

the accolade

September 2025 1801 Lancer Way, Fullerton CA 92833 Sunny Hills High School Volume LXVI, Issue I

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Accolade
*welcomes a fresh
start to the year with
the next chapter of its
publication's history
along with fresh faces
of students and staff
and a modernized
campus*

photo by NICOLE PARK

Want a job? | pg. 4

Scam emails offering students and staff part-time job infiltrate school emails

Recent Arrivals | pg. 10

Six fresh faces greet students on campus; *The Accolade* introduces two of them

Influential Policies | pg. 15

Trump administration impacts education and community with its practices



photo by SOOJIN CHO

DEAR READERS,

Thank you for picking up the first issue of *The Accolade*, formerly known as *Accolade*. In our third year of producing all-color, glossy magazines and the first year under the guidance of our new adviser, CJ D’Innocente, we’ve made slight changes to this year’s publications. We are shifting away from four *Accolades* and two *Spotlights*, choosing to focus on producing three *The Accolade* issues and one 16-page specialty magazine. Both print products’ formats will remain the same, as we will carry on last year’s tradition of newsmagazines. We hope our readers will stay along for the ride to read our singular specialty magazine — still titled *Spotlight* — in January.

However, for the first time in our publication’s 66-year history, we will guide the staff and conduct the magazine production collaboratively, as two editors-in-chief. Through combining our unique journalism experiences, we hope to bring you the best quality reporting. Further, we’ve opted for a union of the design elements from previous years and have created what we feel is the best of both worlds. Our updated look, along with our stories, will provide new insights into campus news and life. We hope this holistic approach invites further readership and interest in our diligence to represent the Sunny Hills High School campus. That being said, here are the contents of our first issue: After arriving back on campus for the 2025-2026 school year, we were shocked to learn that many SH students and staff — us included — received scam emails promoting job opportunities within the district (page 4). Also, our school welcomed fresh faces in the form of our Class of 2030 freshmen, with enrollment showing an upward trend unlike last year (page 6), and six new staff members (page 10).

We also addressed how the Trump administration’s policies on education have impacted the SH student body, which reflects students’ raw opinions (page 15). Finally, we took a look into “KPop Demon Hunters” and its record-breaking success (page 22) and spotlighted fall sports in their second year of new league play (page 28). Lastly, we wanted to acknowledge the administration and the Associated Student Body for their continued financial support. Without funding, we wouldn’t be able to produce our magazines at the same level we are now. We are very grateful for the school’s support of student journalism and for helping us further our mission to provide the student body with accurate and valuable news. We are so excited to start this new chapter with you all, one issue after another.

Irene Park Editor-in-Chief
Nicole Park Editor-in-Chief

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District-wide scam emails bring summer shock

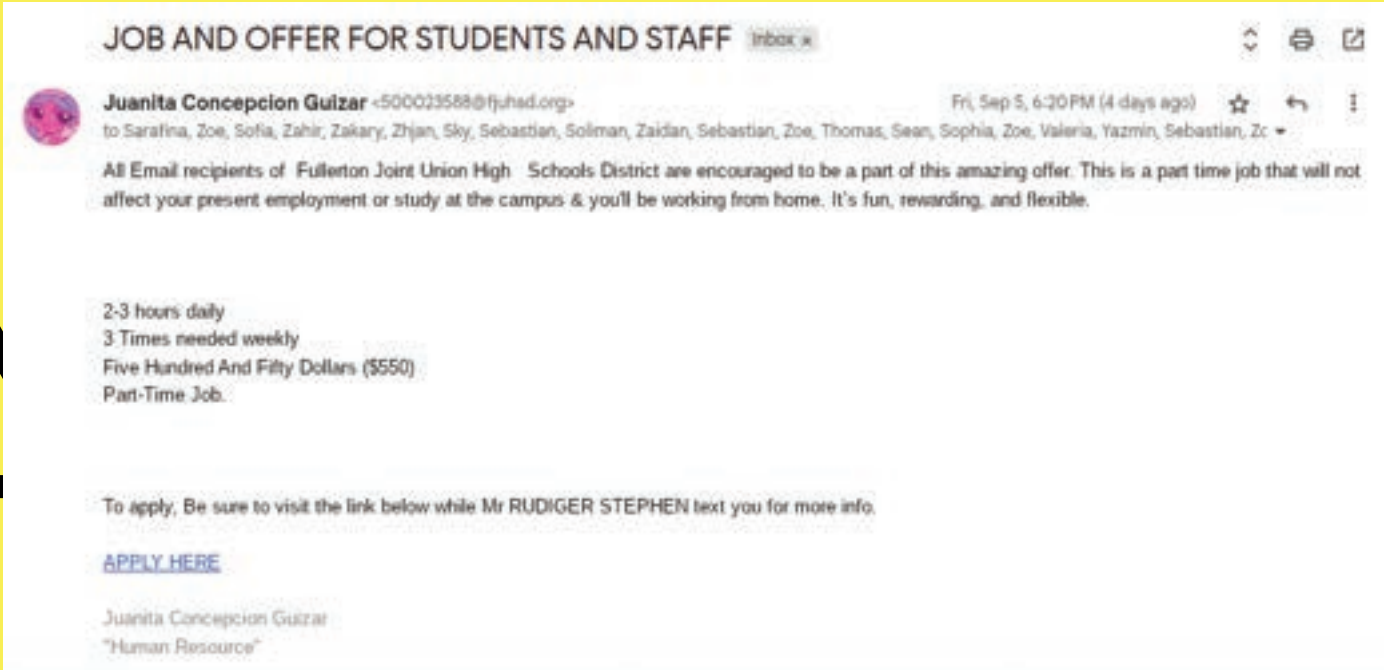


photo used with permission by **ASHLEY KANG**

JOB OR JOKE: Students and staff across the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSd] received emails promoting a part time job offer with pay. The messages were sent from compromised FJUHSd accounts.

story by **IRENE PARK**

Over the summer, students’ and staff’s Gmail inboxes were greeted with the blue, underlined phrase “APPLY NOW,” enticing them to apply for a part-time job.

The unsuspecting few who clicked the link for a chance to earn \$450 for three hours of work were taken to a Google Form that asked for their name, phone number, date of birth and other identifying information.

“It’s the first time I’ve ever seen anything like that,” principal Craig Weinreich said. “I had students from other schools emailing me and saying, ‘There’s a Sunny Hills student trying to get money from me or do

something.”

Unknown individuals gained access to Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSd] student emails using them to send fake applications under the guise of being a fellow student or staff member.

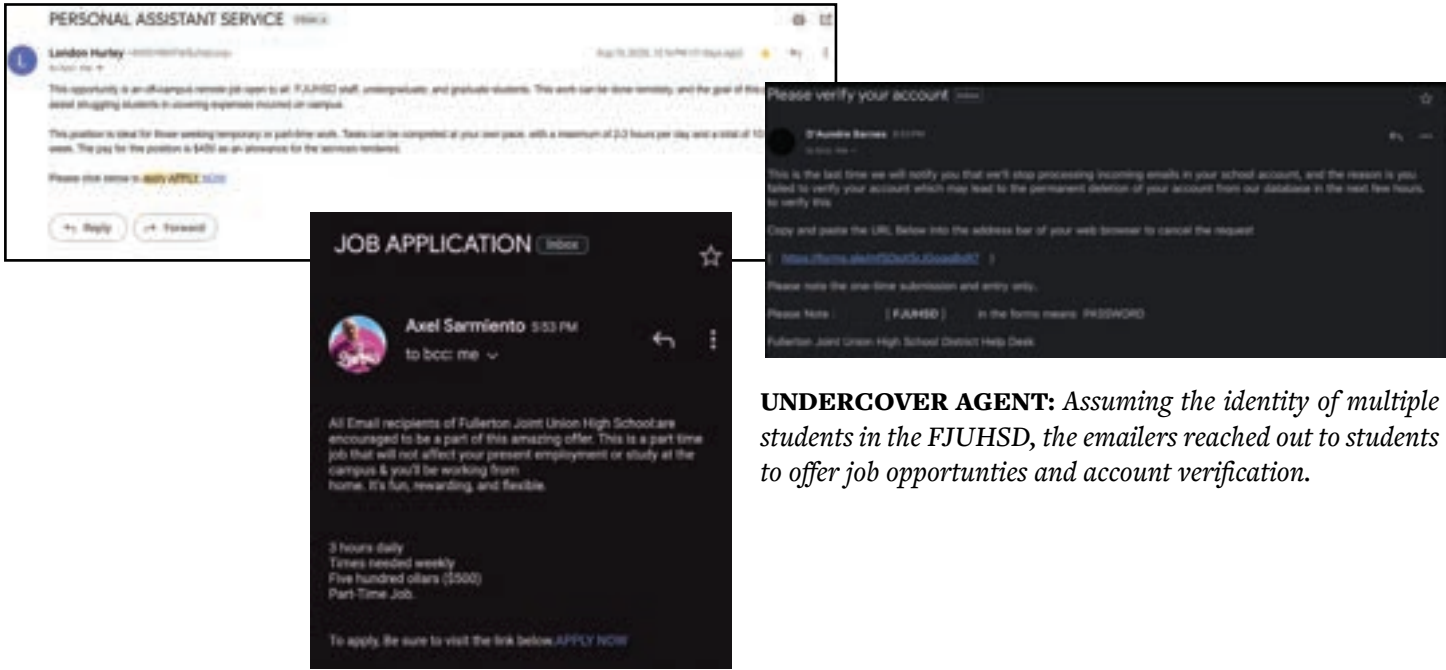
Despite the district-wide security breach, no official information has been released or emailed out, and Weinreich said most people likely deleted the email from their inbox.

“There wasn’t a huge impact over the summer,” the principal said. “There weren’t a lot of people that reached out to us and said, ‘This is an issue.’”

He said there are no specific resources to “look into those things” on campus and that the information tech [IT] department is in charge of investigation in these situations.

“It’s hard over the summer because not everybody’s here, and there’s nobody to come talk to or kind of figure out some of those things,” Weinreich said. “[But] we’ve got a very robust IT department that does a lot to protect things, especially from a cybersecurity perspective.”

