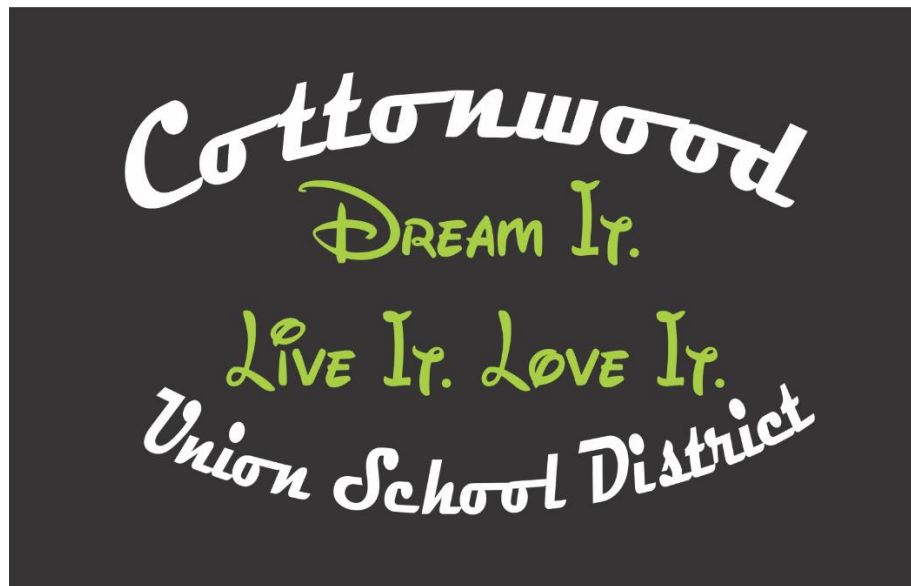


# *State of the District*

2015 – 2016



*David Alexander, Ed.D.*

*Superintendent*

## Superintendent's State of the District Message

The Cottonwood Union School District has a rich and treasured history in the community of quality schools with honored core values. CWUSD offers a quality educational program and is currently implementing new plans and programs to make our schools even stronger. Our journey is exciting as we work together to offer our students an excellent education. Our community strategic planning provided a solid framework for the 2015-16 school year work. Our goals for the 2015-16 school year were:

- Increase Academic Proficiency and Support Learning,
- Increase Effective Communication/Connectedness and Promote a Positive Culture/Climate
  - Provide a Safe Environment (facilities)

**LCAP Update:** Each year as we update our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), we actively seek input from various stakeholder groups throughout the school year, including board members, teachers, parents, E.L. Advisory group, Site Councils, Parent Advisory, District Leadership (superintendent, teachers, classified employees, confidential employees, management, and heads of departments), Foster Parent Advisory group, Student Advisory groups, teacher association, Shasta County Office of Education, and community members to create the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). We actively seek to engage all stakeholders in the process and are guided by the vision and direction of creating a more collaborative culture for the benefit of all students. In the process, we seek out strengths of our district and areas of improvement. In addition, our goal is to establish baseline data, with an emphasis on building academic measures, to utilize for future analysis.

The engagement process has shaped our plans by assisting our district focus, goals and services to best meet the needs of all students. I appreciate the support of our dedicated Board of Trustees, administrative team, teachers, classified staff, parents, community members and students. As a team we will continue to work together to build a strong future for our students and our district.

**The following document provides specific accomplishments in each area of the three 2015-16 goals as well as a summary of other accomplishments for the Cottonwood Union School District.**

*David Alexander, Ed.D. Superintendent*

# **Goal 1: Increase Academic Proficiency & Support Student Learning**

Ensure all students are college and career ready.

