



# Central Union School District "WHERE EVERY CHILD IS A STAR"



## STRATFORD SCHOOL . THEN and NOW . .

Stratford School District was formed by the Kings County Board of Supervisors on October 11, 1907, under the name of Stratton School District. The name changed to Stratford on November 8, 1912 because the U.S. Postal Service objected to the name of Stratton. Stratford School has seen several building changes but never has moved from the current location. In the 1923-1924 school term, Stratford housed 159 students. Today Stratford School has an enrollment of 308 students.

With the growing needs of the Stratford Community and the housing of special projects, it was time to build a new administration building. For the safety of the students and staff, a parking lot preceded the new building.

The saying goes "a picture is worth a thousand words". The picture in the upper right hand corner features two bus drivers and the two school buses owned by Stratford School in the early 1900's. Some things never change. The picture below displays two buses servicing Stratford School and Mr. Paul Newton, board member and Mr. Bill Bilbo, principal. The difference is that the buses are now owned by Lemoore Area Schools transportation. The children are still bused to school daily.

Three board members of the Central Union School District are alumni of Stratford Elementary. Mr. Ceil Howe, Jr. who has served the community since 1977, Mr. Larry Jones, serving since 1990 and Mr. Paul Newton serving the Stratford community since 1996.

Central Union School District has planned a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new administration building.

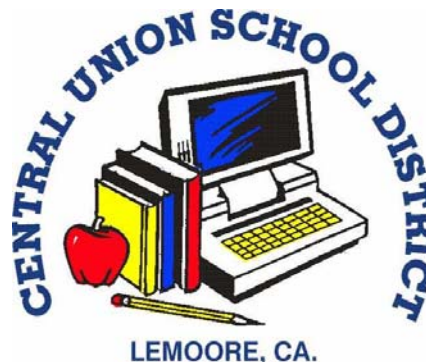


# THE POSITIVE SIDE OF EDUCATION

CUSD

### Board Members

- L. Yvette Casillas
- Laura Espinoza
- Jeffrey Gilcrease
- Ceil Howe, Jr.
- Pat Jerrold
- Larry Jones
- Paul Newton



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**K-8 Math Adoption** -The students of the Central Union School District began the 2008-09 school year welcoming a new K-8 math adoption. During the 2007-08 school year, teachers and administrators reviewed all the California Department of Education's list of approved K-8 math publishers all of which had math textbooks and materials that were aligned to the California math standards. From that list the teachers selected the following publishers:

|     |                  |                                   |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| K-5 | Houghton Mifflin | "California Mathematics"          |
| 6-8 | McDougal Littell | "Math - Course 1, 2, and Algebra" |

The students have the traditional hardback textbook, follow up practice workbooks, and grade level appropriate manipulatives. They also have access to an online copy of the textbook which helps to eliminate the heavy backpacks or book bags. The teachers have many resources that help to provide instructional support such as: benchmark interventions, lesson planner, test generator, access to online teacher's edition, and an online assessment system.

Please take a moment the next time you are on one of the District's campuses to see the new K-8 math adoption. You will be amazed at what students are learning in math from kindergarten through eighth grade.

**America Supports You-Freedom Walk -SEPTEMBER 11, 2008** -The Freedom Walk is a nationwide event for the purpose of establishing a national tradition to reflect on the lives lost on September 11, renewing our commitment to freedom and the values of our country, and honoring our veterans past and present. On, Thursday, September 11, 2008, throughout the country, in big and small venues, citizens gathered to participate in "America Supports You Freedom Walks." The act of walking together as a nation is unique in design and execution, uniting our citizens behind a commitment to never forget the lives we lost in the attacks on our country. Following the model of the first "America Supports You Freedom Walk," held in the Nation's Capitol in 2005, this year's Freedom Walk was held in every state on September 11th.



Lemoore's 3rd Annual Freedom Walk was launched by the Central Union School District. Local walkers met at the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Depot, 300 E Street at 10:00 a.m. and walked to the Lemoore City Park along a pre-determined route. There was a short program at the park gazebo beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m. This year's short walk included a flyover by VFA-41 Black Aces. Speakers featured were Pastor Marc Unger, Mr. Jim Kochheiser, Captain Terry Slatik, Kim Slatik and Lt. Colonel Richard Ellis.

