

In June 2024, Dorian Baker and Kenny Enney were approached by a gentleman named Orlando Gallegos who had heard our concerns regarding the poor math performance in Paso Robles schools (only 17% of graduates will meet standards in 2025). Orlando proposed a public-private partnership between Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD) and Mathnasium Tutoring Centers to provide free and readily accessible after-school tutoring to all PRJUSD students using school facilities.

After a long and successful career in "Silicone Valley", Orlando and his wife, Ann, moved to the Central Coast where they have been very active in various philanthropic activities. With his background in technology, Orlando has grown increasingly concerned about our failing education system and its impact on our children's future. Orlando said "Our children's future is in serious jeopardy because over 84 percent of Paso Robles students are 2 to 5 years below grade level in math...Most high-demand and/or high-wage jobs in coming years require strong math skills. Artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and other new technologies influence all market segments and industries, including agriculture, transportation, mining, medicine, energy conservation, and consumer goods." Orlando reached out to Larry Martinek, co-founder and educational director of Mathnasium Learning Centers.

Mathnasium Learning Centers were first established in Los Angeles in 2002 and include 1,176 active organizations in eleven countries. These tutoring centers have been highly successful in helping K-12 students master all aspects of math around the world. Mathnasium teaches students to think mathematically through an approach combining mental, verbal, visual, tactile, and written teaching techniques that address how each child learns best. Instructors connect with children individually, maintaining one instructor for every four students during each hour-long session. Larry and his wife Lynn invested over \$500,000 to create the Mathnasium of Atascadero to address the math education crisis in North County. Understanding that many families cannot afford the cost of a tutor, Larry and Orlando proposed establishing a 501c3 non-profit to cover the cost of the tutors. To keep costs low, and to do away with the need for parents to transport children to a Mathnasium Learning Center, PRJUSD agreed to provide space for after-school tutoring.

The PRJUSD Board of Trustees approved the agreement in October and the pilot program began its first tutoring sessions in November. The Martineks, who live and operate out of Los Angeles with no children in the North County school system, are offering a \$125,000 matching grant to fund TeamPaso's ongoing operations to promote math education in North County. Their interest focuses on promoting math education for children in California, the country, and the world whose families cannot afford Mathnasium services or other after-school paid opportunities. The long-range goal is to expand this initiative to neighboring school districts throughout North County.

More information is available at TeamPaso.org.