Hats Off to 2019 Graduates!

Thousands of Kern High School District seniors are crossing the graduation stage and celebrating the culmination of four years of hard work. As the graduates get ready to embark on their new journey, it is also a time to reflect on the relationships made and lessons learned that have shaped them into the young adults they are today. Graduation is also a time to personally thank the educators who have supported the students along the way and prepared them to succeed in the workplace and at the post-secondary level. The future is bright for the Class of 2019! Congratulations to all of the graduates, and best wishes for their next adventure!
Graduates Pictures

South High School

Kern Valley High School

Continuation High Schools

Ridgeview High School

West High Schools

East Bakersfield High School

Frontier High School

Bakersfield High School

Independence High School

Liberty High School

North High School

www.kernhigh.org
As students say goodbye to their high school years and get ready for their next adventure, two Kern High School District principals are joining them. Bakersfield High School Principal, David Reese, and West High School Principal, Terrie Bernardin, are retiring after a combined 65 years of dedicated service with the District.

Reese has been the Bakersfield High School Principal for 20 years and has been in education for 35 years. Reese said he is proud to have checked off a few items on his “retirement bucket list” including the formation of a BHS Alumni Association and creating an All-School Hall of Fame.

“What I am most proud of is handing out over 13,000 diplomas. That is what we are in the business for, is getting these kids on to their careers. I like to think 13,000 different dreams out there, is like a small town, so I am very proud of that.” - David Reese, Principal, Bakersfield High School

Reese said he leaves the school with nothing but great memories. Even though he is saying goodbye to his fellow Drillers, as the saying goes, “Once A Driller, Always A Driller.”
Terrie Bernardin has been the West High School Principal for the last five years and spent 28 or her 30 years working in the District at West. Bernardin said her greatest accomplishment is seeing “students who went from me to fame and fortune.” While Bernardin mentions there are many, Assemblyman Vince Fong is probably the most well-known.

“I have built so many great relationships with students, teachers, support staff, parents, and alumni. I am happy to move on and work outside the school but I know I will miss the wonderful opportunity to build more of those exceptional relationships.” – Terrie Bernardin, Principal, West High School

This is not the last you will see of Reese and Bernardin. Bernardin said she is going to continue to work to support the school with community service opportunities. Reese said he would stay involved as well. Post-retirement, he plans to be involved in recruiting teachers for the District.

Many thanks to David Reese and Terrie Bernardin for making a difference in so many students' lives and leaving their mark in the Kern High School District! Wishing them good luck and great success in their retirement.
The Kern High School District Board Room was packed with proud families as House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy presented 18 Kern County students and educators with the 23rd Congressional District of California Merit Award on May 3. Thirteen students and educators were from the KHSD. Each student was chosen by their principal to receive the Merit Award based upon their grades and their character and leadership in our community.

The students were asked to nominate an educator who has inspired them and helped them along their journey to receive the 23rd Congressional District of California Inspirational High School Educator Award.

“I am glad to recognize local students and their teachers for setting the bar high. The students have demonstrated a passion for learning, both in their classes and extracurricular activities. Their nominated teachers are also paving the way for local educators in the area.”
- Rep. Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader

Congratulations to the 2019 Merit Award and Inspirational High School Educator Award recipients:

