

Ceres Unified School District



Report to the Community 2017



Vision Statement:

All students academically prepared to achieve their full potential,
supported by and contributing to the community.

Superintendent's Message

Over the past few years, K-12 education has dramatically evolved Common Core standards, new student assessments (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CASPP), the California Dashboard, implementation of Internet-enabled devices and technology tools for every student and teacher, and a shift in the way funding is allocated to school districts through the Local Control Funding Formula. I am grateful to our district's teachers, classified staff and administrators for embracing these changes while continuing to address the fundamental needs of students, keeping excellent instruction at the forefront of all we do. I am also very proud of our award-winning student wellness and mental health program that supports students and their families in overcoming obstacles impacting educational success. Together, with the support of the Ceres community, we remain Committed to Excellence and Responsive to Every Student.

Scott Siegel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

2018 Board of Trustees

Faye Lane, President
Jim Kinard, Clerk
Mike Welsh
Betty Davis
Valli Wigt
Lourdes Perez
Teresa Guerrero

The Ceres Unified School District is governed by a seven-member elected Board of Trustees. Regular meetings of the CUSD Board are open to the public and are held on Thursdays every three weeks, with exceptions as needed. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the District Office, located at 2503 Lawrence Street, Ceres. For a current calendar of meeting dates visit <http://www.ceres.k12.ca.us> and click on Board of Trustees.

Mission Statement

Our students will achieve mastery of academic standards in a safe and supportive environment. We will provide a quality, balanced education that results in academic excellence, and career preparation with attitudes and skills necessary to produce self-directed, productive citizens.

CDE Releases the California School DASHBOARD

In 2017 the California Department of Education released the California School Dashboard as an online tool designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 schools and districts.

The Dashboard features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success including: standardized assessment test scores, graduation rates, English Learner progress and suspension rates.

The Dashboard is just one step in a series of changes that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and increased the focus on equity.

The Dashboard is a component of the Local Control Funding Formula law passed in 2013 that significantly changed how California provides funding to public schools and holds local educational agencies accountable for student performance.

As a new tool for data accountability, the Dashboard is a key part of California's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.

California's future success

depends on tapping into the potential of all students, so they graduate ready for college, careers and life. For schools to reach this goal, teachers, parents and the community need clear and useful measures of progress. As an accountability tool, the Dashboard will help the state identify schools (including charter schools) and districts needing targeted assistance.

In the past, accountability systems for districts relied solely



on test scores. Yet, one test taken on one particular day does not provide a complete picture of all the ways schools are helping students succeed.

Think of it this way: you cannot drive a car by only watching the speedometer. You also keep your eye on the road, check the mirrors, monitor the gas level and pay attention if the engine light comes on.

Similarly, the Dashboard

provides information on different aspects of student performance, which will give a more complete picture of a school's progress. The Dashboard also reports on growth to show a school's trajectory over time.

The Dashboard is designed to be a work in progress, with metrics and reports added over time.

Local educational agencies and schools receive one of five color-coded performance levels on the

state indicators. From highest to lowest, the five performance levels are: Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Performance levels are calculated based on how current performance (Status) compares to past performance (Change). This provides a more complete picture of performance than a point-in-time snapshot.

For local indicators, education agencies receive one of three performance levels; met, not

met, or not met for two years.

The Dashboard is intended to allow stakeholders and the public to quickly see how local educational agencies and schools are performing on the measures included in California's new school accountability system.

The State Board of Education approved a process to review progress on implementing the new system annually. This provides an opportunity to make changes or include additional indicators or data elements in the future.

The California Department of Education's DataQuest web page includes reports with additional data elements and detail that are not included in the Dashboard.

For more information visit:

California DASHBOARD
<http://www.caschooldashboard.org>

California Department of Education DataQuest
<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Third Graders See Ag Up Close

Approximately 2,000 Ceres students got an up-close look at barnyard animals and manufacturing industry jobs on March 24, 2017 when the farm came to the city - specifically the Ceres High School campus.

Third-graders from all Ceres schools were bussed to Ceres High School's annual *Farm to Factory Tour* to view robotics demonstrations, get close to cows, draft horses, goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens, and hear about almond production and career information.