Everyone was encouraged to join this event to reflect on the sacrifices of 9-11, renew our commitment to freedom and to express our appreciation of the men and women who volunteer to serve in the military and for those who serve us each and everyday in our communities. This event takes on a very special meaning in Lemoore with our military neighbors and friends based at Naval Air Station Lemoore.

**Survey Results Bring On-Line Learning to Eight Grade GATE** -In spring of 2008, the GATE Parent, Teacher, and Student survey results indicated that there was an interest in more opportunities for student's to become independent learners through self-reflection and self-evaluation.

After reviewing this input, Central Union School District began researching the possibility of students developing into independent learners through self-reflection and self-evaluation by participating in an on-line course.

Currently, Central Union School District is piloting an On-Line 8<sup>th</sup> grade HSS class through Aventa Learning. The course curriculum takes students from the Exploration in the 1500s to WW II. In addition to an on-line teacher, GATE students are supported with a certified teacher on each campus. Students will learn a management system to assist them in organizing and pacing themselves through the course. Each student will learn how to access the course, communicate with their teacher and other students throughout the district, submit assignments, take exams, and view their progress through self-reflection and evaluation.

Positive input, through research, and a commitment to excellence, has provided these students with an opportunity to extend their breathe of learning in the area of History Social Science. Parents, Educators, and Students working together can make a difference.

**Akers School** -Continues to educate the whole child. As many schools and districts throughout the state and nation are cutting vital programs, Akers continues to offer students a wide variety of enrichment classes and programs.

**Art**-with a full time art teacher, students learn about art history, art appreciation, art criticism, as well as produce various art projects.

**Electives**-Akers has a wide variety of elective classes offered to junior high students. Students can take beginning band, advanced band, ceramics, biology and forensics, Spanish, knitting, historical research, peer mediation, science in flight, fun in science, keyboarding, oceanography, robotics, and character counts. As part of "Character Counts", each month is designated as one of the pillars of character and events are planned to highlight each of the pillars.

**Music**-Akers full time music teacher teaches classroom music to third through fifth grade classes. Fifth grade students have the option of learning to play an instrument. Sixth through eighth grade students have the opportunity to be in beginning band to learn a new instrument or advanced band for the more experienced students. Akers also has a jazz band that has won many awards, both locally and at the state level.

**Physical Education**-Akers School has two full time physical education teachers who offer a full range of sports and physical fitness, team sports and healthy lifestyle activities to Kindergarten-8th graders.

### **Akers School-** continued

**Technology-**Akers has a full time technology teacher that works with students in grades 1-8 to fulfill their technology needs. Students are taught how to use the following programs depending on their grade level: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Keynote, Excel, Kidspiration, GarageBand, iMovie, iPhoto, Photo Booth, and a variety of web-based programs. In addition, students are using Web 2.0 (*Read/Write Web*) tools such as blogs, Wikis, podcasts, and Google Tools.

Akers School continues to be a leader in academic achievement. While the focus of the school is on academic performance, we believe that enrichment programs play a big part in achieving that goal. To find out more about the above programs, visit Akers School website at [www.central.k12.ca.us/akers](http://www.central.k12.ca.us/akers).

**Central School-**With the demands of state testing, busy parents and peer pressure impacting students daily, it truly does take a village to raise a child. Central School is fortunate to have an effective partnership with the Tachi-Yokut Tribe facilitated and developed by the Santa Rosa Rancheria (*SSR*) Education Department. The SRR Education Department assists Central students and school community by increasing the students' love of learning. The accomplishment of this goal benefits Central students throughout their schooling and life. Objectives are accomplished through two main achievements.

The first action taken by the SRR Education Department is the constant attention to students' grades, attendance, and families. The SRR Education Department provides liaisons that work with specific grade levels on the Central campus. The liaisons meet weekly with the classroom teachers collecting information on each student's progress. The liaisons also meet weekly with each student's family; keeping the family informed and communication lines open between home and school.

