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CCSD prepares for start of 2014-15 school year

By David Roddy, CCSD Communications

The start of the 2014-15 school year is only a week away, but Clark County School District (CCSD) schools and offices are already buzzing with activity as employees prepare for the opening bell that will welcome more than 316,000 students through the doors of its 357 schools.

As with every school year, employees will find there are a number of “new” items 2014-15. Among them are:

New faces: There will be lots of them throughout the district as CCSD has been working to hire more than 2,000 teachers this year in an effort to keep up with an expanding student population. While the majority of new employees are teachers, there was also an increased need for bus drivers and the district also added new positions in the Parent Services area this year.



New names: As part of the superintendent's reorganization and the ongoing evolution of the district, the former Curriculum and Professional Development Division is now known as the Instructional Design and Professional Learning Division. In addition, the former Virtual High School and the Academy of Individualized Study were combined and renamed the Nevada Learning Academy.

Year-round schools: During the 2013-14 school year, CCSD had three elementary schools on year-round schedules. Due to growth and overcrowding, especially in the southwest part of the valley, 10 more schools begin year-round schedules beginning next week, taking the district's total to 13.

Rezoning: Members of the district's Attendance Zone Advisory Committee, Board of Trustees and staff members

spent countless hours last year examining rezoning options in an effort to address school overcrowding with the least amount of disruption. The final decision by the trustees resulted in 17 rezoned schools. The rezoning topic is expected to be active again this year as the need for new schools far outweighs the small amount of money remaining from the 1998 capital improvement bond program.

Policies & Regulations: Board policies and regulations are constantly being reviewed and updated throughout the year. However, this summer, the trustees updated Policy 5136. The revised policy allows students to utilize their communication devices during lunches and school-sponsored activities and during certain instructional learning times as approved by the school's respective principal.

Parent communication system: Move over ParentLink and say hello to Infinite Campus. This new system will not only handle parent messaging previously provided by ParentLink, it will replace the outdated SASI system, which is no longer supported by its vendor. Infinite Campus training began last March in preparation for the phased roll out. It is estimated that students will have access to the new system on Sept. 5 and parents will have access to Infinite Campus in late September or early October.

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