In the afternoon Ceres High students were rotated through the exhibits. Ceres High junior Sierra Mote helped organize fellow FFA members and the small animals in the petting zoo pen. "I love it," said Mote. "It's what I look forward to every school year because we get to have all these animals here. Not only does it help us learn how to handle and care for these animals but it also helps us to teach other kids how to do it. The highlight of it is when these little kids come in. They're happy. They're excited. I saw a girl cry last year because she got to hold a chick." The junior co-chairs the FFA small animal unit and will head it next year.

The event was staged behind the Phil de la Porte Gymnasium. Dominating the blacktop was a large \$750,000 John Deere 8800 Forage Harvester loaned out by Belcorp Ag of south Modesto. Garton Tractor brought out a Kubota tractor and Flory Industries

demonstrated some of their new almond shakers, equipment models and best practices.

The Almond Board of California spent time before handing out almond samples to talk about almond production facts. Steve Dacuyan of Select Harvest quizzed students about their knowledge of almonds, and then outlined how a tree produces about 50 pounds of almonds each season. The event also allowed CHS Manufacturing Production & Green Technology (MPGT) Academy students to demonstrate how 3-D printers work after a Bulldog was designed on the computer.

Students watched a display of torch welding and some got a chance to pound nails into a board and use a portable screwdriver. Tim Holveck, owner of the Denair-based Rolling H Carriage Co., brought along draft horses. He explained how the large horses are cared for, and provided information about various items of tack.

Although they were the smallest animal on display, the worms inhabiting a worm bin courtesy of Shane Parson's ranch drew student interest. The word vermiculture may have been a new one learned at the event; it is the process of using worms to decompose organic food waste, turning the waste into a nutrient-rich material capable of supplying necessary nutrients to help sustain plant growth.

Also at the event were representatives of the City of Ceres who handed out recycling and water conservation brochures. Other businesses and agencies on hand were Frito Lay, Kohl's Distribution Center, California Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Boating and Waterways and Stanislaus Farm Supply.

Original article by Jeff Benziger, featured in Ceres Courier, March 29, 2017



(above) Ceres High agriculture student Erica Miranda holds a fainting goat with fascinated third grader, Kevin Partida.

Student Accomplishments & Awards

During the 2016-2017 school year, students across the district earned numerous awards, prizes and recognitions for outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, music and so much more!

Many of our students received top honors in their activities and speciality fields. There were so many in fact, they are too numerous to list within the pages of this report. However, we have provided a brief highlight of just a few of the many outstanding student accomplishments.

In May 2017, the 13th Annual Stanislaus County Academic Pentathlon was held, with students from Blaker Kinser Junior High earning the overall first place winning school.

Students from Ceres and Central Valley High Schools participated in the annual Occupational Olympics and Career Exposition held at the Turlock Fairgrounds each spring. During the April 2017 event, over 700 high school students throughout the county were tested in their respective fields related to over 20 different career occupations. Students from Ceres Unified earned first, second and third places in Agriculture, Criminal Justice and Robotics.

In May 2017, a dozen students from Ceres and Central Valley High Schools were rewarded for their athletic and academic performance at the Western Athletic Conference. Graduates, Oso Fregoso, Blanca Espinosa, Vianney Perez, Isai Anguiano and Andrew Gibson were among the 12 students named Western Athletic Conference Scholar-Athletes for the 2016-2017 school year.



(above) Andrew Gibson received an award from District Superintendent, Dr. Siegel and Board of Trustees member Faye Lane in May 2017 for earning champion status in Boys Track at the Western Athletic Conference.



(above) Natalia Armas Perez received an award from District Superintendent, Dr. Siegel and Board of Trustees member Faye Lane in May 2017 for earning first place in the Masonic Essay Contest - Elementary School Level.



(above) Isai Anguiano received an award from District Superintendent, Dr. Siegel and Board of Trustees member Teresa Guerrero in April 2017 for earning champion status in wrestling at the Western Athletic Conference.



(above) Vianney Perez received an award from District Superintendent, Dr. Siegel and Board of Trustees member Faye Lane in May 2017 for earning champion status in girls softball.

(right) Oso Fregoso and Blanca Espinosa were among the dozen students named WAC Scholar Athlete recipients for the 2016-2017 school year.