Site tech Anthony Jara said the emails likely have no clear purpose aside from collecting data, and though they aren’t targeting people, they’re still trying to harvest



UNDERCOVER AGENT: Assuming the identity of multiple students in the FJUHSd, the emailers reached out to students to offer job opportunities and account verification.

personal information.

“One of the big things that people don’t realize is that people’s data, as simple as your name, your height and what you like can be sold for many many dollars,” Jara said. “It’s not always for nefarious reasons... [but] sometimes there are people who are trying to use your email address to access your account to get your password and start sending emails as you.”

He said the tech department has already put a lot of protection over the student emails, including Google’s built-in spam and phishing filters, Barracuda Networks’ spam filter and the KnowBe4 extension to quarantine suspicious emails and alert administration.

“So in those kinds of instances, it’s not that we don’t necessarily care, but it’s very, very low on the totem pole,” the site tech said. “In education, the totem pole is a little higher because it’s your data, so we have to be extremely diligent on anything and anybody that’s trying to get your information.”

Senior Sophia Gentile said she suspected it was a scam from the start, but realized how suspicious it was after getting the email multiple times.

“The first time, I wasn’t looking for a job, so I didn’t really care, but then the second time I knew something was wrong and deleted the email; I should have blocked it, honestly, because then I got a third one,” Gentile said. “I think the district should

look into where the email was sent from and what exactly it’s trying to accomplish.”

Though most students were quick to question the opportunity and remove the email, senior Benjamin Kim initially thought it was real.

“I thought this was a job given by the school, or maybe the school supports this job and wants to give opportunities to students to make money,” said Kim, who saw the email in his inbox in July 2025. “So obviously, I thought it was a good thing and I thought it would be safe.”

He said he realized it was suspicious and potentially unsafe as he was filling it out

“I feel like the school should let us know ahead of time that something like this is happening.”

- senior Benjamin Kim

because he noticed it was asking questions about his personal information, and said

he asked his dad to call the district.

“From what I heard, he called the school district, and the school district was like, ‘Yeah, this is a scam,’” the senior said. “They were saying they don’t support this, and they don’t know anything about this and they’re getting calls from other parents as well.”

He said he received another email a few weeks later, and he ignored it that time.

“I feel like the school should let us know ahead of time that something like this is happening,” Kim said. “They should just address it publicly saying that this is not safe.”

As of now, Jara said most of the scam emails have been removed by the district technicians.

“Our district technicians have the ability to go into mailboxes and deem anything as not usable or malicious, and that also comes from tools from Google, because as a parent company, it includes Google to make sure that we aren’t doing anything bad and it’s not going to affect them,” he said.

Jara also said that a broad alert from the administration is unlikely since the situation doesn’t seem to be an overwhelming issue, especially considering that he has only received a few tech tickets and reports about the scam emails.

“Certain things won’t be [disclosed] because there’s really no need to scare,” Jara said. “And if it’s not anything that is important to the masses, no need to bring it up again, just delete, delete, delete.”



photo by KYUWON HAN

CAMPUS REVAMP DRIVES CHANGES

Career and Technical Education program receives \$500,000 grant to upgrade its classroom

story by KYUWON HAN

After receiving a \$500,000 grant, the Career and Technical Education [CTE] program will implement additional resources and classroom renovations.

The admin informed Sonya Joyce, the Advanced Placement [AP] Computer Science Principal and Coding and Gaming teacher, that it was approved at the end of the last school year.

“I was really excited ‘cause that’s a very large sum of money to put toward,” Joyce said.

The six-year grant, awarded by the Golden State Pathways Program, is expected to provide more computer science opportunities for students, such as dual enrollment with Fullerton College and create a student-run organization, Skills USA, so Lancers can compete and also have a national club.

Assistant principal Sarah Murrietta said

the grant was first awarded in October 2024 after applying in March 2024. However, the state paused the process and reevaluated the submissions. Later, in January 2025, the fund was reinstated to the program.

Joyce said she applied for the grant after realizing the computers and furniture in the classroom were starting to fall apart, and she hopes to use the new ones for her classes.

“My students in [AP] Computer Science [Principles] and Coding and Gaming get the newest technology to help support what they’re learning,” Joyce said. “That’s always good, because it’s hard to work off of computers that can’t handle the high-quality games that we’re trying to create here, so it’s just good graphically.”

Varsity Valorant player sophomore Roland Andrada said the computers were decent, but said the setup of the room led to

problems.

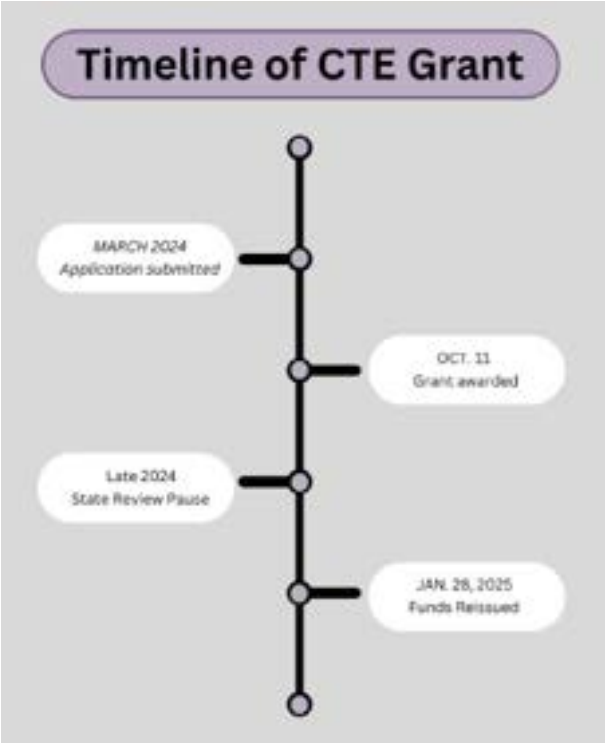
“Our main issue of why we didn’t opt to practice in it frequently, like for League of Legends, was due to the ergonomic mouse shape, limited mouse space and the desks having an extra ‘layer’ to hold the monitor higher, which significantly dipped our performances when trying it out,” Andrada said.

The funds from the grant have already been used toward 38 new monitors and chairs, flooring and repainting, along with supplying the Coding and Gaming class with various materials:

- \$105,000 for monitors, PC, keyboards and headsets
- \$48,000 for furniture
- \$52,166 for removing walls
- \$17,628 for wiring, power components, internet extenders and ports

Murrietta said since the spending dead-

REBUILD AND RESET: After receiving funding from a grant on Jan. 28, the Career and Technical Education program expanded the Coding and Gaming classroom.



compiled by JISEONG YOO

“I WAS REALLY EXCITED ‘CAUSE THAT’S A VERY LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO PUT TOWARDS. ”

- computer science teacher Sonya Joyce

line for the district is April, the school spent last spring with KN Builders and ICS designing and wiring the room to fit the desks and computers.

The remodeling started during summer break and is still incomplete, but it is expected to take 8-12 more weeks, Joyce said.

KN Builders broke down the wall between Room 44 and Room 45, Algebra Center’s adviser Dorothy Cheng’s classroom, to expand Joyce’s classroom.

During the ongoing renovations, Joyce said she is temporarily using Room 42, which was now-retired math and computer science teacher Myra Deister’s classroom.

After using it for five years, Cheng moved from Room 45 to Room 46 when she was notified that her classroom would be part of the Coding and Gaming class during the last few weeks of the spring semester.

“One of my students, who also had class in Room 44, said he heard I was moving next door to [Room] 46 because the wall between [Room] 44 and [Room] 45 was being knocked down to make a double room for computer science,” Cheng said. “This was news to me, so I emailed the [Assistant Principal Instruction and Operations] APIO, who confirmed it was happening.”

As of now, Cheng said she doesn’t expect any major changes in the Algebra Center room since the custodians moved all her furniture to her new classroom. Some differences include having whiteboards instead of a black bulletin board and brighter lighting.

“I wasn’t thrilled about having to deal with moving, but at least it was just next door,” Cheng said. “I loved my neighbor of five years, Spanish teacher [Veronica]

Deutsch, so in some ways it was sweet that I would be taking over her room as she was retiring.”

Senior Danielle Kim, the president of the Algebra Center, also said she didn’t notice any drastic changes at first.

“I didn’t really think much about it, and instead, I was just excited to start the new year,” Danielle Kim said. “It definitely threw me off when I had to walk over there for the first time for the new tutor training, and I almost walked into the wrong classroom.”

Still, Coding and Gaming class students are excited for the new, big room.

“The room is more spacious and comfy,” said sophomore Ethan Ahn, who is currently in the Coding and Gaming class. “The computers and keyboards are getting an upgrade, so I hope for a smoother and cleaner experience.”

eSports varsity Valorant player junior Austin Kim said he believes the renovation is a great opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and new friendships.

“This revamp might change and impact our team on the communications side of our team,” Kim said. “We would be sitting next to each other and be able to feel the team synergy while playing against different teams with good quality equipment.”

BOUNCING BACK



photo by KATIE LEEM

SURFING THE CROWD: Students surge through the quad as they explore the stands on the third day of Club Rush during break on Sept. 4.

SH freshman enrollment increases beyond projected expectations

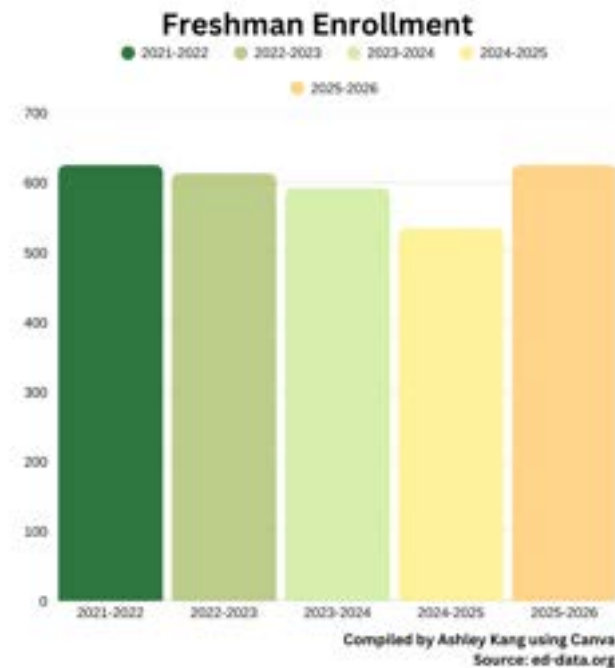
story by **ASHLEY KANG**

Following an unforeseen decline for the 2024-2025 school year, freshman enrollment has increased by about 17%, school officials said.

