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## Parents get resource center

By: Julie Drake



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PALMDALE - Palmdale School District parents have a new resource - the Center for Parent Partnership. There they can take leadership or computer classes and get assistance in reading, writing, and math to better help their children with homework.

District officials, parents, students, and invited guests celebrated the center's grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday afternoon.

"It was a great celebration of our parent center opening; it was fantastic," Palmdale School District Superintendent Raul Maldonado said Thursday.

The center, at 38136 35th St. East, shares a campus with Oak Tree Learning Center. The parent center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"If someone has a particular issue that they're dealing with at the school they come together and they solve it together. It's a great resource out of the community," Maldonado said.

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Maldonado added he hopes the center is used five days a week.

The district will partner with nonprofit organizations such as Antelope Valley Partners for Health to provide information about health. Volunteers from Northrop Grumman's Adelante, an employee resource group, will also help at the center, he added.

The first classes to be offered at the center include parent leadership classes that are part of the district's Project 2 Inspire program offered through the California Association for Bilingual Education. Those classes are expected to begin in April.

"It teaches parents how to advocate and support their child's education and really become leaders in the own right at their school sites," said Geoff Brown, Palmdale School District's director of Access and Equity, who oversees the center.

Parents who graduate from the program are then certified to train other parents at their children's schools.

The center also offers the Parent Academy and leadership classes for parent "ambassadors." Each school has one or two parents selected as parent ambassadors who serve as a contact for other parents and can assist them with questions.

The center will have a computer lab equipped with 30 Chromebook computers. The computers are being prepared for use at the center.

"We're very excited to get it up and running," Brown said.

The center will also offer parents training in reading, writing, and math and computer classes that are expected to begin within the next month, or so.

"We're ramping up. We don't totally have all of the programs in place yet, and we're also listening to our parents asking them what their needs are," Brown said.

The district will likely add a Spanish course for parents who want to learn the language. The program is already offered at the Dos Caminos School.

Beginning next school year the district will expand its English as a Second Language program to the Parent Center. The existing English as a Second Language program, which is currently offered at schools, follows the semester schedule that students use. Parents are asked to commit for one year.

There will also be General Educational Development, or GED, classes offered in conjunction with the Antelope Valley Adult School operated by



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the Antelope Valley Union High School District. Those classes are also expected to begin in the new school year.

"We're so excited to have this resource for our parents in our community and looking forward to ramping up but also evolving with the ideas of our parents. As our parents come forward and have needs and requests that we're able to do our best to accommodate those and really develop our parents into leaders in the community," Brown said.

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