CUSD Employees of the Year 2016-2017

Teachers of the Year

Nancy McKim - Second Grade Teacher, Virginia Parks Elementary
Pre K-3 Grade Category

Craig Tornquist - Sixth Grade Teacher - Sinclear Elementary
4-6 Grade Category
SCOE Teacher of the Year Nominee

Nathan Diamantine - Blaker-Kinser Junior High
7-8 Grade Category

Robin Williams - Ceres High School
9-12 Grade Category



Nancy McKim

Classified Employee of the Year

Glinda Sterling - Instructional Paraprofessional II - Mae Hensley Jr. High
"Employees Making a Difference Award" Nominee - Stanislaus County
Jane Johnston Civility Award Recipient - Stanislaus County

Confidential Employee of the Year

Chris Browning - Lead Payroll Accountant, Business Services
"Employees Making a Difference Award" Nominee - Stanislaus County

Administrative Assistant of the Year

Lance Hunter - Administrative Assistant, Sinclear Elementary



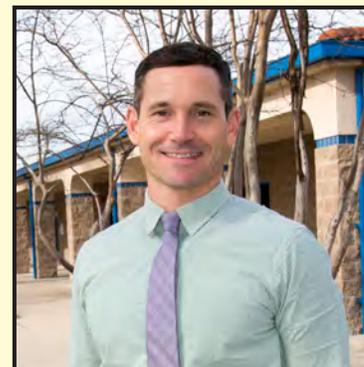
Craig Tornquist



Glinda Sterling



Chris Browning



Nathan Diamantine



Lance Hunter



Robin Williams

Administrators of the Year 2016/2017



Beth Jimenez - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Mrs. Jimenez's commitment to educational quality and student achievement is evident in all aspects of her work. She recognizes that, in supporting and serving as a liaison of the Superintendent and Board of Trustees, she directly impacts the experience of stakeholders including students and families, teachers, classified staff, administrators and the community. This awareness fuels her focus on excellence in every endeavor. Among Mrs. Jimenez's strengths is her ability to thoughtfully consider issues and problems from multiple perspectives, placing the greatest emphasis on the needs of students and families. When interacting with the community, she earnestly supports the district mission and vision, and serves as a relatable voice regarding educational issues.



Jose Beltran - Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance

Mr. Beltran actively supports the success of all students through his role as the Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance, in which he is directly responsible for the supervision of a variety of programs that promote student learning. His commitment to student achievement is evident in his successes in overseeing the alternative education process, student attendance enforcements, and programs that promote safe school environments. Mr. Beltran is committed to effective interventions in the areas of attendance, discipline and dropout prevention. Mr. Beltran's vision of learning is that all students can achieve academic success, regardless of background or family circumstance. He believes wholeheartedly that every student matters, and that all students in our classrooms are someone's treasure.



Lonnie Cornell - Associate Principal, Ceres High School

As the Associate Principal of Ceres High School, Mr. Cornell insists that all students deserve a "top-notch" education that promotes improved reading and writing skills in all subject areas. His vision of "Supporting All Students Along The Way" includes a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of all students through a variety of services and programs. Providing a school culture that supports quality instruction that leads to high levels of student engagement, active learning, and achievement is a priority for Mr. Cornell. Mr. Cornell promotes activities that allow students to develop a sense of pride in their school, while also maintaining high standards for student conduct and achievement, including recognition of school spirit and grade point average excellence.



Carol Lubinsky - Principal, Mae Hensley Junior High (2016/2017 year)

As the Principal of Mae Hensley Junior High School, Mrs. Lubinsky was dedicated to her vision "Focus on Learning Every Day." As a result, Mrs. Lubinsky created an environment where powerful teaching and learning continues to be the focus. During her tenure as Principal at Mae Hensley Junior High, Mrs. Lubinsky successfully reduced the rate of students not promoted to 9th grade by 85%. Mrs. Lubinsky created an environment in which collaboration was key; teachers collaborated on curriculum, while students collaborated with teachers to better understand proficiency levels, establish learning goals and meet graduation requirements. Mrs. Lubinsky's successes led to her appointment as the Principal of Central Valley High School as of the 2017/2018 school year.