“We had about six or seven plus years of increasing enrollment, and then last year kind of plateaued,” principal Craig Weinreich said. “Then this year, it’s kind of just gone back up.”

According to The California Department of Education, in the 2024-2025 school year, freshman enrollment decreased by approximately 10%, from 593 students in the 2023-2024 school year to 535 students.

However, despite a projected enrollment of 532 freshmen on Feb. 19, 2025, assistant principal Sarah Murrietta said there



were 626 freshmen enrolled by the start of the 2025-2026 school year---nearly 100 more students than predicted.

“Everyone wants to be here,” assistant principal Sarah Murrietta said. “This is a destination school.”

A program designed to welcome and assist freshmen throughout their first year of high school, Link Crew hosts community-building activities for freshmen and organizes their orientation.

Looking back at the freshmen orientation attendance in 2024, Link Crew co-adviser Lindsey Safe said the turnout surprised her.

“There was a very noticeable increase [at freshman orientation],” Safe said. “At one point, we take all the freshmen and bring them onto the gym floor, and the gym was packed from side wall to side wall; it was very, very busy.”

However, because of the small size of the Class of 2028 and the graduation of the Class of 2025, Weinreich said the total student population at Sunny Hills has remained consistent with the previous term, with 2,436 students as of Aug. 25.

Despite this, the principal said he is grateful for the rising student interest in the school.

“It’s great to have that [increase],” he said. “If we can get right around that 600 in a class, I think that keeps us solid in most of our programs, helps maintain them, keeps them going and makes sure that we can have lots of things and programs to offer to students.”

While Weinreich said the new International Food Fair Night may have contributed to the increase in incoming freshmen, he said the administration did not take any measures to address last year’s decline.

Instead, he said Sunny Hills’ campus, college career focus and extracurricular activities most likely attracted incoming students.

“For the most part, our students want to do the right thing and want to work hard, and when you have so many students who are going off to college, that helps other students,” he said. “Between athletics and clubs, there are lots of opportunities to get involved, and I think those [aspects] are appealing.”

Senior Brianna Chavez, a transfer from Buena Park High School, said the school’s positive reputation among her friends drew her to the campus.

“When I was choosing a school to transfer to, I heard of Sunny Hills and of



photo by KATIE LEEM

FILLING THE HALLS: Senior Khang Vuong (center) walks through freshman hall, between the 20s and 40s classrooms, as new faces on campus head to lunch on Sept. 10.

how the school worked, and it made me want to switch because I knew it would be beneficial for me,” Chavez said. “Everyone’s so much more friendly and more welcoming, and they have so many activities, like I’ve noticed, for sure, more effort was put into the school.”

The senior said the extensive selection of courses also helped her reinforce her decision.

“I just came from [Regional Occupation Program] Sports Medicine, and I’m

“Everyone wants to be here; this is a destination school.”

- assistant principal Sarah Murrietta

also taking Human Anatomy because I want to be an ultrasound technician in the future, so I feel like these classes will help me a lot for my future,” Chavez said.

While junior Ameer Aram has not seen a significant increase in the student population, he said many of his classes

have grown larger.

“In the classes I’ve taken last year, such as Spanish 2, it was not as full and there were empty chairs,” Aram said. “But right now, for my Spanish 3 class, it’s completely full and there is no room at all.”

Similarly, at orientation, freshman Giselle Merino Hernandez said she was shocked by the number of new students.

“I walked in and the lines were so long, there were just tons of people, and when you tried to take a seat, there was not really much space because of how many kids were there,” Merino Hernandez said.

Link Crew member, senior Syed Ayan, said he also noticed the large attendance at this year’s freshman orientation.

“I think this year was the best reaction we had yet,” Ayed said. “I think it’s amazing, I feel like it’s because we love our sports, we love making sure that we’ve included everyone...I like to think we have a path for everyone.”

Having viewed last year’s decline as a temporary setback, Weinreich said he is not concerned about future enrollment, with enrollment numbers increasing.

“People are excited about coming to Sunny Hills,” Weinreich said. “They liked what they saw when they came to tour Open House and the different types of programs offered...it’s great.”

|feature

Growing his FAMILIA

New social science teacher stitches together a new community on the hills

story by **NICOLE PARK**

When students walk into Room 55, they are greeted with walls that come alive with hundreds of faces staring back.

From activists like Martin Luther King Jr. to students attending Sunny Hills, each corner of new social science teacher Carlos Quezada's class represents his values.

The most noticeable decoration is to the left of his room: a large bulletin board titled "OUR FAMILIA," filled with countless photos of students, past and present.

"I really believe that if you don't know someone that much, it's harder to trust them," Quezada said. "I love to put pictures of students in there and watch them grow; I think it's so beautiful; It tells us such a story, but it also reflects my belief that I can't teach you effectively if you don't trust me and if you don't believe that I got your back."

STARTING FROM HIS ROOTS

After graduating from Buena Park High School in 2013 as valedictorian, the new social science teacher said he committed to UCLA, majoring in biology.

"It was more so the pressure of prestige and need for wealth," said Quezada, the son of low-income immigrants. "So to make sure their sacrifices were not in vain put pressure on me to pick a career that was 'high income.'"

Despite his decision to pursue pre-med, Quezada said he still held a special love for history throughout high school.

"I've always been pretty good at history, but I love the way that when you study history, it helps you understand why things are

COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS: Quezada displays pictures of past students on a bulletin board inside his classroom.



the way they are," he said. "I love being investigative and understanding the world around me."

Reviving his past interests, the social science teacher changed his course of study to history with a minor in education after his sophomore year.

"It was very intense, but I definitely found my footing and my community," he said. "I really loved that experience, and that kind of developed my passion for everything I do."

HEADING TO THE FARM

After graduating UCLA in 2017, Quezada said he began a one-and-a-half year master's program at Stanford University for teaching and social sciences.

While completing his master's, he said he started student teaching at Gunderson High School in San Jose, which was a new and impactful experience for him.

"I taught in a very diverse community, very similar to the demographic of Sunny Hills," Quezada said. "It was stressful managing my classes and teaching, but I enjoyed it."

After his student teaching came to an end, the newly hired staff member said he wanted to return to Southern California to help his parents with finances. However, because of his network in Palo Alto, he found it harder to find employment.

With a stroke of luck, the teacher said he connected with a Los Angeles Unified School District recruiter in 2018 and received an interview at Libra Academy in Huntington Park. He said the biggest lesson he learned when he first started teaching was about trying too hard to achieve excellence.

"I think the biggest thing is, perfection can be a great thing to motivate, but also something that's very problematic; I was always seeking perfection," he said. "It can be as great as being ambitious, but also you need to be kind to yourself."

ARRIVING ON THE HILLS

Prior to his eighth year of teaching, Quezada said his former high school teacher informed him of available positions in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, following the "golden handshake," an early retirement incentive.

Eager to move closer to home, the teacher said he leapt at the opportunity, submitting his application in April 2024.

"I was fortunate enough that they gave me an interview and turned out there were a lot of people who applied, but it worked out," he said.

So far, Quezada teaches Advanced Placement [AP] Human Geography for periods 2, 3, 4 and 6 and AP United States Government and Politics for fifth period.

"Students are kind," he said. "They're getting me involved with TikTok videos and all that stuff, so definitely feeling like I'm part of the community, or becoming part of the community."

Senior Franciscan Pak, who has Quezada for AP United States Government and Politics, said her favorite aspect of the class is "Student of the Week," in which Quezada would pick two students to recognize.

"I think it's pretty cool because teachers don't do that much anymore, and so it's nice to have that positive reinforcement," Pak said.

Just like he did at his previous school, Quezada hopes to create a safe space for his "familia."

"One of my professional goals that I wrote down is, I want to build a positive community," he said.

Principal Craig Weinreich attributed the new teacher's infectious energy to the reason for his hire.

"He came across [as] very enthusiastic, knowledgeable and someone who is willing to do anything to help his students learn," Weinreich said. "You could just tell from talking with him that he really cares a lot about what he's doing; he loves teaching and being in the classroom, and that's what we want."

Freshman Jalon Lomheim, who is in Quezada's second period AP Human Geography class, said he values his attempts to create relationships with students.

"He's just awesome because he kind of connects with us, and that's what I really like about him," Lomheim said.



For the full story, visit shhsaccolade.com

PRESENTING THE PAST: Spreading his love for history, Quezada exhibits posters of historical events and activities in his classroom for his students to see.



all photos by **KATIE LEEM**

TEACHING HIS FAMILIA: New social science teacher Carlos Quezada lectures his freshmen students in fourth period Advanced Placement Human Geography class in Room 55 on Sept. 4.

LANCER LEGACY

Sunny Hills alumnus comes back on campus as a social science teacher

story by **KAYLYNN PARK**

“You are absolutely capable of creating the life you can’t stop thinking about :)”

That’s what students see on the back whiteboard in new social science teacher Marcus Reveles’ classroom. With the LED lights running along the ceiling and American wartime posters pinned on the cabinets, Reveles said the mantra adds a personal touch to his yet unfinished classroom.

“I love that quote,” said Reveles, a Sunny Hills Class of 2018 alumnus. “It’s not from someone, it’s just something that I read one day when I was driving by a billboard, and it really resonated with me; now sometimes I look at it, and it puts a smile on my face.”

Following his quote, the SH graduate said he has been working toward achieving the dream that he couldn’t stop thinking about since he was a sophomore in high school: life as a teacher.

HISTORY OF THE STUDENT LANCER

Reveles said he participated in theater at Sunny Hills, performing in plays and working backstage.

“I met really good people and friends I’m still very tight with [through theater],” he said. “I was heavily involved in the COFA [Conservatory of the Fine Arts] side of Sunny Hills, which I loved.”

But when he arrived at Sunny Hills from Whittier after his parents’ divorce, Reveles said he felt clueless and lost as the eldest child in an immigrant household. Despite the obstacles, the new social science teacher said he became the first in his family to attend college.

