preparing meals on a scale that few home cooks ever have to imagine.

For students, the result is fresh, and delicious: a warm bowl of local pasta at lunchtime. For the team preparing it? It's hundreds of pounds of pasta, a carefully coordinated kitchen operation—and a lot of very large pots.

WATCH IT HAPPEN

Etto Pasta Founder and CEO Brian Terrizzi paid a visit to the PRJUSD kitchen to see firsthand what it takes to turn locally made pasta into lunch for thousands of Paso students.

Press play for a behind-the-scenes look at the process—and at the partnership that brings Etto pasta from a local Paso Robles business to school lunch trays across the District.



Ask a Question

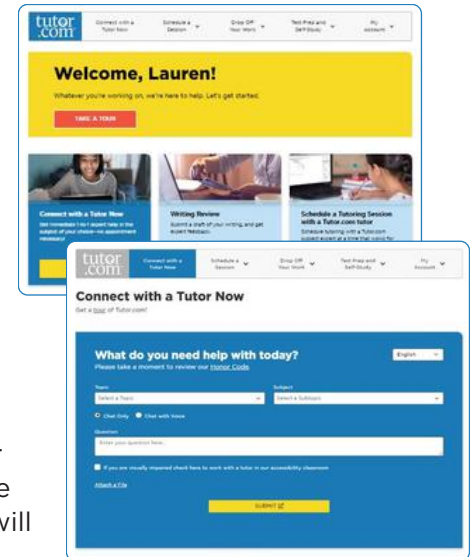
To log into Tutor.com:

Open Clever on your student's chromebook, located in the PRJUSD Bookmarks folder. Log in to Clever using Google. Once logged in to Clever, click on Tutor.com.

Select your language, topic, subject, and grade level and ask your question. You can share a specific problem or let the tutor know what concept you need help with. Here are some examples of questions you might ask:

- *I'm stuck on my Geometry homework.*
- *I need help with my assignment on gas laws.*
- *Can you help me format my paper in MLA?*

When you're in our online classroom, you can use text- and/or voice-chat to communicate with your tutor. You can also share files or assignments you'd like to discuss. You and your tutor will be able to look at your work together in the classroom.



Get Connected with a Tutor



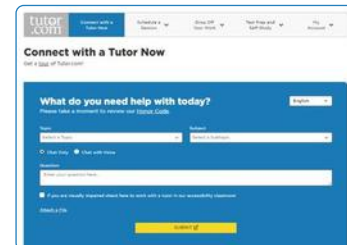
Click on the SUBMIT button to quickly connect with an expert tutor. The tutoring classroom will pop up in a new window.

When you are using the whiteboard, you can draw, erase, add shapes, and change colors to help your tutor see what you're working on. The classroom also includes a graphing calculator and text editor that you can use if you are working on complex math or writing assignments. Use these tools by clicking the buttons above the whiteboard.



Get Writing Support

Our drop-off review service allows you to get help from a tutor without having a live session. Upload any writing assignment you need help with, and a tutor will send you helpful feedback within a day. ***Remember to remove your name from any assignment you share!***



Connect with a tutor anytime. We are here to help!

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OUR PROMISE

We promise to provide a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to discover their strengths, build resilience, and develop the knowledge, character, and confidence to thrive in their future.

CORE VALUES

PRJUSD's Core Values describe how we do business or go about making decisions. The following values were defined by the Strategic Planning Committee as being the foundational rules of engagement for staff and the Board of Trustees of PRJUSD.

Integrity: We uphold integrity and ethical responsibility by being trustworthy in all our actions, ensuring that every decision is made with honesty, fairness, and respect for our students, families, staff, and community.

Accountability: We hold ourselves accountable and act with reliability, ensuring that every commitment we make to students, families, and one another is met with consistency, transparency, and follow-through.

Collaboration: We believe collaboration is essential to student success, and we are committed to working together—with students, families, staff, and community partners—to achieve shared goals and create a lasting, positive impact for all learners

Innovation: We embrace innovation by encouraging creativity, responsible risk-taking, and adaptability—encouraging new ideas and forward-thinking solutions that prepare students to prosper in a rapidly changing world

Compassion: We cultivate empathy and kindness in all our interactions, striving to understand and support one another while creating an environment where every student, family, and staff member feels valued and cared for.

Belonging: We promote inclusion and belonging by embracing differences and ensuring that every student, family, and staff member feels respected, valued, and connected to our school community.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

PASO PROUD ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Do you know a Bearcat grad doing great things in the world? We want to hear from you!

Our upcoming Paso Proud Alumni feature will celebrate former students who are thriving in their careers, trades, or community life—whether they stayed local or ventured beyond Paso Robles.

From small business owners and skilled tradespeople to community leaders, artists, and educators, we want to showcase the many paths our alumni take after graduation.

Nominate yourself or a fellow Bearcat!

Submit a short description and tell us why your nominee makes #PasoProud.

Click or scan the QR code to submit your nomination.



PASO PROUD MAGAZINE

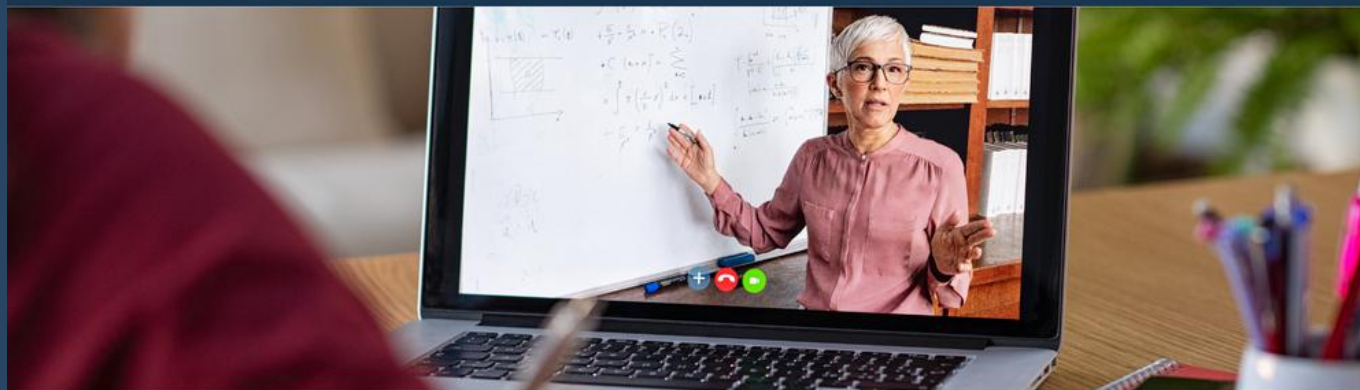
Paso Proud is a publication of Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, 800 Niblick Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446
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UPCOMING DATES

9/16-10/11	Hispanic Heritage Month
9/18	Bearcat Institute of Cosmetology Ribbon Cutting
9/22	Board of Trustees Meeting
9/25	Coffee with the Superintendent
10/2	War Memorial Ribbon Cutting
10/2	Rock Your School Day
10/5-10/9	Elementary School Conferences, Minimum Days
10/8	Junior High Conferences
10/10	Pioneer Day Parade

10/12	Staff PD, No School
10/16	Georgia Brown TK/K Complex Ribbon Cutting
10/23-10/31	Red Ribbon Week

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