Career Technical Education Program Spotlight

CHS ACADEMY #1 IN NATION

Manufacturing Academy earns award

Ceres High School's Manufacturing, Production and Green Technology (MPGT) Academy is one of the best career pathway programs in the nation.

That's according to the National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) which bestowed the national honor on October 26, 2017 in St. Louis, Mo. To celebrate locally, students, parents, teachers, administrators and elected officials gathered for a celebration at the Ceres High School's Student Center. The event included remarks by students in the program, speakers, award presentations and refreshments.

Tracey Clark, who coordinates the academy, said the school was encouraged to submit details to be considered for the award.

"We know we have a great program but we were up against college programs," said Clark. Approximately 250 students are involved in the program, which garnered the "Career Pathway Excellence Award" issued at NCPN's annual conference luncheon at the Hyatt Regency in St. Louis.

The MPGT Academy was created by Ceres Unified School District to prepare students for careers in manufacturing. The Academy offers a four-year Career Technical Education (CTE)-focused pathway. A majority of the students enrolled are designated as academically and socio-economically "at risk."

MPGT Academy allows freshmen, sophomores and juniors to participate in three core academic courses as well as a grade-level designated CTE course. Juniors are mentored by representatives of the business community. Seniors participate in one academic course and a CTE course. They also perform solar installa-

tions on the homes of low-income families.

Work-site learning activities provide students with opportunities to observe professionals in the workplace and to practice skills learned in the classroom. A team of over 60 mentors from approximately 15 local businesses meet monthly with juniors, host mock interviews for seniors, and facilitate a 10-week Gateway-to-Industry boot camp. E. & J. Gallo Winery provides paid internships. Teacher Chris Van Meter said the business partnerships are crucial to the success of transitioning students into well-paying jobs.

The Academy is a manufacturing-centric program in which students learn skills in rapid-prototyping and flexible-manufacturing, advanced robotics, programming microprocessors and PLCs, and other green energy topics. Students also learn soft skills such as résumé writing, interview skills, team collaboration, conflict resolution, social media management, workplace safety, communication, and accountability.

The Academy partners with Modesto Junior College to provide concurrent enrollment credits for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Business partners include local manufacturers such as E. & J. Gallo Winery, Frito Lay, Parker Hannifin Racor, Scholle IPN, FreshPoint Foods, Seneca Foods, G3 Enterprises, Opportunity Stanislaus, Select Harvest USA, Flory Industries, The Wine Group, Bronco Winery, Craig Safety Group, Sconza Candy, and Kohl's. The Academy works with Careers in Manufacturing, Project YES, and Opportunity Stanislaus to place students in manufacturing jobs.

"Without the relationships and partnerships of all these wonderful people, I am sure this Academy would never have become what it is today," said Van Meter.

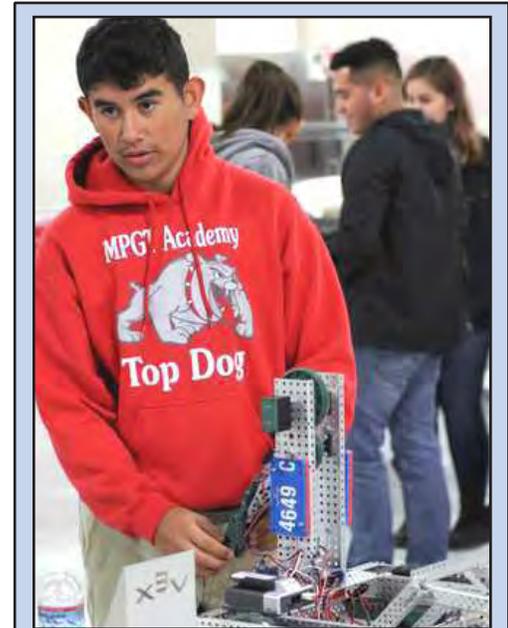
The program has an excellent record of achievement in postsecondary enrollment rates and job placement.

Senior Alexis Nava Ambriz said the Academy is a great opportunity to get a good job. He has been in the program since he was a freshman.

"It's opened so many opportunities and it's really exposed me and the rest of the students in the Academy to eye-opening experiences and hands-on working, especially with the mentors," said junior Alexis Vazquez.