The final achievement is the demonstration of concern for all Central students. Yearly, SRR Education Department provides liaisons to Central School for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education trip. The liaisons attending are dedicated to modeling and supporting the development of good character traits that Central students are to demonstrate at all times. Understanding the concern for students at risk and the importance of remediation, the SRR Education Department provided support staff for the 2007-2008 summer school program. The liaisons worked directly with students in the classroom in small groups.

**Neutra School-**Enhances Student Wellness, Adds The Mileage Club To PE Program And Monthly Challenge Run To After-School Opportunities.

The *Feelin' Good Mileage Club* provides opportunity for students, grades 1 through 5 at Neutra, to walk/jog/run for fitness. The Mileage Club will be held during teacher led PE sessions. The walking/jogging/running course encompasses the Neutra school grounds.

Your child needs no special equipment or shoes to participate. Simply have him/her dress appropriately for the weather. Each student is free to walk/jog/run at his or her own pace in the designated time. **The Feelin' Good Mileage Club in noncompetitive.** Awards will be given. For each five miles, the child will receive a Toe Token/charm to place on a necklace. At each 10 miles, he/she will receive a certificate.

In addition to the program at school, R. J. Neutra School will also have a monthly Mileage Club Challenge Run. The first run was scheduled for September 11, 2008 and began at 2:30 p.m. This is a one-mile run called the School Days Stomp. Participating students will receive an apple token/charm to go on their necklace and a certificate. The run is open to all students grades 1 through 5. This run is **noncompetitive**. Everyone that finishes the run receives awards. Other Challenge Runs will include a Pumpkin Run, Turkey Trot, December Dash, Cardiac Caper, Shamrock Shuffle, Raindrop Romp, and Mileage Club Marathon.

We think your child will enjoy the Feelin' Good Mileage Club and the Mileage Club Challenge. It is hoped that these programs will enhance Neutra's student wellness emphasis on healthy students.

**Stratford School-**Informed Teaching—This year fifty nine percent of the students enrolled at Stratford School are English Learners. As such, they must be CELDT tested each year. This assessment determines the current listening, speaking, reading, and writing levels of English Learners.

Many of the English Learners have not practiced English over the summer. Therefore, a schedule was developed for a quick review before beginning CELDT testing. The first week of school, teachers focused on oral language development. Mrs. Humason, a new addition to the Stratford staff, worked collaboratively with teachers to provide students with activities where they told stories and participated in listening and speaking opportunities. This was followed by testing the Listening and Speaking portions of the test the next week.

Currently, classrooms are focusing on writing and reading comprehension especially in expository text. With a review of the Step Up to Writing of paragraphs and use of descriptive words in super sentences, the students will be prepared to perform to their best ability in the reading and writing portions of the test which will follow.

Teachers' active roll in the CELDT process is affording them valuable information to differentiate instruction in the classrooms. As always, Stratford staff is striving to meet the needs of their students and provide informed instruction for student success.

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The goal of Central Union School District's SS/HS Project is to provide students, schools, and families with a network of effective services, supports, and activities that help students develop the skills and emotional resilience necessary to promote positive mental health, engage in pro-social behavior, and prevent violent behavior and drug use; create schools and communities that are a safe, disciplined, and drug-free; engage parents, community organizations, and social service agencies to help develop an infrastructure that will institutionalize and sustain successful grant components after federal funding has ended.

**SECOND STEP** violence prevention program integrates academics with social and emotional learning. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade learn and practice vital social skills, such as empathy, emotion management, problem solving, and cooperation. These essential life skills help students in the classroom, on the playground, and at home.

**Project ALERT** is a skills based curriculum that teaches students in 6th grade through 8th grade how to say **"NO"**. Today more than ever, teens need help resisting drugs. Project ALERT is a nationally recognized, middle grade, substance abuse program that gives students insight, understanding and actual skills for resisting substance abuse. Project ALERT successfully addresses tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and inhalants the substances teens are most likely to use.

**Parent and Me** is an infant/toddler enrichment program facilitated by United Cerebral Palsy of Hanford. This program gives parents and caregivers an opportunity to become partner's in their children's early learning experiences. The Parent and Me curriculum offers peer interaction and socialization opportunities, art and dramatic play, language, music and fine/gross motor activities. This program is offered on the Stratford School campus.