“I do what I do to make my family proud,” Reveles said. “My family has done a lot and gave me opportunities that they didn’t have when they were my age, and I felt a lot of pressure not to take that for granted and not to disappoint.”

He said that pressure gave him the motivation to be a better version of himself, and he is grateful that he can be a resource to guide his younger relatives through the hurdles he once faced.

“With my experience being a first-generation college student, I hope my family doesn’t have to struggle as much as I did, and that I can give [my younger siblings] tips that I didn’t have at home,” the history teacher said. “I owe it to everyone who’s supported me all the way up here.”

HIS AGE OF EXPLORATION

Out of his seven college acceptances, Reveles said he chose California State University, Fullerton [CSUF], to enroll in 2019 for its strong teaching credential program.

Reveles said CSUF’s course is a one-year program that is comparably rigorous because of its short time frame. He said he thinks the demanding curriculum is what got him acclimated to the teaching environment.

“Being a first-year teacher, it’s a lot coming at you; it’s very fast paced, so the program got me prepared for that kind of pace,” he

BECOMING A MENTOR: *New social science teacher Marcus Reveles lectures the freshmen in his fourth period World History class in Room 24 on Sept. 5.*

photo by **BRIANNA SCHROEDER**

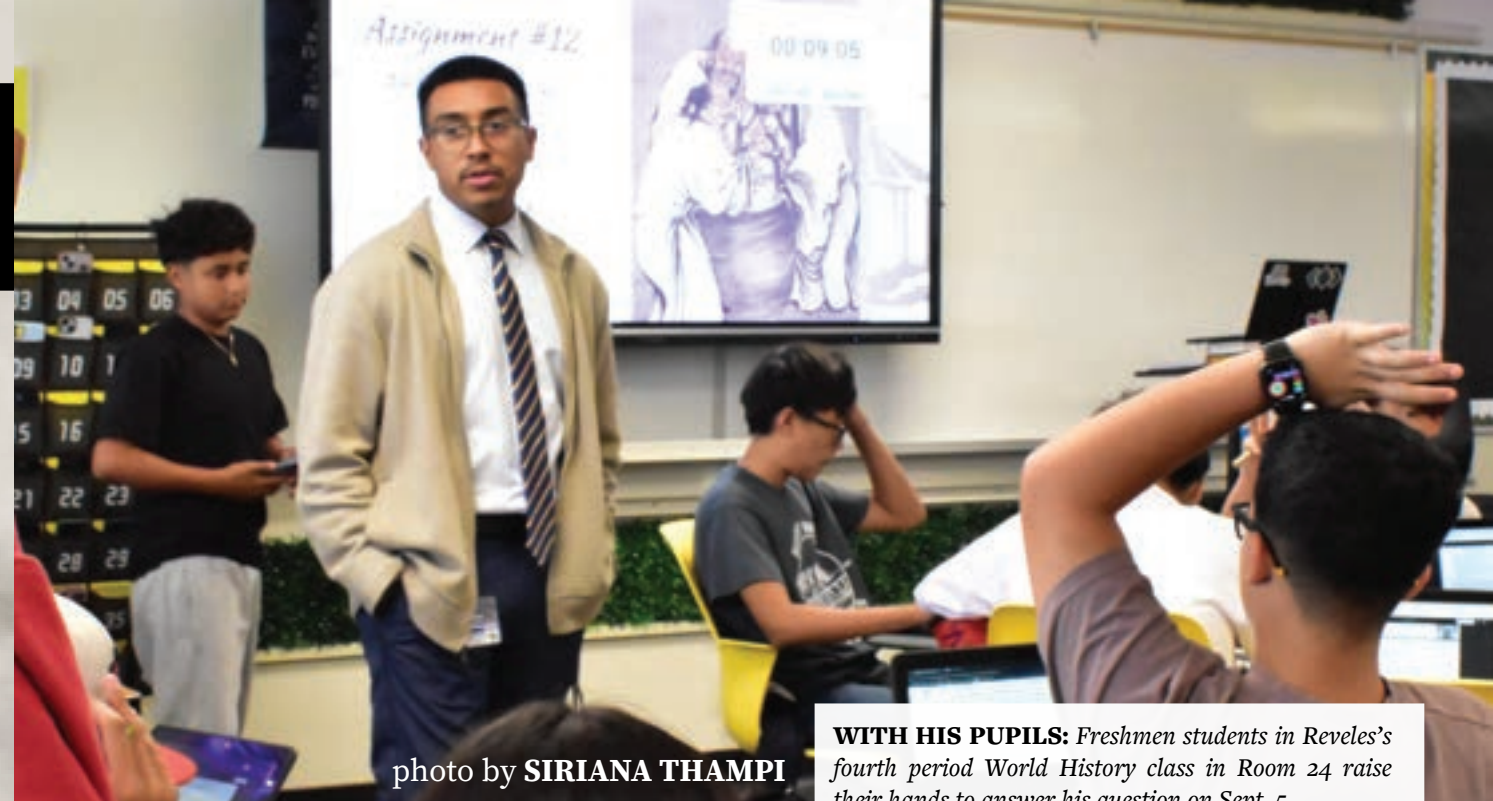


photo by **SIRIANA THAMPI**

WITH HIS PUPILS: *Freshmen students in Reveles’s fourth period World History class in Room 24 raise their hands to answer his question on Sept. 5.*

said.

Reveles graduated with a major in history with double minors in math and American history. He said his positive experience with his previous SH history teachers, such as David Wilde, influenced his decision regarding his major.

“They really made it a point that I understand history is more than just facts, dates and people,” Reveles said. “They made me realize that I feel more whole and complete when I understand other people and their cultures and experiences.”

In 2023, Reveles graduated with a bachelor’s degree and earned his social science teaching credential at CSUF. He also spent his first semester of the education program student teaching at Oxford Academy. Then, he moved on to Buena Park High School during his second semester in spring 2024 and assisted in an eleventh-grade U.S. History class.

Reveles was offered a one-month substitute job for the Advanced Placement [AP] Computer Science and Esports adviser Sonya Joyce despite having no prior coding experience, after she injured her leg during the last month of school in May.

“It was a different experience being out of my discipline, but it was great because I got to practice making connections with my kids and making them feel welcome and safe,” he said.

ONCE A LANCER, ALWAYS A LANCER

When three SH social science teachers — Robert Bradburn, Greg Del Crognale and Jeff Gordon — retired last spring, Sunny Hills released applications for teaching openings in May, while he was still a substitute for Joyce. Reveles said he discovered an opportunity to apply for a full-time job through his colleagues, who texted him an Edjoin link to the application.

He submitted his application in May and heard back not long after submission, and his interview took place in the last week of school.

Principal Craig Weinreich said out of over 200 teachers in the social science pool looking to work at Sunny Hills, Reveles stood out with his energetic interview.

“He’s somebody that gets involved wherever he is, and you can tell that from him,” Weinreich said. “That enthusiasm, that energy and that desire to want to be good at what he does

and help his students was really apparent.”

This fall, Reveles was hired as a social science teacher and teaches World History for periods 2, 3, 4 and 6 and Government for periods 1 and 5, and he said that he has already created bonds with his students.

Freshman Merritt Dale said he can see himself growing from once hating history to looking forward to his World History class every day.

“He makes what he teaches us interesting, which a lot of teachers don’t know how to do,” Dale said. “He understands us and he tries to be a really upbeat and energetic teacher, and he wants to be with us so that we can understand what he’s talking about.”

Senior Abigail Venya said Reveles’s young age doesn’t take away from the respect she and her classmates have for him.

“I think he’s a great teacher because even though he’s probably one of the youngest teachers on campus, he’s very assertive and a good leader for the class, while also building a connection with him and the material that we’re learning,” she said.

Starting his first year with excitement, the new teacher said the next step for him is to continue developing himself to improve at his job.

“I would love to stay here for my whole career... and I really don’t have a game plan after this,” Reveles said. “My plan is to teach, and until that changes, I love to be where I am.”



For the full story, visit shsaccolade.com



all illustrations by
SOFIE CIUDADREAL

Q&A LANCER LIFE

compiled by **YENA OH**

For the inaugural issue of the 2025-26 school year, The Accolade's Arts & Entertainment editor Yena Oh interviews junior Daniel Martinez about his first year on the hill in a continuation of the Lancer Life series.



photo by
BRIANNA SCHROEDER

Q Where did you move from, and why did you come to Fullerton?

A "I moved from Montclair to Fullerton because we wanted to get closer to our church in Downtown Fullerton, called Freedom House Church."

Q Why did you decide to attend Sunny Hills High School?

A "I was supposed to go to Fullerton Union High School, because it's my homeschool, but I decided to come here because I thought it would be better for me academically."

Q What is your favorite class here at Sunny Hills, and why?

A "My favorite class here is probably Video Production. I had to take a class that was exclusive to this school [to transfer], and I've always been into video, so I decided to take the class."

Q How has your classroom experience been with your teachers, and what subject do you enjoy the most?

A "I like all of my teachers. They're all understanding, and they all have a passion for teaching. History. I am taking APUSH [Advanced Placement U.S. History] with Mr. [David] Wilde right now, and it's been very easy to learn in that class. He explains in a way where it's easy to understand."

Q Since you're still adjusting to the new environment, you must sometimes miss your life at Montclair; do you ever miss your friends back at home?

A "I miss my friends from school, but I have been coming to church over here, so I have all of my church friends. I hung with them all summer. And I hope for more friendships. I want to build new connections in my second half of high school."

Q Are you planning on joining any clubs or athletic teams here at Sunny Hills?

A "I plan on starting a club. It's called Alive Youth Club, and it's partnered with my church. It's a club that's welcome to everyone, just to build community. I also want to do track and field. I do long jump and triple jump."

| **opinion**

TRUMP POLICY FREEZES SCHOOLS



Changing Policies | pg. 16

New laws impact the present and future of learning

Raids on Communities | pg. 18

Students don't need to worry about how ICE raids will impact their education

IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Federal funding cuts threaten students' futures

story by SOOJIN CHO

A sum of \$108,000 — that's how much it costs for an average student to attend a public in-state college for all four years, according to Education Data Initiative.

With these four years of college tuition, students like us are often left with thousands of dollars of debt, and for most, that number is impossible to reach without financial help from their parents. But to remedy this burden, the U.S. Department of Education created organizations such as Federal Student Aid [FSA] to provide students with support. According to FSA, they helped 9.9 million students and provided \$120.8 billion in grants each year to make postsecondary education possible.