Clark said the Academy's funding through SB X11 will sunset this year but the district remains hopeful it will receive funding under Prop. 98.

"It will be a little bit different," said Clark. "Proposition 98 provides funding to academies that are only grade 10 through 12 and we are a 9 through 12 academy, so the district will pick up funding for the ninth grade."



Ceres High School junior Leo Juarez readies for a demonstration of robotics at the local award ceremony for the Ceres High Manufacturing, Production and Green Technology Academy.

Original article by Jeff Benziger, featured in Ceres Courier, November 22, 2017

CHS Academy Students Help Family Go Solar

Students from the Ceres High School Manufacturing, Production and Green Technology (MPGT) Academy conducted a joint solar installation on the home of a family in-need, in southwest Modesto. The installation was one of 12 the MPGT Academy will conduct with Grid Alternatives during the 2017/2018 school year. Installing solar electric systems is nothing new for Academy students. Since 2013 students have installed

systems in Merced and Ceres. Recently, teams of seniors were dispatched to a home on Theron Way to give the household a chance to enjoy very low electric rates for many years. Ceres High School officials teamed up with Grid Alternatives, a non-profit organization that introduces the benefits of solar technology to low-income communities. Students help install solar panels which they have learned about in the classroom. The family that receives the installation may expect a 75 to 80 percent savings on their electric bill every month.

Original article by Jeff Benziger, Ceres Courier, October 4, 2017



Ceres High MPGT Academy students installing solar panels in late September 2017 in partnership with Grid Alternatives.

Fundraiser earns \$26k for Ceres students

By all accounts, the Sixth Annual *Helping Students Today & Tomorrow* fundraiser was the most successful yet. This year's event featured wine tasting, dinner and a live auction. More than \$26,000 was raised to benefit the CUSD Foundation, which provides resources to supplement the learning experience for current K-12 students, as well as scholarships for graduating Ceres seniors. The fundraiser took place on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Ceres Community Center, with 200 business and community leaders in attendance.

"Support from the community was extraordinary," said CUSD Foundation President Mike Pratt. "I am thrilled that so many businesses, community organizations and individuals came out to support our students and teachers in such a direct and meaningful way."

Ceres High School teacher, Abel Maestas presented information on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) project funded by a CUSD Foundation teacher mini-grant. The evening also offered an opportunity to recognize honorees who, through their giving of time and resources, have had a profoundly positive impact on students.

Central Valley High School volunteer, Imelda Castellanos was named the 2017 Volunteer of the Year, while Justin Crone (Letters to Santa Charity) was the Friend of Education-Community, and Jaime Gonzalez (Oak Valley Community Bank) was the Friend of Education-Business.

Imelda Castellanos has

served the past eight years as the leader of Parents for a Better Future, helping hundreds of CVHS parents navigate the good, the bad, and the ugly of parenting high school students and supporting their academic success.

"Justin Crone and the Letters to Santa organization have provided a great sense of hope to the students and families at Westport," wrote Principal Jennifer Cervantes. Westport is one of four schools supported by Mr. Crone's charity for the past few years. "He works tirelessly in planning and organizing community events to fund the purchase of goods and distribution of donations to families that otherwise would struggle to provide basic necessities," stated Cervantes.

A positive adult role model can have a profound impact in a child's life. Jaime Gonzalez of Oak Valley Community Bank is doing just that as a mentor at

Caswell Elementary School. "Jaime joined the mentoring program in the 2016/2017 year and was a natural at working with students," said Principal Alfonso Navarro. "His positive attitude and consistent dedication made a real impact on the third-grade students."

Thanks to everyone - staff, students, sponsors, volunteers, donors, and guests - who made this event a resounding success. The Seventh Annual *Helping Students Today & Tomorrow* fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, October 12, 2018.

Fifty percent of the proceeds for student-generated auction items is donated back to the respective school program such as Art, Choir, and Manufacturing.

Since the inaugural fundraiser in 2012, close to \$115,000 has been raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, auction proceeds and cash donations.

