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**14th
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K – 12 Public Schools
2020 — 2021

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Schools Stand as Lighthouses of Their Communities



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

I believe schools should be seen as lighthouses of their communities. They stand as beacons of learning, familiarity, safety, friendship and enlightenment. And so it was no small decision to close campuses to students and pivot to distance learning models as the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to overwhelm local health care systems.

Educators throughout Orange County have done a remarkable job of using every resource at their disposal to connect with students, provide academic stability, maintain equity, and offer emotional support during the worst public health crisis of our lifetimes. They took up the challenge to ensure that spring 2020 wasn't a lost semester, but rather an opportunity to pursue meaningful distance learning. Yet we know nothing can rival a modern classroom, where students can learn face-to-face from a highly qualified teacher and collaborate with peers. We also recognize the vital role schools play in promoting socialization, nutrition, mental health and physical activity, and it has always been our intent to reactivate our community lighthouses.

With that in mind, the Orange County Department of Education and school districts across our county worked diligently to develop recommendations and assumptions to help reopen more than 600 schools in a safe and responsible manner, pulling in guidance from local, state and national health experts. "Orange County Together: A guide to safely reopening schools in the COVID-19 era" was released in June as the product of multidisciplinary collaboration from staff members who oversee educational services, health, business services, human resources, and maintenance and operations divisions throughout Orange County. Its development was also supported by representatives from the OC Health Care Agency, CHOC Children's and UCI.

This resource cannot address every difficult decision that administrators will face in the weeks and months ahead, and it will not supersede local

decision-making. Ultimately, the 28 school districts of Orange County will be responsible for determining their own plans under the leadership of their locally elected school boards and superintendents. However, our recommendations are based on a common set of principles, which are as follows:

- Orange County public school districts are working toward a resumption of in-person instruction beginning in the fall semester. In-person instruction will likely be integrated with and complemented by online learning options.
- Orange County public school districts are collaborating with the Orange County Health Care Agency and following guidance from the California Department of Public Health to plan reopening in a safe and coordinated manner.
- Orange County public school districts are developing innovative approaches to scheduling that may differ from traditional scheduling in the early stages of reopening, to address the need for physical distancing.
- Orange County public school districts are communicating regularly with families and community partners to develop collaborative and coordinated approaches to education.
- Orange County public school districts are monitoring developments daily and will make adjustments to plans as circumstances warrant.

With recommendations for classroom space, cleaning, food service, promoting healthy hygiene and other areas, this site should be considered a guide for districts, in concert with stakeholders, to make decisions that best meet their local needs.

It should also be seen as a living resource, because we know new circumstances are likely to arise that will require us to rethink assumptions and modify plans. But make no mistake, this roadmap to recovery leverages an array of collective knowledge with the goal of returning students to safe, welcoming and equitable learning environments.

Just as significant, it represents our commitment to moving forward, together.



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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our 14th edition of the Orange County Superintendent K-12 public schools publication, which we publish annually in July. Thank you for including *School News Roll Call* among your reading choices.

The quality of our communities are directly related to the quality of our public schools and we have much to be proud of. The brief articles herein are only an introduction. Each of the district web sites are in their mastheads where you can go online to read in-depth information.

To receive emailed copies of our individual publications, sign-up on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

14th Annual Edition

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Purpose: To Help Kids Thrive



Christopher Downing
Superintendent

As we prepare for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year we find ourselves in the middle of a transformational period in education. History teaches us that the most transformative periods are usually not planned but rather brought upon suddenly, followed by human innovation, resiliency, and purpose. At the end of last school year, our schools transitioned and adjusted overnight to continue serving students as previously unimaginable safety limitations were put in place. Our district’s previous investment in 1-to-1 technology allowed for equitable access to technology that supported student Distance Learning. Our commitment to the social-emotional well-being meant that students at all schools continued to have access to psychologists and counselors. Our dedicated teachers adapted to provide daily engaging lessons to students. And our community partnerships made it possible for students to have access to meals every day at all of our 23 school sites. These are the commitments we had in place before the school dismissals last March, that we maintained during the school dismissals, and that we will continue during the new school year, regardless of what the school day looks like. Community provides support during challenging times and it is in our amazing Anaheim Elementary School District community of educators, staff, parents, Board members, and community partners that we have found the support needed to move forward with our own innovation, resiliency, and purpose. Although, there are many variables influencing the transformation of education right now the purpose that drives our decisions, and our direction remains the same: to help kids thrive.

Humanity has No Barriers



Michael B. Matsuda
Superintendent

Fifty years from now, when our students are old, when they have children and grandchildren of their own, they will look back and say, “Do you remember what happened?” I picture them pensively reflecting, staring silently, breathing deeply, perhaps tearing up, and then after reliving the experience to the very end, smiling, “Those were the times of amazing grace, when people came together with kindness and compassion to support each other, when they made sacrifices for complete strangers, when schools became beacons of hope for families who were food deprived, and when teachers transformed educational experiences through emotional connection, through affirming mental health, and through meaningful learning.”

It was a time when people realized that humanity has no barriers, and that love is limitless if we have the courage to embrace it and to share it near and far. It was a time like no other, when the world came together, collaborated, communicated, created, thought critically, and acted with compassion to save humankind.