Bakersfield High School - Carson Parks and Kevin Reynier
Centennial High School - Nathan Jones and Jennifer Rush Tucker Rivera
East Bakersfield High School - Rosibell Salgado and Maria Rodriguez
Foothill High School - Kaelani Burja and Donna Plater
Frontier High School - Adam Yu and Cam Cummings
Highland High School - Victoria Santore-Tovar and Timothy Hansen
Independence High School - Alyssa Bell and Alison Abrams
Kern Valley High School - Tanner Tito and Robert Lewy
Liberty High School - Megan Borda and Ashley Bocanegra
North High School - Sulem Hernandez and Juan Gomez
Ridgeview High School - Shotaro Yamaguchi and Phillip Collingnon
Stockdale High School - Naomi Jennings and Maria Collatz
West High School - Daniel Kim and Nicole Rodriguez
West High School Counselor Meagan Holmes received a special surprise during the senior breakfast on May 29. Representatives from the California Student Aid Commission were in attendance to present Holmes with the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award. One high school counselor across the state is chosen for the annual award. Holmes was chosen for her exemplary skills in helping students fulfill their dreams of going to college. Holmes was given a plaque and a $1500 check. Representatives for State Senator Shannon Grove and Assemblyman Vince Fong were also in attendance to recognize Holmes for the loving work she does to prepare students for success.
Kern County Ag Scholarship Awards

Kern County’s top agriculture students were honored and received thousands of dollars in scholarship money during the Kern County Agricultural Scholarship and Awards Banquet on May 1. The Kern Agricultural Foundation has hosted the event, which includes dinner, special guest speakers, and an awards ceremony for the last 22 years at the Kern Agricultural Pavilion. This year’s Keynote Speaker was John Moor III of Moor Farms and the Vice President of the Kern County Farm Bureau.

The Kern Agricultural Foundation was founded in 1986 and has been instrumental in assisting with agriculture curriculum development as well as soliciting and distributing funds and specialized assets to promote agricultural education, training, student activities, and scholarships.
Kern County Ag Scholarship Awards (Recipients)

Alex Aguilar  
Garret Aranda  
Luis Arroyo  
Kendra Bunn  
Alexis Cano  
Katelyn Diniz  
Andrea Filkins  
Katelyn Filkins  
Manuel Flores  
Caleb Freeman  
Kaitlyn Garcia  
Fernando Garcia  
Jency Gates

Taylor Germanetti  
Octavio Gonzalez  
Caden Grisedale  
Cristal Hernandez  
Isa Ituriria  
Aliyah Khan  
Sydney Manning  
Karson Mebane  
Anne Messengale  
Desiree Orozco  
Micaela Palmer  
Mark Pandol  
Holly Parks

Mason Rankins  
Nickole Ross  
Andrea Ruiz  
Katie Schumacher  
Shane Smith  
Korina Stockton-Cox  
Stacy Van Scoy  
Yesenia Ventura-Ramirez  
Shelby Watts  
Karen Weller  
Aalexias Woolf  
Mackenzie Zeimet
The Girls in Government program at Liberty High School recently invited female leaders within the Kern High School District to a special presentation. It was a chance for the young ladies to meet with other leaders and share with them their mission to increase confidence in young women while fostering a culture of leadership on Liberty’s campus and beyond.

Social studies teacher Tara Bula and counselor Cecilia Jelmini, with the support of Liberty High School Principal Libby Wyatt, began the Girls in Government program in 2017. They said the goal of the program is to provide high school girls with the exposure to women in leadership positions and provide the opportunity for fellowship and discussion of issues that women face in the 21st century.

Last year, the group lobbied in Sacramento to push for mentorship programs to be available to all girls. They also got the opportunity to meet with Assembly members and State Senators.

The Girls in Government Group has also participated in community service events, hosted guest speakers, and co-hosted a Women’s Empowerment Day on the Liberty High campus.

The group said its goal is to expand the program to other campuses in the Kern High School District.
May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and there is a new club on North High School’s campus that is hoping to pave the way in educating others about mental health issues.

It is called NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) on Campus. The NAMI on Campus club is a peer-led mental health awareness club. The intent is to raise awareness about mental health with fellow students, teachers, and staff through education, sharing the resources available, and reducing stigmas.

“Some of our kids don’t have a mental illness, but maybe they have a family member or a friend that have a mental illness, and it gives them a better understanding of what mental illness is about.” - Michael Pawloski, Advisor, NAMI Club

In March, the club held its first event called “Stars like us” where students set up a display and shared with their peers that even celebrities are not immune to struggles when it comes to mental health. This month, the club held a carnival-style event to help raise awareness.

