

School administrators charging ahead for the new school year

More than 70 Chino Valley Unified School District administrators gathered at Chino Hills High Aug. 5 to 7 to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Wayne Joseph asked administrators attending the district's annual three-day Charge Conference to focus on two main goals this year: making connections with students, and kindling kindness and compassion among students, parents, school staff, and themselves.

The administrators reviewed teaching and learning plans, heard from education consultants on the Four C's of 21st Century Education (Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration) and the new Common Core state academic standards, received information about the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, talked about professional development opportunities for their staff members, heard a presentation on a wellness incentive program for school district staff members, and participated in team building activities.

The administrators also heard a presentation by local law enforcement officers, including officers assigned to high schools from the Chino and Chino Hills police departments, on what to do if there is an armed intruder on campus. The officers emphasized the importance of locking down a school as soon as an intruder is determined to be on campus, locking doors during the school day as a routine safety procedure, determining who would be in charge if a principal or assistant principal is not available, and training school personnel to use the school's public address system in case of an emergency. Chino Police dispatchers talked about the importance of providing reliable, sufficient information if an incident occurs on campus. An "intruder," portrayed by Chino Police Department employee, ran through the Chino Hills High Theatre to test how well administrators could describe the suspect. Each school received several copies of the district's lockdown procedures, school site communications checklist, and lockdown messages to send to parents and the public.

Chino Valley Unified School District's Nutrition Services staff organized a Taste of CVUSD at lunchtime on Aug. 6 so administrators could taste food that will be offered to students in the coming year. Among the items were standards like burritos and pizza, milk and juice. There was also pork carnitas, frozen berry cups that equaled a half cup of fresh fruit, reduced fat macaroni and cheese, yogurt, boxes of dried fruit, full-grain Mexican sweet breads, honey lemon loaves, tacos in a bread pocket, beef teriyaki, antibiotic-free and hormone-free chicken drumsticks, whole-grain cheese bites, southwest-style and sesame Asian side salads, and potatoes in the form of smiley faces.

Representatives from the district's Innovative Creative Services (Printing, Graphics and Mail Services, the Media Center, and Professional Development) also had a table at the Charge Conference, where the administrators could check out samples of school spirit buttons, brochures, flyers, pamphlets, document covers, classroom decorative materials, and other items those departments produce and have available to educators.