



June 12, 2026

Virginia Peterson Students and Staff Refresh Campus Mural in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary

PASO ROBLES, Calif. — Students and staff at Virginia Peterson Elementary School have given new life to a beloved campus landmark just in time for America's 250th anniversary.

Led by teacher Megan Wortman, students and staff from the school's Room 14 Learning Center spent the last week of school carefully restoring and repainting the large-scale United States mural that adorns a campus recreation area. The project transformed the faded artwork with vibrant red, white, and blue colors, creating a patriotic tribute that celebrates the nation's upcoming semiquincentennial in July, 2026.

The mural has long been a familiar feature of the Virginia Peterson campus. Years of sun and weather had dulled its appearance, making it ready for a refresh. Under Wortman's leadership, students worked alongside staff to prepare, paint, and complete the updated design.

"This project gave students the opportunity to take ownership of their campus while contributing to something that will be enjoyed by Virginia Peterson students for years to come," said Principal Monica Pafumi. "It was exciting to watch the mural come back to life."

The restoration was made possible through the generous support of Lowe's, which donated the paint used for the project.

In addition to beautifying the campus, the project provided students with hands-on experience in teamwork, planning, and community service. The finished mural now serves as both a colorful centerpiece and a symbol of school pride.

As communities across the country prepare to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, the newly restored mural offers Virginia Peterson students a daily reminder of the nation's history, the importance of civic pride, and what can be accomplished when students and staff work together toward a common goal.

About Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District serves more than 6,400 students across northern San Luis Obispo County. Guided by its core values of integrity, accountability, collaboration, innovation, compassion, and belonging, PRJUSD is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued, empowered, and prepared to thrive.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

Melissa Godsey

Public Information Officer

mjgodsey@pasoschools.org