But now, the new educational laws put that support system at risk. Graduates from Sunny Hills across the nation relied on this privilege and opportunity for an affordable education, and it became crucial for families in need of financial aid. And so, the recent policies that were implemented — such as cutting federal funding for academics and restricting access to proper resources

and education — are the wrong direction and should not be enforced, as those could become harmful for students. Instead, the focus should change to decreasing the unnecessary outputs of federal funding.

According to a National Education Association article, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 20 in an attempt to dismantle the Department of Education. Some believe this policy will “return power to the States” by allowing the Department of Education to redistribute its responsibilities to the state governments. But in reality, it will just pose a negative impact as it disrupts key programs that high school students rely on for aid.

Those unaware of this policy may think it's harmless. But this means that the government is lessening federal funding, which could actually be unfavorable for students at public schools, which rely on federal funding, like Sunny Hills.

As students, we might have to now figure out our futures in finance alone.

But as teenagers who struggle to even get through high school, we may be left devastated for ourselves and our futures because of the loss of support. Because at the end of the day, there are far more issues to care about when it comes to attending college, from the cost to location, and we as students cannot handle this alone.

According to another National Education Association article, the Department of Education ensures that students — no matter their background, ethnicity or circumstances — can have guaranteed resources and educational opportunities. Unlike private schools, which receive private donations from alumni and corporations, public schools rely on federal funding to help these students have access to the proper resources.

This means that by possibly disrupting this system, students can lose access to programs and support to succeed in school. And Sunny Hills, a public school, will also be affected by these policies if they

continue to be enforced.

According to a Children Now article, even our school food, which is provided by the Department of Education through California's Universal Meals Program and has served over 849 million meals to students, may be restricted.

Our students have enjoyed free meals at Sunny Hills, and defunding this system can not only affect us negatively by failing

for after-school enrichment programs and mental health services for students. If this policy reaches our school, then Sunny Hills students could also experience a decrease or limitation in programs and resources necessary for some.

These programs can be crucial for some students as they help them navigate through their careers and life. And without these, students could lose the support that they rely on to succeed and prepare for life after high school.

Beyond academics, some policies are setting restrictions on the sex education curriculum and gender topics, which are both federally funded. Specifically, they are pushing the notion that people can identify as only male or female and limiting the “gender ideology” of changing your sexuality given at birth, according to an AP News article.

In this generation, when teenagers are constantly striving to find and navigate their individual identities, putting limitations on what these students are exposed to will lead to a gap in health knowledge and further exclusion of LGBTQ+ students. By removing sex education, which informs students about contraception, consent and even LGBTQ+ issues, these people will become less informed about their own health and safety.

Instead, if the goal is to minimize the use of federal funds, the government should turn its focus to not spending billions of dollars to maintain underutilized federal buildings and getting rid of duplicative programs. This way, they can cut unnecessary funding while also providing an accessible education.

Therefore, these policies that are dismantling the Department of Education, cutting federal funding for academics and restricting necessary education for teenagers should not be further enforced.

Because if these policies are pushed through, it won't just affect a couple of individuals. It affects everyone at Sunny Hills. It affects us.

New Policies

- Cutting federal funding for academics
- Restricting access to proper resources and education
- Restrictions on the sex education curriculum and gender topics

compiled by KYUWON HAN

to provide everyone the proper nutrients, but also disappoint the students who rely on these programs.

So, these policies that help fund our basic resources, like the school lunch, may be stripped away from our school because of the policy change. Sunny Hills students can enjoy free meals thanks to the federal funding to the program, but with the dip in funding, some students may have to pay for their meals now, or pack their own food.

Furthermore, the proposal decreased funding to the Department of Education by 5.6%, a total cut of \$3.8 billion, and a 21% decrease for the Department of Health and Human Services, which provides child care and education programs, according to a New America article.

This could result in a cut in support

“WE MIGHT HAVE TO NOW
FIGURE OUT OUR FUTURES IN
FINANCE ALONE.”



illustration by
JOANNA JOO

ICE RAID HYSTERIA

Chaos surrounding immigration policies instills fear in students, Southern California residents



illustration by ZOE CHUNG

story by SERENITY LI

Some sources in this story requested partial anonymity to protect themselves and their family from potential risks.

"It does not say 'RSVP' on the Statue of Liberty," Cher Horowitz said to conclude her speech in the 1995 movie "Clueless." Considering Cher's words, we can assume all who come to America are here to "party"; however, they are capable of doing more than that — namely, crimes.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] exists to theoretically keep us safe from foreign and domestic threats, but we should keep them accountable for their methods of doing so. The organization has recently come under fire for allegedly targeting people of certain ethnicities and spreading paranoia among communities in Southern California.

An Aug. 21 Pew Research Center article revealed the amount of unauthorized entry into the US shifted from 7.8 to 9.7 million in just two years, which many accredited to how the Biden administration's policies fueled the Border Crisis. Since the White House's announcement, during President Donald Trump's second term, to "Manage Migration Throughout North and Central America," the Pew Research Center reported the U.S. immigrant population

"declined by more than 1 million between January and June 2025."

To continue the deportation of illegal immigrants, Trump ordered, on Truth Social, for ICE to contribute to this campaign. Soon, people started to criticize these officers' actions. This poses the question as to how this all affects us at Sunny Hills, or more broadly, in California.

THE HISTORY OF ICE

After 9/11, the U.S. became more aware of potential foreign and domestic threats; ICE was then created to protect the U.S. from these dangers. ICE consists of three operational branches and one managerial branch: The Homeland Security Investigations [HSI], Enforcement and Removal Operations [ERO], Office of the Principal Legal Advisor [OPLA] and Management and Administration [M&A]. Together, these organizations work to research, identify and deport undocumented aliens, terrorists and criminal organizations, as shown by ICE's online archives.

According to the immigration enforcement's historical records, HSI investigates criminal and terrorist organizations and can examine the movement of items around and across the country; in 2010 they seized enormous amounts

of cash, cocaine and property from a major Colombian-based drug trafficking organization. The records also stated that ERO targets undocumented aliens with criminal backgrounds, and in 2018, ERO led Operation SOAR, arresting 32 convicted sexual predators.

According to the ICE website, the OPLA provides legal advice and counsel to ICE and supports the prosecution and defense of ICE cases. OPLA handled the Ms. L v. ICE case, which provided for the return of family members currently and in the future. M&A is responsible for addressing the administrative and managerial needs of ICE.

IS THIS NECESSARY?

We need an organization that keeps our country safe in terms of foreign affairs, and ICE is the team for it. Unfortunately, lawbreakers and those who disrespect their place of residency exist.

However, as MSNBC covered, some U.S. citizens were against Trump's efforts to cut down on illegal immigration. People have criticized ICE's tactics, including illegal profiling, aggressive arrests and refusal to identify themselves.

The criticism escalated after the Tuesday Supreme Court ruling to re-

verse *Perdomo v. Noem*, which now allows immigration agents to stop individuals based on race or ethnicity, type of work, if they speak "Spanish or English with an accent," or their "presence in a particular location" according to an American Civil Labor Union [ACLU] article that was released on the same day. This new change could possibly mark an uptick in prejudiced targeting towards certain demographics, which ACLU's national legal director, Cecillia Wang, criticized as outrageous and stated they would fight for "our fundamental right to go about our lives without being targeted by government agents based on racial profiling."

The outrage against ICE's unfair tactics raises the question: Is ICE really necessary to this deportation plan? While arguments like "ICE tears apart families and goes after women and children, not the criminals" could be convincing, immigration attorney Joseph Tsang knows they are necessary.

"ICE as an organization has to exist ... They are the only enforcement arm of ... immigration," Tsang said in a YouTube interview with ethics consultant Jason Chen.

While ICE does take a brute approach to Trump's plan, they are necessary for illegal immigrants and criminals, like the Aug. 20 Fox News article report of illegal migrants who were charged with rape, aggravated sodomy and kidnapping of a woman from Oklahoma.

Although not all illegal immigrants will break our laws, some will. Trump is right to deport people who are capable of committing heinous acts. To make the U.S. a better country, those living in it must reside honestly and abide by the

regulations.

FEAR NOT

Our school district's Board Policy on immigration, which was adopted Tuesday, June 11, 2024, states its commitment to the success of all students regardless of citizenship or immigration status. It also says that in the district's programs and activities, participants won't be denied equal rights and opportunities or be subject to discrimination or harassment on the basis of their immigration status. Around campus, students seem to agree with the government's right to deport migrants, but

"We can still support their efforts if they are lawful and humane."

they have negative feelings toward such methods of removal.

"It almost feels like they're kidnapping people," said Pardo, who asked for only his last name to be undisclosed. "I don't think deportation is 100% wrong, but only to the people that actually deserve it, and all the processes should be done in a good way; nowadays, they treat everyone like they're criminals when most of them aren't."

ICE has cases of violence against those they arrest and needs to work on enforcing legal and humane pro-

cedures. On the other hand, we must make sure all residents, legal or not, keep the law, ensuring a safe country for both themselves and others.

"Most of the immigrants just want to look for opportunities for a better life," said Ruiz, who asked for only his last name to be undisclosed. "While there are those with malicious intent when crossing over, the way ICE has done things hasn't been great."

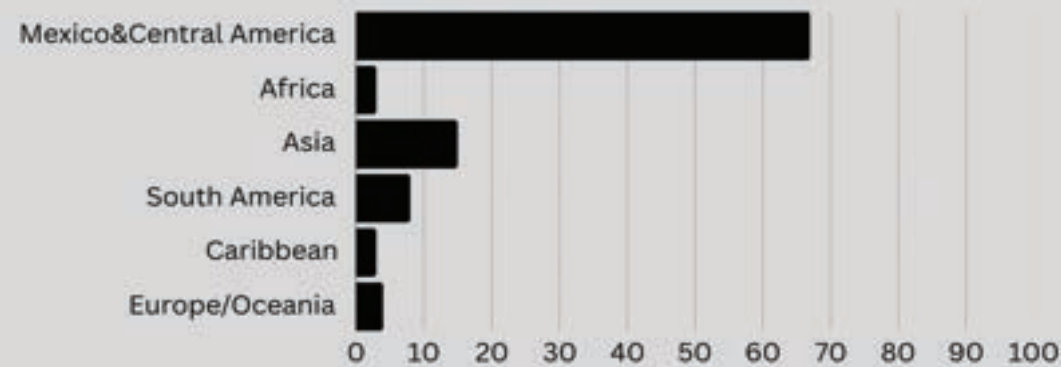
Speaking of deportation techniques, ICE may wear masks but must identify themselves when asked, Tsang said. The Department of Homeland Security's Public Affairs Assistant Secretary says ICE abides by these rules. However, news site NPR reported in a Thursday, July 10 article that these face coverings are "undermining public trust," which doesn't help with cases of violence towards deportees and even to U.S. citizens.

