



For Immediate Release:

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**Pittsburg Unified School District Kicks-Off Summer Meals Program with Free
BBQ and Cooking Demonstration**

Pittsburg, CA...Friday, June 9, 2017 – Pittsburg Unified School District's Child Nutrition Department brings the 6th annual [Summer Meals Kick-Off](#) event to Buchanan Park on Friday, June 9, 2017 from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Buchanan Park is located at 4150 Harbor Street in Pittsburg. The free BBQ features hot dogs, hamburgers, a salad bar, health and fitness information, music, wellness activities, live performances, and a cooking demonstration by Deputy Superintendent, Enrique Palacios and Garden Supervisor, Michelle DeCoy.

The Charlie Cart cooking demonstration of a ratatouille recipe will showcase how the District will soon be using new grant funds from the California Department of Education. The Breakfast grant will be used to purchase ten new Charlie Carts for school sites throughout Pittsburg, furthering each school's ability to utilize the carts for a "grab and go" breakfast program as well as recipe demonstrations that incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables harvested from school gardens. Teachers will be able to work in conjunction with the Child Nutrition department to utilize STEM lessons specifically created for learning opportunities in school gardens. Healthy recipes will be tested out on the new Charlie Carts at each of the school sites. PUSD is thrilled to have the ability to purchase these additional carts and cooking materials, which amounts to around \$15,000 per school.

"This summer brings to the table colors of the rainbow, said Angelia Nava, Director, Child Nutrition Services at Pittsburg Unified School District. In addition to the Summer Meals program, we will continue with *Harvest of the Month* which provides structured

education materials for students, families, and the community to engage in hands-on opportunities through our school site gardens (farm to plate), taste California grown fruits and vegetables, learn about the state's rich agricultural bounty and understand the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and being active every day. We will showcase our Charlie Cart, recipes, and taste testing at *Harvest of the Month* throughout the summer and are very excited to add ten new Charlie Carts to our fleet in the upcoming school year!"

Over the summer break, Pittsburg Unified School District is teaming up with the Pittsburg community to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to children ages 2-18 at seventeen sites throughout Pittsburg. The [Summer Meals program](#) will be offered June 12 – August 4, 2017. A special thanks to Kaiser Permanente for sponsoring the 2017 Summer Meals Kick-Off at Buchanan Park, where more than 1,000 community members are expected to attend.

Health and wellness are a priority at Pittsburg Unified School District. The Child Nutrition Services Department has received national recognition under the Healthier U.S. School Challenge and the department's goal is to continually showcase healthy food options for school children as well as inspire kids about fruits and veggies that are harvested from their school garden. Every school site throughout the district has a garden, and each month nearly 600 pounds of fruits and vegetables are harvested. The harvests are divided among all the school cafeterias, offering children a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables with their meals.

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About Pittsburg Unified School District

Awarded the College Board's Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll award in 2016 for expanding access to college, [Pittsburg Unified School District](#) (PUSD) is one of 130 school districts across the nation recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. PUSD is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study options, and a preschool program, the school district serves more than 11,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.