

PRESS RELEASE

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Lynwood Unified Welcomes Over 100 Newcomers, Celebrates Dual Heritage and Success

LYNWOOD, CA – Welcomed by red, white and blue balloons, U.S. flags and banners representing their countries of origin, more than 100 Lynwood Unified students who recently arrived in the United States received an opportunity to bond with peers and connect with District leaders during the second annual Newcomers event on Aug. 30.

The event, designed for English learners who have been in America for three years or less, aims to help students ease their anxiety about attending school in a new country, learn what is expected of them to graduate high school and befriend classmates who share their nationality.

“The students are super excited to be here. This is a great, welcoming environment for the new arrivals,” LUSD English Language Learner Coordinator Aranzazu Garcia said. “This event helps the students establish rapport with each other and lets them know they are not the only ones who have come to a new country, which is very important for them.”

As the students arrived – many hailing from Latin American countries like Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela, Guatemala and Peru – they were each presented with a handheld flag representing their country of origin, along with a pin featuring both the American flag and the flag of their homeland, symbolizing their dual heritage.

“I’ve met so many classmates like me who are learning English,” Hosler Middle School student Diana Vazquez said. “Lynwood Unified is very supportive of those who speak Spanish and if you need help understanding something, they are there to help you.”

The middle school breakfast session focused on acclimating students to their school, the importance of learning a new language, how they can succeed and exit the English Language Development program, and how to prepare for high school. The high school lunch session covered the key requirements for graduation and free on-campus programs to support their English development and academic success.

“I learned what I have to do to get my diploma, how to improve my English and how everyone here is helping us get to college and get more opportunities in our lives,” said Firebaugh High School student Joshua Ponce Garcia, who plans to pursue mechanical engineering.

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Students bonded through an icebreaker bingo game where they connected by finding others who have traveled to Europe, know how to drive, play a sport, and other fun prompts. They also learned about academic and social-emotional resources and supports available at their schools.

“Transitioning to a new country, learning a new language and adjusting to a new school system is a daunting challenge for our newcomers,” Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D. said. “We are committed to supporting our newest scholars on their journeys to success and ensuring they have the same opportunities their families envision for them.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

LUSD_NEWCOMERS_1: Newcomers from Cesar Chavez Middle School attend Lynwood Unified’s second annual Newcomers event on Aug. 30, where they met classmates from Hosler Middle School and learned about the resources available on their campuses to ensure their success in English acquisition and academics.





LUSD_NEWCOMERS_2: Lynwood and Firebaugh high school students play an icebreaker bingo game to get to know each other during Lynwood Unified’s Newcomers event on Aug. 30.

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The mission of Lynwood Unified School District, the model urban school district, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves their highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to a diverse, global society through an evolving system distinguished by:

- ★ *People of great character who inspire and lead by example* ★ *The instilling of courage to be creative* ★ *The transformative uses of technology*
- ★ *Safe and clean environments* ★ *The inclusion of all voices in our community through equity, access and justice*

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