The discrepancy between these claims signals that, though not all officers are guilty of unfair detainment and violence, some are. So, we can still support their efforts if they are lawful and humane.

Regarding permanent residents, the official U.S. Code website states that any aliens, legal or not, can be deported if they violated a law, their status, a condition to enter or are related to aiding illegal immigration. Senior Nathan Park shared his opinions regarding the demographics of the deported.

On paper, ICE exists to keep us safe; however, its actions have had the opposite effect on people. As for now, just follow Tsang's advice: "Don't live in a state of fear because it paralyzes the needed energy you need to live your best life."

Regions of Birth for Unauthorized Population: United States



source: ice.gov

compiled by BRADYN CHIANG

STAFF EDITORIAL

TIME TO SHIFT ATTENTION

Sunny Hills excels at orienting freshmen, but transfer students deserve the same level of support and inclusion

illustration by EVINA LEE

5 out of 17 of The Accolade Editorial Board members assert that Sunny Hills could do a better job in welcoming new students to our school. The minority claims that although programs such as Link Crew put a great deal of effort into welcoming freshmen to our campus, transfer students are largely overlooked — and those same school programs should work to include students who switch to Sunny Hills.

Incoming freshmen at Sunny Hills are immediately bombarded with events organized by Link Crew. The Summer Bridge program teaches them about Sunny Hills campus and culture. Freshman orientation allows students to meet each other and engage in group activities. Even Soak a Leader, where freshmen select a Link Crew leader to drench with water, is designed to spark excitement and school spirit. As soon as they step foot on campus during freshman orientation over the summer — which typically occurs the week of Lancer Days — they are greeted with friendly faces and team-building activities from Link Crew. But transfer students, on the other hand, are left to fend for themselves. If we want to be an inclusive school, Sunny Hills must extend their efforts to these students as well.

In an interview with principal Craig Weinreich, we were informed that unlike freshmen, transfer students do not have the privilege of a designated program that introduces them to Sunny Hills culture. Instead, apart from occasional staff guidance, they have to piece things together themselves: finding classrooms, making friends and navigating clubs — with limited support beyond what counselors provide. We recognize that Link Crew leaders work hard to orient ninth graders, but no such effort exists for students who arrive mid-year or after their freshman year.

This lack of attention can potentially lead to new students feeling isolated during a time when making connections is vital, as high school is often where students meet their life-long friends. Without a dedicated support system at school, they may miss out on school traditions, leadership opportunities or even simple things like a spot to eat lunch. It is clear that Sunny Hills cares about welcoming new students, but this gap brings attention to a blind spot in our otherwise strong hospitality to newcomers.

When transfer students come into our school, they enter a community where friendships are already established. Un-

like freshmen, who all start ‘fresh’ together, transfers may often find themselves trying to gel into groups that formed in middle school — or even earlier. This difficult transition in connecting socially can isolate them, making them feel like outsiders. Although non-freshmen newcomers may receive some help from counselors with scheduling their classes with people they know, Weinreich said, the lack of an organized welcome can leave many struggling to find their place. Implementing a peer-mentoring program or a separate orientation specifically for transfer students could help them feel more connected and confident in their new school environment.

Additionally, while we concede that Link Crew is dedicated to introducing freshmen to Sunny Hills so they feel more comfortable on campus, the events they plan may have the opposite effect. For example, quieter or more introverted students might feel pressured to participate in icebreakers and activities that they dislike. This may create a stressful environment for such students, since they might feel uncomfortable participating in certain high-energy or group-focused games.

Link Crew could be improved by making its activities more inclusive to different types of students. Training leaders to recognize when someone is uncomfortable and offering smaller, low-pressure ways of connecting would help freshmen who don't thrive in loud, high-energy spaces. Furthermore, the program could expand beyond its current focus of ninth graders and create a separate branch dedicated to helping transfer students. A few small adjustments — such as a campus tour, an intimate orientation or pairing each transfer with a buddy — would ensure that all newcomers feel supported when they arrive at Sunny Hills.

Our school has done a lot to welcome freshmen, but a truly inclusive school leaves no student behind. By expanding Link Crew and other orientation efforts to support all students — not just ninth graders — we can turn every first day into a confident start.

The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2025-2026 staff with the guidance of adviser Christopher D’Innocente. If you have a question about the board’s decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theacoladeshhs@gmail.com.

MEET THE ADVISER

Newly hired English teacher hopes to leave his mark

story by CJ D’INNOCENTE

“So you’re the new Accolade guy!”

I wear the moniker like a badge of honor.

“Yes, I am!” I reply. “I feel so fortunate to be here.”

‘Fortunate’ only barely scratches the surface. My predecessor described advising the program as his ‘dream job,’ and while I wholeheartedly agree with his sentiment, I feel I must differentiate myself.

Not only is this a dream come true for me, but this also marks the achievement of a goal that I set for myself when I first became a teacher back in 2020: to one day lead a Journalism program.

Before I was a teacher, I was a journalist. I started in the Journalism program at the University of Arizona during my freshman year of college in 2014, and completed my degree in Journalism some three-and-a-half years later. During that time, I wrote for a small magazine called El Independiente, covering the south Tucson community, and Arizona Sonora News, our college newspaper. During my senior year, I wrote for the Arizona Daily Star, a local newspaper serving Pima County.

It was during my time as a reporter that I was first introduced to the world of education. I covered all kinds of issues regarding education and education inequality, and by interviewing students, parents, teachers and administrators, I was able to realize the immense power of education. It transformed lives, sparked passions, and made dreams come true for so many students and members of the community. People told me their stories about how education had changed the trajectories of their lives for the better, and I could not help but become inspired. Inspiration is contagious, after all.

Now that I have become a teacher and adviser, I hope to share that inspiration with the community here at Sunny Hills. I am truly blessed to join and lead an immensely talented team of young journalists, and I hope that their words and their art inspire you in some way. I believe that *The Accolade* is more than just a school newspaper; it represents what is possible when we work together and push each other to be the best we possibly can be.

I would like to close out this issue by first thanking my predecessor, Tommy Li, for sharing his passion and wisdom with me and with our students. I would also like to thank the students, staff, administration, parents and alumni of Sunny Hills for your support of *The Accolade* throughout the years. Finally, I would like to thank you, dear reader, for taking the time.

Sincerely,
“The new Accolade guy”
CJ D’Innocente

photo by KATIE LEEM



“**THE ACCOLADE IS MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER; IT REPRESENTS WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.**”

|a&e K-POPPING OFF

New South Korean movie slays demons and charts

story by ALICE CHAE

Since its release on June 20, Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" has shattered records, according to Netflix Tudum, reaching the highest viewership in the platform's history and holding the No. 1 spot on Netflix for 10 straight weeks as of Aug. 31.

The film has amassed over 236 million views in just three months and has broken multiple records not only for its animation but also for its soundtrack, which features a blend of English and Korean lyrics, according to Netflix Tudum. Four songs from the project — "Golden," "How It's Done," "Soda Pop" and "Your Idol" — have remained in the Billboard Hot 100 and Billboard Global 200's top 10, while the soundtrack itself climbed to No. 2 on the Billboard 200, as of Monday, Sept. 8.

The movie follows HUNTR/X, a K-pop girl group made up of Rumi, Mira and Zoey, who double as demon hunters. While adored by millions of fans, their true duty is protecting the world from demons seeking to steal human souls and break the "Honmoon" barrier that shields humanity.

Their biggest challenge comes from the Saja Boys — a rival idol group of five demons, Jinu, Abby, Baby, Mystery and Romance — whose attempt to steal HUNTR/X's fans hides a darker goal of weakening the barrier. During one of their encounters, Rumi's hidden markings are revealed — ex-

posed her as part demon — testing her teammates' trust before the group ultimately reaffirms their bond.

The climax takes place during the Global Music Awards, where Gwi-Ma, the main antagonist and king of the Demon Realm, hypnotizes the audience to ensure the Saja Boys' victory. In the battle, HUNTR/X performs a powerful new song that defeats the Saja Boys and Gwi-Ma and restores the barrier.

Fans around the world from France to Germany were drawn to the story's characters and themes, according to The Korea Herald. Sunny Hills students and teachers also found themselves captivated.

"The most recent movies have been pretty awful, so seeing a good one was really refreshing," SH Korean Culture Club president senior Ayden Lee said.

Lee said he especially enjoyed listening to Saja Boys member Baby and the group's songs.

"I think Baby Saja's lines in the song were some of the best, and I just really liked the Saja Boys' music overall," he said. "Of course, HUNTR/X had good songs too, but something about the Saja Boys' tracks just hit differently."

Freshman Evelyn Baldelli said she was conflicted about the film's ending.

"I thought it was a pretty good movie, and I liked the plot, but I didn't like how Jinu disappeared at the end," Baldelli said. "It felt like everything was building up, and then he was just gone."

The freshman said the movie's global popularity made sense.

"I think the success is justified because so many people like K-pop," she said. "Fans are going to watch it and recommend it, and even people who don't listen to K-pop end up getting drawn in."

Senior Kalani Lodrigueza said that she had anticipated it would be an amazing and impressive film.

"I feel like I hide parts of myself sometimes, and seeing Rumi navigate that was re-



ally relatable," Lodrigueza said. "The ending hit me emotionally, especially when Jinu sacrificed himself for Rumi; it makes me tear up every time."

Beyond its entertainment value, teachers also noted the movie's ability to resonate across different audiences.

In addition to its creativity, SH Korean language teacher Joe Ok recognized how the movie captured the attention of a wide audience.