Premier sponsors of this year's

event were: FF&J Architects, G3 and JL Bray & Son. Major sponsors were: AMS.net; Ceres Rotary Club; Ceres Unified School District Cabinet members; Cost Less Foods Co.; Dannis, Woliver, Kelley Law Firm; Embroidery Plus; E. & J. Gallo Winery; Scott Gaylor of Northwestern Mutual; Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard; Mo-Cal Office Solutions and Solution Tree, Inc.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Julie Martin-Borba, CUSD Foundation Representative at 209-556-1555.



2017 Honorees of the Year



Imelda Castellanos (above left), a dedicated Central Valley High school volunteer, was honored as the 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Justin Crone - Letters to Santa Charity (center) was named the 2017 Friend of Education - Community, while Jaime Gonzalez, Oak Valley Community Bank was recognized as the 2017 Friend of Education-Business.

DISTRICT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**Departments**

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Superintendent's Office | 556-1500 |
| Business Services | 556-1560 |
| Child Nutrition Office | 556-1580 |
| Child Welfare & Attendance | 556-1540 |
| Curriculum & Instruction | 556-1520 |
| Educational Services | 556-1520 |
| Educational Options | 556-1550 |
| Personnel Services | 556-1510 |
| Special Education | 556-1530 |
| State Pre-School/Head Start | 556-1545 |
| Student Support Services | 556-1533 |
| Transportation Office | 556-1595 |
| ASES After School Program Office | 556-1548 |
| Adult Education | 556-1557 |



Superintendent
Scott Siegel, Ed.D.

Deputy Superintendent, Personnel Services
Denise Wickham, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Amy Peterman, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Dan Pangrazio

Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services
Jay Simmonds

Staff DATA 2017-2018

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Credentialed Staff | 729 |
| Number of Classified Support Staff | 904 |
| Number of Full-Time Administrators | 157 |

CUSD District Demographics 2017-2018

21 School Campuses

- (13) Elementary Schools
- (3) Junior High Schools
- (2) High Schools
- (1) Continuation and Alternative High School
- (1) Charter Campus (housing three Charter Schools)
- (1) Adult Education

14,256 Students (2017-2018)

- 7,950 Elementary
- 6,306 Secondary

82.9% Free and Reduced Meals Program Participation**Student Ethnicity**

- 75% Hispanic/Latino
- 15% White/Caucasian
- 6% Asian
- 2% African American
- 2% Other

28.5% English Learners

| 2017-2018 School Site Information | Principal | Telephone Number |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Elementary Schools | | |
| Adkison Elementary School | Antony Little | 556-1600 |
| Caswell Elementary School | Alfonso Navarro | 556-1620 |
| Don Pedro Elementary School # | Tami Garcia | 556-1630 |
| Carroll Fowler Elementary School | Bruce Clifton | 556-1640 |
| Joel J. Hidahl Elementary School | Vaughn Williams | 556-1650 |
| La Rosa Elementary School | Lori Mariani | 556-1660 |
| Lucas Elementary - Dual Language Academy | Israel Gonzalez | 556-1720 |
| Patricia K. Beaver Elementary School | Libby Holmes | 556-1730 |
| Virginia Parks Elementary School * • # | Jennifer Backman | 556-1670 |
| Sinclear Elementary School | Connie Stark | 556-1680 |
| Sam Vaughn Elementary School * # | Jesse Campbell | 556-1690 |
| Westport Elementary School § # * • | Jennifer Cervantes | 556-1700 |
| Walter White Elementary School * | Edith Narayan | 556-1710 |
| Junior High Schools | | |
| Blaker-Kinser Junior High School * # | Paul Rutishauser | 556-1810 |
| Mae Hensley Junior High School | Deanne Moore | 556-1820 |
| Cesar Chavez Junior High School | Rosemarie Kloepfer | 556-1830 |
| High Schools/Alternative Schools | | |
| Central Valley High School | Carol Lubinsky | 556-1900 |
| Ceres High School | Linda Stubbs | 556-1920 |
| Argus/Endeavor High Schools < | Jan Gordon | 556-1800 |
| Charter Schools | | |
| Whitmore Charter School of Technology * | Sarah Olson | 556-1610 |
| Whitmore Charter High School | Sarah Olson | 556-1617 |
| Whitmore Charter School Personalized Learning | Sarah Olson | 556-1610 |