## **North Cottonwood Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Implemented an ELA intervention program for ALL students
- Completed successful first year of a preschool partnership with YMCA
- Revised assessment matrix and implemented progress monitoring assessments for grades K- 4<sup>th</sup>
- Chromebooks were widely used in grades third and fourth during the regular school day and intervention. Chromebooks were also used for intervention in grades first and second
- Teacher workshops were established to help support and achieve school goals
- Instructional, curriculum , assessment and intervention coaches hired
- Curriculum coaches attended the Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) Learning Walks
- Curriculum coaches collaborated with coaches from other schools.
- Increased resource teacher time
- Hired two additional teachers to decrease class sizes
- Increased instructional assistants to support small group support
- Increased instructional assistants in kindergarten and first grade
- New teachers and mentors participated in Alliance for Teacher Excellence and received training in English Language Arts (Treasures) and mathematics (Math Expressions) curriculum
- New teachers were given release time to observed similar grade level teachers at other schools
- Continued to recognize the AR Million Word Club. Students that reach 1 million AR words were rewarded with their name announced on the all call system, their name put on the marquee and received a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card which was provided by parent club
- Continued to recognize 1<sup>st</sup> grade students for 100,000 AR Word Club
- Continued to recognize 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students for 250,000 AR Word Club
- Purchased LEGO Robotics using a grant from the parent club
- Continued to have a Book Fair at Open House

## **West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Additional math and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers hired
- Assistant Principal: Instructional, curriculum , assessment and intervention hired
- Assistant Principal/Curriculum coache attended the Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) Learning Walks

- Implemented new intervention curriculum for English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Established an assessment matrix with benchmarks and tested 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Continued advisory period for academic support
- Established reading and math skills classes
- Provided after school tutoring
- Implemented use of Chromebooks and utilized Google Docs
- Continued recognition of AR Million Word Club (5-8)
- This year West students read a total of 223,060,022 words. 24 students read at least one million words, 11 students read at least two million, 1 read over three million, 1 with over four million and 1 with over six million

## **Goal 2: Increase Effective Communication / Connectedness and Promote a Positive Culture / Climate**

Ensure a positive environment

### **North Cottonwood Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Held special events including: Movement-a-thon, Cowboy Up Assembly, Wild Things Assembly, Ice Cream Social, Veteran's Day Assembly, Dr. Seuss Day, Mother's Day Spa, Rodeo BBQ, Kindergarten Graduation, Monday Morning Flag, End-of-the-Year Play Day
- Held site leadership team meetings regularly to discuss the initiatives and goals of the school
- Encouraged and engaged parent volunteers
- Offered Cottonwood Pharmacy backpack food program
- Held canned food drive and student-driven food drive
- Expanded KinderMusic to all grades K-4
- Held classroom plays and performances
- Principal for the Day: Kim Cordova, CWUSD Board Member and Parent
- Held Valley 11 movie ticket fundraiser
- Held Six Flags Read to Succeed
- Continued Raising a Reader Program in Kindergarten
- Provide Release Time
- Offered a Running Club
- UC Nutrition Program offered food tasting, classroom activities and Nutrition Olympics
- Offered Coyote Pack: Fourth grade leadership program
- Principal Mr. Ray and Coyote Pack were Guest Readers at the Anderson Library

- Field Trips included West Valley HS Pumpkin Patch, Adventure Creation, KinderPals, Haas Pumpkin Patch, Cascade Christmas, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Coleman Fish Hatchery, Shasta Caverns, REU, Carter House and Gold Panning, Whiskeytown Falls Hike, Gaumers,
- Created class t-shirts in Kindergarten and First Grade
- Mrs. Spoto's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class published two of their own books
- Held STAR Parties including: DJ Dance, Enterprise Starship, Movies, Bowling, Plays at AUHS and Cascade Theater, Swimming, Extra Recess, Ice Cream
- Attended Special Kids Rodeo and Special Day Class Christmas at Redding Elks Lodge