"The movie is not just for young people or students; people of all ages have liked it and watched it," Ok said. "The songs are good and catchy, and a lot of people post about the movie on social media."

Ok said he feels proud of the Korean media's global success.

"Being Korean, I'm always proud," he said. "Now, it's almost expected to see high-quality content coming from Korea."

With its record-breaking run and emotional storylines, "KPop Demon Hunters" has proven that K-pop's influence extends far beyond the stage, cementing its place in global entertainment.



For the full story, visit shsaccolade.com

illustration by JOANNA JOO, EVINA LEE and LINDSEY UM

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The Summer I...

As we dive back into the new school year, staff reporter and business manager Tatiana Galvez interviews two students and two faculty members about their sunny adventures.

THE SUMMER I WON A RADIO GIVEAWAY

Junior Cambria Dominguez said that the best things in life are, in fact, free.

After calling the K-Earth 101 radio hotline multiple times in January in hopes of winning tickets to the annual Beach-Life music festival in Redondo Beach, she finally struck gold on call number 20.

"I was on my way to my grandparents' house when I heard on the radio that you could win tickets to a festival," she said. "So, I called about 20 times until they finally picked up, and I was on the phone with them for a good half-hour."

The entire three-day festival experience, which took place May 2-4, lasted from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. every day and was financially covered by the radio station.

"The most unforgettable part of my entire experience was the memorable connection that I shared with the people I took [with me]," Dominguez said. "I just feel like I had this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of winning these tickets that are worth \$1,000 each for the weekend."

illustrations by **LINDSEY UM** and **SOFIE CIUDADREAL**



photo used with permission by **CAMBRIA DOMINGUEZ**

THE SUMMER I WENT TO HAWAII

Sunny Hills Principal Craig Weinreich spent his time away from the hill on a nine-day trip to Maui, Hawaii, with his wife and two sons.

"[It was] a good time with my family, especially as my boys were heading back to college," Weinreich said. "So, we just had that time with the family."

The principal went the extra mile, besides the other 2,500 miles he flew, to experience the unforgettable sunrise that Haleakalā National Park had to offer.

"It was 38 degrees up there, he said. "It was a little cold, and we had to get up at 3 a.m. to drive up there and beat the sunrise."

This wasn't his first time in the Aloha state, but it was his first time visiting the state's capital. Going from paradise to a principal's office is no easy switch, but the school year must go on.

"I love Hawaii, I love the vibe and I love the pace and everything there, so it was hard to come back," Weinreich said.



photo used with permission by **CRAIG WEINREICH**

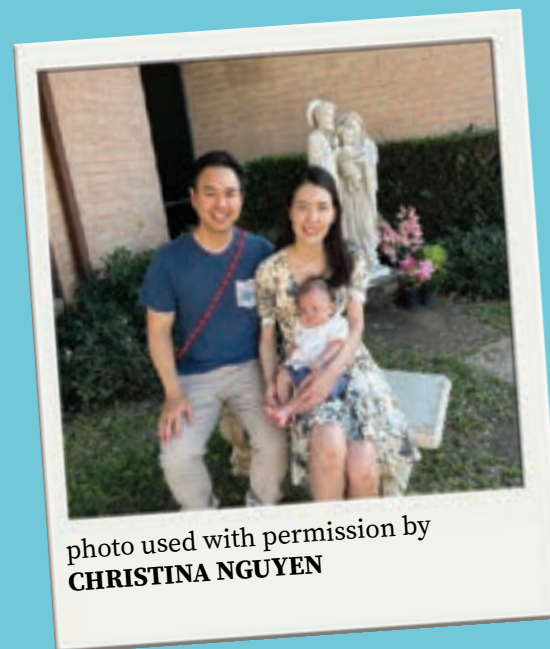


photo used with permission by **CHRISTINA NGUYEN**

THE SUMMER I BECAME A MOM

Summer is known for its pleasant nights, but algebra teacher Christina Nguyen's nights look a little different these days.

This past summer, Nguyen and her husband welcomed the newest addition to their family on May 19: a baby boy. Although being a first-time parent is far from a walk in the park, she said the pleasant moments outweigh the chaos.

"The weirdest thing was not having a concept of day and night anymore," said Nguyen, a first-time mother. "It was like, 'Wow, I'm watching the sunrise and sunset with my son every day, [and] everyone else in the world is enjoying their day and night.'"

Nguyen said becoming a mother has not only changed her sleep schedule, but also her perspectives on parents, kids and life as a whole.

"[Now I] just have a bigger appreciation for my own parents, and an overall greater appreciation for life in general," she said. "It helps me see people more from a parent perspective rather than just like 'Oh, they're just my student, but I understand that they're also someone's child.'"

THE SUMMER I BECAME A NATIONAL CHAMPION

The Fourth of July was not the only thing senior Jake Sueki was celebrating this past summer.

From July 5-9, Sueki and his club volleyball team, Balboa Bay, competed against over 200 teams from across the nation in pursuit of one medal and the title of Amateur Athletic Union [AAU] boys national champions. They were part of the second wave of the tournaments' 17 age group's open division, the highest of the six AAU divisions for boys volleyball.

"Winning the whole thing was an indescribable experience," Sueki said. "[It's] something I've been fighting for my whole volleyball career, so actually being able to accomplish it was pretty fulfilling."

The senior began his involvement in volleyball five years ago, four years of which he spent as libero on the SH varsity boys volleyball team, and he said he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

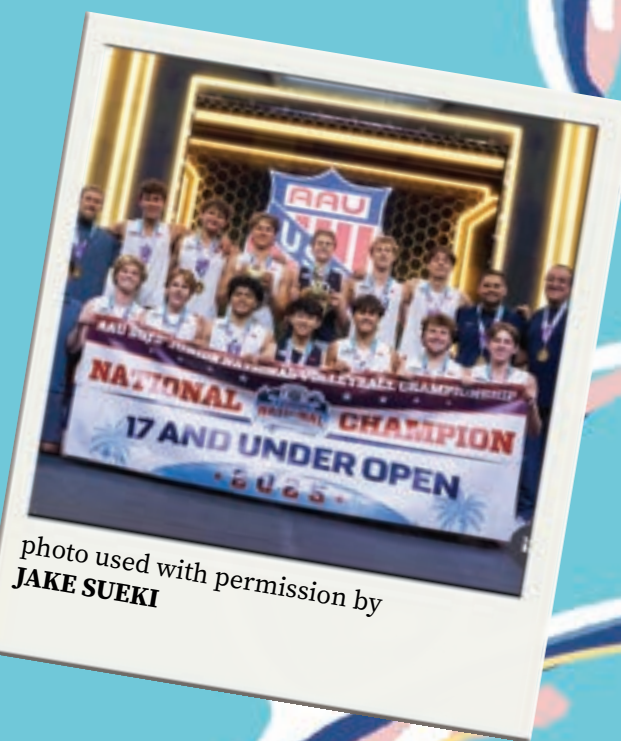


photo used with permission by **JAKE SUEKI**

VICTORY FOR THE LANCERS

Sunny Hills takes home the most league wins in the new Century Conference



photo used with permission by JAKE HOLLOWAY

LANCERS ON TOP: After winning their first league title in 19 years, the girls track and field team hold up a one at Fred Kelly Stadium to celebrate their win on May 2.

story by **LAUREN KANG**

With the conclusion of the inaugural year of the Century Conference, Sunny Hills athletics claimed 10 league championship titles — the most out of any school.

“I attribute that to our coaches and students as they did all the work,” said Paul Jones, the athletic director. “I’m just here to support everybody, but it’s a nice accomplishment for us to go into a new conference and have such good success.”

After CIF-SS officials decided to switch up the leagues in the 2023-2024 school year, the Lancers and Lady Lancers moved from the 40-year-long Freeway League to the newly formed 15-school Century Conference.

Within the Century Conference are three leagues: the Crest-

view League, Freeway League and North Hills League.

Jones said that while winning was a nice bonus to the year, the new conference meant that many sacrifices had to be made.

“We love the Freeway League and we’ve been able to play against our district schools in which all of our district kids know each other, so we bring them against their friends and you have the rivalries and everything,” Jones said. “So when you move to a different conference, you lose a lot of that.”

He said that because there was no longer a personal connection with the other schools, he saw a decline in the student section at away games.

“When we play against these schools that nobody knows, people don’t care, so they don’t go,” Jones said.

However, for a few programs, the new conference marked the end of their droughts.

Boys basketball and wrestling won for the first time in 13 and 18 years, respectively, while girls track and field won for the first time in 19 years.

“It was a great feeling,” boys basketball head coach Joe Ok said. “I know the guys were very happy, just because it hasn’t happened in a long time, so I think it was a great experience for us.”

Girls track and field head coach Jake Holloway said that it felt great for him to bring home the title, yet he gives the credit to his athletes.

“I’m there to help guide and put them in the right situation and to motivate them, but they are the ones who actually have to execute it,” Holloway said. “I don’t take credit for the execution.”

On the contrary, athletes said they agree that the coaching staff played a major part in Sunny Hills’ accomplishment in the new conference.

“Coach Willie definitely helped us throughout the season,” girls soccer outside back junior Annalise Glynn said. “He just brought in a whole different perspective and really brought something out of us that we didn’t necessarily have before.”

Girls soccer head coach William Allgeier said that despite now being in the highest league within the Century Conference — the Crestview League — he believes his team can maintain a winning streak.

“It will be a difficult league, but the coaching staff has a lot of confidence that we can succeed in this league and repeat,” Allgeier said.

Boys wrestling senior Gavin Kim said he also agrees that the coaching played a major factor in his team’s victory in the new league.

“We had a new lineup of coaches that year and they pushed our team really hard,” Kim said.

With the new competition, teams like girls golf and girls swim and dive said they did not expect their win.

Boys and girls golf head coach Scott Enrico said that he was surprised to find out that his girls golf team won the title of co-league

champions along with Troy High School [THS] because of confusion with the new league system. It wasn’t until he checked the Century Conference website that he said he found out a share of the championship was awarded to his team.

Yet he said he still believed in his athletes.

“To be honest, I thought we had a shot if things fell in the right direction for us,” said Enrico, who went into the season knowing that THS had a strong team and was uncertain about the others. “Luckily, things fell the right way, and we were able to beat Troy at home at our first meeting.”