“My favorite thing is that we get to spread the word. I know a lot of people suffer from it and people may feel like they are alone in it, but it happens to everyone. Everyone is suffering from something.” - Gene Atkins, President, NAMI Club

North High is the first school in the KHSD to start a NAMI on Campus club. The club is open to all students and staff, regardless of their own experiences with mental health.
Cyberhawks take on the World

Centennial High School competed for the world title in the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky on April 24-27. Centennial was the only school in the Kern High School District to battle it out on the world stage against 580 teams. It was the first time the Cyberhawks competed with two robots. The teams did not reach the finals but represented Kern County well with team 7983J finishing with a record of 6-4-1, and team 7983W finished 5-6 and won the Google “Girl Powered” Online Challenge. Girl Powered is an initiative that aims to redefine the face of STEM by creating a more inclusive environment for all students within the robotics community.

Gators RULE

The Gator RULE at Vista West High School is to show Respect, Understanding, Leadership, and Effort — teachers and staff are exemplifying the RULE by opening up their cupboards and hearts to help students. In August, they started the Gator Pantry after learning many students on campus go without basic needs regularly. Employees sifted through their closets, cleaned out their pantries, and made grocery store runs to fill several shelves in classroom A3. Confidentially, students can grab a bag and fill it with any clothing items, hygiene products, and food items they would like to take home. Vista West Interventionist, Melany Ledesma, said the goal is to support students as a whole. She added that the plan is to expand the Gator Pantry next year with more donations to serve more students.
The Kern High School District Police Department held its first Police Activities League (PAL) Dinner and Awards on May 22, at Golden Valley High School (GVHS). Student members in the Golden Valley and Kern Valley High School PAL chapters, along with their families, enjoyed an evening of delicious food, getting to know one another, and learning more about the PAL organization.

Student members received recognition for the community service hours they have put in. Jesus Diaz and Jashanpreet Kaur of Golden Valley, along with Ken Porter and Sierra McQuain of Kern Valley, were given the Male and Female of the Year Award for committing to the most community service hours.

Officer John Money helped start the GVHS PAL Chapter in 2017, with the main focus on community service. Since then, he said just GVHS student members alone have completed over 10,000 hours of serving the community by taking part in cleanup days and volunteering their time to serve the elderly and Kern County veterans.

Kern Valley High School is the latest school to start a PAL chapter with the guidance of Officer Steve Chisholm. Members have taken part in community cleanup projects in the Kern River Valley.

The Kern High School District is home to the first high school PAL organization in the nation. Officer Money said the goal is to expand the program to other schools in the District in the future.
Lisa Krch’s video production class at the Regional Occupational Center got a behind the scenes look at Hollywood movie magic during a special tour at Universal Studios. Krch said she wanted her students to see how the techniques and equipment they have been learning about are used in creating movies. It was also an opportunity for her students to learn more about the careers in arts and entertainment that are available to them.

The students also got an up-close experience of the favorite Water World show. Not only did they get to see all of the action, but they visited the sound booth, met the crew, and got a lesson on what goes into the pyrotechnics and stunt safety procedures.

The trip was made possible with money raised with student fundraisers, Eyewitness News and Mor Furniture for Less “One Classroom at a Time” grant, and generous donations from community organizations.
Spectacular pieces of art created by students were on display at the Bakersfield Museum of Art for the Kern High School District Visual Arts Showcase on May 3. The 3rd annual event was free and is a way for the community to celebrate the talented high school art students in the District. Awards were given out in eight categories:

**Best 2D**
1st Place: Guilianna Galli, Stockdale High School  
2nd Place: Gerardo Castro, Golden Valley High School

**Best 3D**
1st Place: Selena Molina Arellano, East Bakersfield High School  
2nd Place: Elexy Gonzalez, Ridgeview High School