### **West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Offered electives in cartooning, newspaper, calligraphy, contemporary movies, skate park physics, creative drawing, assembly entertainment, reading for pleasure, brain teasers and puzzles
- Held teacher collaboration meetings and held staff meetings two times per month
- Continued use of the School Info App that will send push notifications directly to parents and staff cellular devices for any upcoming events and or emergency situations.
- Held special events including: Father/Daughter Dance (K-8), Veteran's Day Lunch and hallway walk, Red Ribbon Week, Talent Show, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day Time Academic Awards ceremony and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation ceremony
- Held Student of the Month Assemblies. Nine times per school year each teacher recognizes a student and they are surprised at a school wide assembly where they are presented with a certificate and medal. They are also invited and acknowledged at our monthly CWUSD Board Meetings and are presented with a gift certificate.
- Offered 100 Mile Club – fall through spring school wide walking/jogging activity
- Held Canned Food Drive
- Parent Club Donations: The Parent Club donates Barnes and Noble gift cards for all 1 million word club students and \$100 teacher grants
- Held Christmas Out Reach: Twenty in need West Cottonwood students were given Christmas gifts with the help of the Anderson Christian Church
- Athletics included: Cheer, Soccer, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Basketball, Baseball, Softball and Track
- Offered Chieftain Crew: A team of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who serve as a leadership team on campus
- Field Trips include: WVHS Ag. Day (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Special Kids rodeo, Schreder Planetarium (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Thoroughly Modern Millie Play (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Water Works Park (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Sun Splash Water Park (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade), Oakland A's Baseball game (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Six Flags (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Sacramento Kings Basketball game (8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team), WVHS Freshman Invasion Day (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Crescent City (8<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball team), Weaverville (8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball team)

- Provided Renaissance Program - Academic/Behavior Reward Incentive. Held 4 field trips per year (Big League Dreams, Movies, Bowling and Roller Skating)
- Held Day on the Green: 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade enjoys a day on the school grounds with water play, music, bounce houses, snow cones and a dunk tank
- Offered Pizza with the Principal / Caught Ya' Being Good: 10 students per month are pulled out of all the Caught Ya' Being Good recipients are treated to pizza with the Principal
- Held State Map Display (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Hosted 4<sup>th</sup> grade invasion day for incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Attended Special Education Christmas Program at the Elks Lodge in Redding
- Attended Special Education Olympics at Red Bluff High School
- Dances: Four times per year the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are able to attend a dance with a DJ and snacks
- Working with Crowley Gulch Project
- Received Grant a 2,500 dollar Shasta Regional Community Foundation grant for physical fitness equipment for Special Education
- Held Clothing Swap (5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Held Choir/Project SHARE Spring Dance Performance
- Offered Kinder Pals program

### **Goal 3: Provide a Safe and Well-Maintained Facilities**

Ensure quality district facilities

#### **North Cottonwood Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Installed new LED lights along the front pick up lane
- Purchased new risers to replace the old handmade risers
- Secured funding for a "Friendship Bench" for the playground
- Replaced/Updated the auto flush systems in bathrooms
- Resealed parking lot and added new asphalt to the small area on the playground and around the fence for a walkway to the bus
- Removed carpet and replace with tile flooring in kindergarten classrooms

#### **West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Resurfaced track
- Installed concrete boarder on track
- Repaired fencing on basketball courts
- Installed water flow restrictor for ball fields

- Repaired/Replace sidewalks.
- Replaced fence fabric around basketball courts
- Repaired pie shaped planter at bus circle
- Tinted office windows
- Replaced 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> grade play structure
- Repaired gymnasium lighting
- Conducted Safe School student survey

### **Transportation Yard**

- Repaired roll-up door

### **East Cottonwood School**

- Removed trees in garden area
- Repaired drain/plumbing issue in main hallway boy's bathroom

## **District-wide Accomplishments and Celebrations**

- Implemented a district strategic plan and processes (including revision of Local Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP) based on effective school research and Essential Program Components to ensure school system supports all students' learning.
- Continued to facilitate leadership teams. Continued with regularly scheduled meetings for leadership teams with agendas that support district goals. Teams include cabinet level, district leadership team, principal level, Intervention Services/Special Education, and committees to support district goals
- Continued to build capacity in leadership (common language and best practices)
- Continued to provide professional development in leadership through book studies, training, conferences, workshops, and benchmarked proven models
- Expanded professional development
- Purchased 280 Chromebooks
- Provided weekly collaborative day (minimum day)
- Provided 3 additional days in summer for school sites for continuous school improvement activities
- Continued to refined Human Resources practices including the hiring and retention of highly quality employees
- Continue to ensure fiscal stability and stewardship to support student achievement and long term stability