Meanwhile, girls swim and dive head coach Sergio Dorrego said that he had no idea how his team would perform in the new league.

“Honestly, these were all new schools that we’ve never swam against before,” Dorrego said. “I think we did better than I expected us to do, and that felt really good.”

Dorrego said that with the competition being more intense, he is considering changing his strategy for the upcoming season.

“We have so many swimmers that we can pack events and get points, so that might be how we win this year,” the swim and dive head coach said. “They could have one or

two fast girls, but we have a lot of fast girls to maximize the points.”

Excluding wrestling, all nine sports are advancing to the next highest league within the conference for the 2025-26 sports season.

As SH athletics head into the new league year, Jones said he believes the sports teams are capable of accomplishing the same feat despite constant changes within the conference.

“It doesn’t matter where we go or who we’re going to play against,” Jones said. “We’re always going to try to compete.”



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illustration by
KYUWON HAN

A LOOK AT LAST YEAR’S LEAGUES

CRESTVIEW

- Boys golf
- Boys volleyball
- Girls golf
- Girls volleyball

FREEWAY

- Girls swim and dive
- Girls tennis

NORTH HILLS

- Boys basketball
- Boys wrestling
- Girls soccer
- Girls track and field

compiled by **EMILY KIM**



ONE YEAR LATER...

Following the inaugural season as part of a new league, The Accolade previews the fall sports gearing up for more competition



For the full stories, visit shhsaccolade.com

All images except girls golf were taken by Accolade photographers. Image of girls golf player Siyoon Jang used with permission from @winstonthelancer.

FOOTBALL



Head Coach: Fred Gambrell

Outlook: Gambrell said the team plans to push through the season by encouraging each other to not give up. He said that the players should continue to stay focused and attentive to details to improve their chances of winning. Their motto for the season is simple: fight.

League: Lambda

Quote: “Just fight,” Gambrell said. “Just keep fighting no matter what happens, and just keep getting after your goals.”

— By **Emily Kim**
28 SPORTS

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



Head Coach: Amanda Donaldson

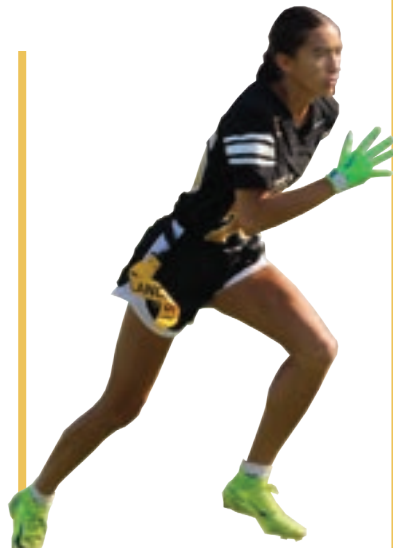
Outlook: Emphasizing team chemistry, the Lady Lancers aim to defend their league championship title and extend their CIF run.

League: Crestview

Quote: “Our goals are just kind of small ones, one week at a time, one match at a time,” Donaldson said. “We want to stand here and say, ‘Hey, we want to win league again;’ then, obviously, the girls do have goals too, like being able to take it further in CIF.”

— By **Nicole Park**

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL



Head Coach: Troy Nelson

Outlook: Stepping into a new role, Nelson said he hopes to win more games and earn a chance to participate in higher-level competition this season.

League: North Hills

Quote: “I want to see the players make big strides in growth, and I would love for us to make CIF,” Nelson said. “Now we know what we’re doing; the girls have a much better understanding of what’s going on, and they have more experience under them.”

— By **Emily Lee**

BOYS WATER POLO



Head Coach: Jordan Jaime

Outlook: With the majority of players being underclassmen, the boys water polo team aims to gain experience and regain their place in the Freeway League.

League: North Hills

Quote: “Anytime you have a young team, you want to get them as much experience as possible,” Jaime said. “We have a really strong class of seniors who have shown leadership skills and are very willing to teach those younger than them.”

— By **Kevin Lee**

GIRLS TENNIS



Head Coach: Christopher Ghareebo

Outlook: The Lady Lancers aim to reach the top three in the league championship to qualify for CIF and try to win a CIF title.

League: Crestview

Quote: “We’ve been especially focused on our doubles players, making sure they are ready for all situations and pressure,” Ghareebo said. “We have good singles players, but our doubles will be the reason we have a special season or not.”

— By **Elise Pak**

CROSS COUNTRY



Head Coach: Hannah Batchelor

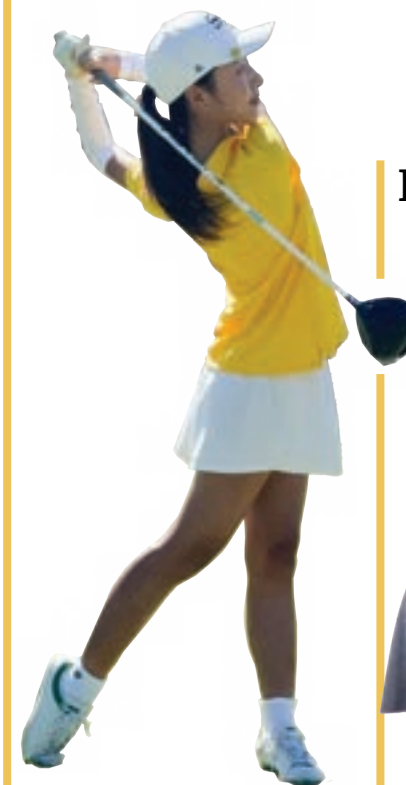
Outlook: Batchelor said she aims for the boys and girls cross country teams to place in the top two in their respective leagues and make it to the CIF-SS finals this season.

Boys: North Hills
Girls: Freeway

Quote: “My goals for the season are similar to last year, which is, I want everyone to be able to gain new skills, and I want them to be able to gain new success,” Batchelor said.

— By **Sua Lee**

GIRLS GOLF



Head Coach: Scott Enrico

Outlook: Following their strong performance last season, Enrico said the team’s most important goal is to win a league championship. He hopes to qualify as many of the athletes as possible for the CIF-SS individual tournament, and qualify for the team championships.

League: Crestview

Quote: “I expect our girls to put in the work and win matches,” Enrico said. “If they do that, we’ll have success.”

— By **Yena Oh**

ESPORTS



Head Coach: Sonya Joyce

Outlook: With strong returning players and the addition of new games, the eSports team hopes to improve consistency and push further in competitions.

League: PlayVS

Quote: “We have really strong players, and we have a lot of players that can be counted on,” Joyce said.

eSports is open to new players. If you would like to join, contact Joyce at sjoyce@fjuhsd.org.

— By **Alice Chae**

DID YOU KNOW?

TAPING AWAY

POWERING UP: Senior Elayna Marquez (right) tapes senior Joshua Stewart's left foot in Room 141 after school on Sept. 2.

Sports medicine internship program allows students to gain hands-on medical training

story by **ELLEN HWANG**

"In the training room, expect absolutely anything."

Senior Elayna Marquez said the statement is her motto as a third-year Sunny Hills sports medicine intern.

"Sometimes, you'll never know what's going to walk through that door, whether it's nonstop nosebleeds everywhere or just a little paper cut," Marquez said.

Athletic trainer Lauren Wukadinovich said she initiated the year-long internship program in 2016 after wanting help managing the influx of athletes who needed treatment. In contrast to the Regional Occupation Program [ROP] Medical Careers and Sports Medicine and Therapy classes taught on campus, students have the opportunity to gain experience with treating injured athletes.

"Sunny Hills has the highest number of athletes in the entire school district," Wukadinovich said. "Having students help kind of takes a little bit of the load off on my end."

The athletic trainer said the interns assist her for a diverse

range of tasks, from aiding with rehabilitation and guiding physical therapy exercises to assisting with injuries and communicating with athletes at the door.

"The only thing they don't do, though, is injury evaluations," the athletic trainer said. "There's so much liability involved, and they also don't have the education required."

SELECTING SUNNY HILLS' HEALERS

The athletic trainer said she prefers students who have some background knowledge, gained from either the ROP Medical Careers or Sports Medicine and Therapy classes, and have an open sixth period.

"Sixth period is the busiest in here, especially in the fall because we have football, flag football and cross country going on — just lots of injuries," she said.

Though it varies slightly every year, the athletic trainer said that she has had anywhere from 4-9 interns annually.

"Ideally, I would like to have between six and eight because more help is great, but it's also a lot to manage on my end, too, which sometimes I don't have time to do," she said. "Sophomores through seniors can apply, but I would say the earlier you start, the better."

THE TOP OF THE TRIAGE PYRAMID

In the fall season of 2023, football quarterback then-freshman Alexander Taylor had one of the more severe and uncommon cases: a broken collarbone. Both Wukadinovich and then-football frosh coach and girls flag football coach Troy Nelson noticed a discrepancy in his playing during a game, which led them to take Taylor out.

"I thought it was just a really painful bruise, so I kept playing for two plays until they pulled me out," the junior said. "I was really upset and disappointed because a broken bone would mean I wouldn't be able to play football for some time, but I'm glad Mrs. Wukadinovich and Coach Nelson pulled me out to stop further damage to my collarbone."

Now that two years have passed, Taylor says he is grateful for the daily visits to the athletic training room.

"I think doing those exercises with Elayna and Ms. Wukadinovich really helped quicken my healing process for my collarbone," he said. "Thanks to them, I was able to have a smooth recovery."

IMPACT BEYOND THE FIELD

As Marquez, the intern with the most experience, enters her last year on the team, she said she is very proud of her efforts toward sports medicine.

"In my sophomore year, I spent hours in the training room during sixth period in the fall and winter asking Ms. Wukadinovich questions any chance I got," the intern said. "Now that I'm the senior, I'm

trying to be like the people I had myself and help the other interns any way I can."

This year, Wukadinovich said her goal is to continue to promote the program while keeping her standards high.

"I don't try to be super strict with my students," she said. "I want them to have fun, but obviously I care passionately about what I do for a living, so I want them to obviously be held accountable."

Lancers interested in enrolling in the sports medicine internship can apply toward the end of the spring semester, receive an interview, and find out if they were selected for the following school year, said Wukadinovich.



For the full story, visit shhsaccolade.com

photo by **KATIE LEEM**

LET'S GET IT, LANCERS

photo by NICOLE PARK