**Best Portrait**
1st Place: Jordyn Evans, Stockdale High School  
2nd Place: Austin Lemons, Bakersfield High School

**Best Monochromatic**
1st Place: Daniel Vega, Bakersfield High School  
2nd Place: Daisy Valenzuela, Independence High School

**Best Mixed Media**
1st Place: Michaela Lim, Highland High School  
2nd Place: Richard Sarinana, Highland High School

**Best Scholar**
1st Place: Daniel Rodriguez, Ridgeview High School  
2nd Place: Jiwoo An, Stockdale High School

**Best Use of Color**
1st Place: Jacob Arroyo, Stockdale High School  
2nd Place: Jasmine Pacheco, Bakersfield High School

**Rising Star**
1st Place: Sophia Montemayor, Highland High School  
2nd Place: Janyrah Ortega, Mira Monte High School
Leading the Way

Two Kern Valley High School juniors are paving the way for their classmates through leadership. Lydon Olivares and Alexis Morales demonstrated their leadership and public speaking skills at the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference in Anaheim at the end of April.

Olivares was elected as the FCCLA State President. She told the crowd that she is excited about “educating others on the amazing opportunities in the FCCLA, creating powerful relationships, along with broadening not only my own but others leadership skills.”

In her new role, Olivares will attend the Family Consumer Science Teacher Conference, complete State Officer Training at FCCLA Nationals, help plan a four-day training conference, and preside over the State Leadership Conference among other essential duties.

Morales is the current State Secretary for 2018-2019 and spoke throughout the 4-day conference. “Being in FCLA has helped me grow as an individual, it truly is the ultimate leadership experience,” Morales said.

Morales has earned several FCCLA awards and two scholarships.

FCCLA is a nonprofit national career and technical student organization for young men and women in Family and Consumer Sciences education. Part of FCCLA’s mission is to “promote personal growth and leadership through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation.”

Alexis Morales, State Secretary
Lydon Olivares, FCCLA State President
Ag Accomplishment

North High School’s Future Farmers of America Agriculture Computer Applications Team is celebrating a state championship win! The team competed in the FFA Finals & Field Day at Fresno State in April and showed up strong in the Computer Applications competition. Congrats to North’s Ian Hansen who took 1st High Individual overall, North’s Angel Perez who won 2nd High Individual overall, Frontier High School’s Katey Diniz who placed 3rd High Individual overall, and North’s Noah Bryan who finished 4th High Individual overall.

Congressional High School Art Competition

Imagine art that you created hanging in the United States Capitol Building. Ridgeview High School senior Octavian Crofton is about to get this prestigious honor. Crofton was the overall winner in the 2019 Congressional High School Art Competition hosted by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy at Metro Galleries on May 3. Crofton was also awarded $1,500 along with two paid tickets to Washington, D.C. for a ribbon cutting ceremony and to see his artwork, which will be displayed in the corridor leading to the U.S. Capitol for one year.

Daniel Rodriguez, a Ridgeview High School student, took both 2nd and 3rd Place in the contest and also won a cash award. Since the contest began in 1981, each member of Congress brings the winning piece of artwork from their local district back to Washington with them.
Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated nationwide on May 5-11. It was an opportunity for students and the community to show their gratitude for the exceptional educators who play an essential role in children’s lives and inspire them to reach for their goals and achieve success.

“I want to thank each of our teachers for all that they do on behalf of over 40,000 Kern High School District students. This week, we celebrate you with Teacher Appreciation Week, but I want you to know how much we appreciate you every day.” - Dr. Bryon Schaefer, KHSD Superintendent

The KHSD Board of Trustees proclaimed May 8, 2019, as the Day of the Teacher in the Kern High School District. This year’s theme was “California Teachers: Great Teaching is Never Forgotten.”

