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WELLNESS CENTERS OPEN AT ESCONDIDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Escondido, CA – The Escondido Union High School District gathered to celebrate the opening of Wellness Centers at Orange Glen and San Pasqual high schools this week. The Wellness Centers each consist of a student center, as well as meeting spaces for school social workers and community partners to engage with students. In the Wellness Centers, students can take a self-assessment and access mental health resources, including books, time with social workers, and more. The Wellness Centers are designed to provide an environment for students centered on increasing and enhancing mental well-being.

The opening of additional Wellness Centers at Orange Glen and San Pasqual high schools means that now more than 6,000 students in the district will have access to Wellness Centers and resources in support of mental and behavioral health on their campus every day.

“The opening of these Wellness Centers represents a commitment by our district not only to sound mental health but most importantly, to the connection between student wellness and education,” said Superintendent Dr. Anne Staffieri. “The pandemic provided the opportunity for us to shine a light on mental health and these Wellness Centers firmly establish a culture of support for our students to access necessary resources to establish and maintain wellness as they go through their high school experience.”

The Wellness Centers will host student groups, book clubs, and other gatherings where students can focus on their mental health. In less than a month of being open to students, the Wellness Center at San Pasqual High School has seen nearly 25 percent of the student body visit the space for services.

The district had been exploring Wellness Centers and researching best practices from other districts across the state since before the pandemic. Community partnerships made the first Wellness Center possible and the district’s maintenance teams worked with a small group of contractors to construct not one, but two additional Wellness Centers over the course of five months.

Volunteers from the Church at Rancho Bernardo provided support for the two newest Wellness Centers and the Wildflower Initiative added a reading nook to each, providing books, cabinetry, and other decorative items.

In addition to social worker offices, each of the Wellness Centers includes multiple office and meeting spaces where community partners will provide services to students through district partnerships, allowing the district to help more students.

Both the Orange Glen and San Pasqual Wellness Centers have been open to students since February.

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About Escondido Union High School District

The Escondido Union High School District has empowered students to graduate prepared for college, career, and life through excellence in learning for more than 125 years. The district serves more than 7,000 students across five high schools including: Escondido, Orange Glen, and San Pasqual, Del Lago Academy and Valley; as well as the Escondido Adult School. More than 900 staff members are employed by Escondido Union High School District, which offers more than 180 courses, including nationally recognized Advanced Placement courses, College & Career Technical Education, Independent Study, after school enrichment, career exploration, STEM opportunities, and more.