Thank you School Nurses

The KHSD Board of Trustees proclaimed May 8, 2019, as National School Nurse Day. This year’s theme was “School Nurses: Advocates for the 21st Century student Health.” The proclamation stated that it is a day to celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of school nurses everywhere and their efforts of meeting the needs of today’s students by improving the delivery of health care in our schools. It is a chance to offer gratitude for the nation’s school nurses, who contribute to our local communities by helping students say healthy in school and ready to learn and keeping parents and guardians at work.

Amy Greene, Monica Munn, Carri Rohrbach, Tanya Bray, Naomi Kimbrell, Jamie Henry, and Monique Moreland
It is an honor to be selected, and more than two dozen Kern High School District (KHSD) students earned the opportunity to collaborate with the best of the best choir students throughout the state. Twenty-five students from several KHSD schools recently participated in the All-State Honor Choirs in San Jose. Students are accepted to sing in select choirs under the direction of nationally and internationally known conductors. It is a fantastic opportunity that brings choir students together from different schools for three days of beautiful music. The KHSD students selected to perform include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bakersfield High School</td>
<td>Christopher Rodriguez, Fedra Price, Hailey Cross, Kylie Caffee, Philip Mutz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foothill High School</td>
<td>Andrew Chavira</td>
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<td>Frontier High School</td>
<td>Aidan Meyer</td>
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<td>Liberty High School</td>
<td>Tyler Woods</td>
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<tr>
<td>North High School</td>
<td>Matthew Summers, Oliver Martinez, Sydney Lee, Tanner Garrity, Tyler Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridgeview High School</td>
<td>Emiliano Baez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockdale High School</td>
<td>Elijah Kosareff, Elise Esquibel, Jeffery Wood, Khushali Desai, Kyle Byron Alvarez</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Bakersfield High School</td>
<td>Isaias Martinez, Itze Garcia, Ivan Vielma, Logan Burdick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centennial High School</td>
<td>Jose Carillo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridgeview High School</td>
<td>Emiliano Baez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockdale High School</td>
<td>Elijah Kosareff, Elise Esquibel, Jeffery Wood, Khushali Desai, Kyle Byron Alvarez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West High School</td>
<td>Cynthia Mejia</td>
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Student Blood Drives

Students in Kern County are helping save lives when they roll up their sleeves to donate blood—and at the end of the school year, Houchin Community Blood Bank (HCBB) holds a luncheon to thank the student donors.

On May 10, HCBB hosted schools from across Kern County at Stockdale Country Club. HCBB representatives were on hand to personally thank students for donating a total of 4,585 units of blood this school year. Also celebrated were the 51 Gallon Grads, which are the students who donated a gallon of blood before graduation.

Awards were also handed out to the schools that donated the most units. Shafter High School won in the Large School category for donating 243 units, with 64% of their senior class size donating.

The school that brought in the most donations during the summer was Stockdale High School. The school that donated the most at the donor centers and went the “Extra Mile” was Liberty High School.

District Office Blood Drive

As part of our Community Outreach Initiative, the KHSD Office is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, June 18, for all staff members.

A Houchin Community Blood Bank mobile donor center will be set up in the parking lot.

If you would like to sign up to donate please contact:

KHSD Public Information Officer Erin Briscoe-Clarke at 827-3171 or Erin_Briscoe@KernHigh.org
Award Winning Publication

The latest edition of *Achieve Magazine*, a publication of the KHSD School Support Services is available now. Achieve Magazine is an award-winning magazine, recently taking home an Award of Excellence at the California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) Annual Seminar and Awards in Santa Rosa. Achieve is available now at the District Office, our school sites, and at Kern Schools Federal Credit Union branches.

Kern High School District Mission Statement

The mission of the Kern High School District is to provide programs and services to allow ALL students to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in the workplace and at the post-secondary level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 03</td>
<td>Summer School Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 03</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Regular Meeting</td>
<td>EOC Boardroom 7 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Regular Meeting</td>
<td>EOC Boardroom 7 P.M.</td>
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Contact Us

For more information about Kern High School District schools and programs, visit us on the web at: [www.kernhigh.org](http://www.kernhigh.org)

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