I am so proud and blessed to be surrounded by people in the AUHSD who are absolutely committed to our students, families, and communities.

As we adjust our sails and hold fast to the rudder, I ask you to be comforted by the words of a great author of several parenting books, L. R. Knost: Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break, and all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

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Finally, Cambridge Virtual Academy students will also be eligible for the AUHSD nationally acclaimed AIME program, (Anaheim Innovative Mentoring Experience), which comprises over 70 corporate and non-profit partners from 17 cities and two states which provide mentorships and internships to over 1,500 students from throughout the district. Families can learn more about Cambridge Virtual Academy and apply at: cambridge.auhsd.us

"CVA will help young people find their passion and build life skills through communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and compassion. CVA builds leaders."

Michael Matsuda

AUHSD Superintendent

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We are BOUSD



Dr. Brad
Mason
Superintendent

With the end of the 2019-20 school year in the books, it is a good time to reflect on what we learned about ourselves and our school district in the wake of a global pandemic and our quick transition to distance learning for the last one-third of the school year. What we learned was people matter. They matter when you realize you can't just assume you will see them as you used to on a daily basis; and they matter when they needed to step into the gap as educators and staff to continue teaching, feeding and caring for the tangible needs of our students.

There were so many remarkable stories of people doing selfless acts to help meet the needs of students and families as we navigated the impacts of social distancing, job loss, health concerns and the myriad of uncertainties that accompany these obstacles. Daily food service was a point of normalcy for many students and families as the lines of cars drove through five sites to get breakfast and lunch from our amazing Food Service staff; the smiles and "hellos" were just an added bonus as people got to interact with familiar faces.

Roughly \$11,000 was donated by local charities and organizations to distribute to students and families in need throughout Brea. The donations came in the form of \$50 gift cards for local stores where families could shop for food and essentials due to the financial hardship they encountered. I even had diapers and wipes delivered to my office that we distributed because during our deliveries of the giftcards, we were made aware of families that were down to their last few diapers. The miracles of kindness flourished during this uncertain time but Brea was bigger than the challenge.

As we prepare for the new school year and the uncertainties of our immediate future, know that the school district continues to work hard towards a successful reopening. Regardless of what comes our way we will be ready to care for and welcome back our students, staff and families. How do I know this? I know this because We are BOUSD and that is what we do.

Something for Everyone



Dr. Ramon
Miramontes
Superintendent

I am extremely proud and honored for the opportunity to serve in my 3rd year as Superintendent of the Buena Park School District! The Buena Park School District is committed to providing the highest quality educational experience for all students, inspiring students to pursue high achievement and empowering them follow their passions. We proudly educate approximately 4,500 students at five Elementary Schools and two Middle Schools. Our Buena Park Schools have won numerous national and state academic awards and we continue our efforts to offer all students opportunities for innovation and academic success.

Every BPSD School has a unique focus such as STEM, Visual and Performing Arts, Gifted and Talented Education, College and Career Bound readiness, Physical Education & Wellness, and Honors Academy. Our two Middle Schools offer Academic Honors classes, Gifted and Talented Enrichment, Computer Science, Engineering, Arts, Leadership, Debate, as well as a variety of Technology classes and clubs. All schools are equipped with the necessary features and resources to promote creativity, character, citizenship, collaboration, and critical thinking as we believe all students will become great citizens in the years to come! There is something for everyone in the Buena Park School District. With the addition of our Alternative TK-8 Academy for Accelerated Learning, students may also engage digitally.

Strong partnerships with our parents and the community are key components of our success. Our collaborative partnerships with Cal State Fullerton, BIOLA University, Fullerton College, and St. Jude Hospital provide additional opportunities for our students to grow and thrive as we all work together on developing the whole child. Thank you to all of the wonderful people within our incredible community who help Ignite the Passion for Learning!

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Capistrano Unified School District

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Every Student Thrives CUSD



Kirsten M. Vital
Superintendent

At Capistrano Unified School District, we have made it our mission to prepare our young people to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world, and this past year was no different. Although the 2019-2020 school year did not end as anyone planned, we have many wonderful achievements to celebrate:

- Launched our Full Day Kindergarten program
- Established a partnership with physicians and mental health experts from Hoag Hospital to support our students and families
- Moved full STEAM ahead by hosting two Innovation Showcase events, growing our partnerships with Child Creativity Lab, Crystal Cove Conservancy, Discovery Cube, and Inside the Outdoors
- Broke ground on the construction of new STEM and STEAM buildings
- Two CUSD schools received the 2020 American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation, a testament to the incredible work of our school counselors at all school sites

This spring took us all by surprise with a pandemic sweeping across the world and closing our schools. Since our last day of in-classroom education, we trained over 2,000 teachers and staff on virtual classroom technology, distributed more than 6,000 Chromebooks, and provided over 300,000 free meals. We could not do this work without the incredible support of our families, teachers, and staff.

We are excited for the 2020-2021 school year and are grateful for the opportunity to educate nearly 47,000 young people. We look forward to safely reopening our schools, while continuing to support our working families and provide flexible learning options for all.

Centralia School District

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The Future of Dynamic Schools



Norma Martinez
Superintendent

As Superintendent of CESD, my leadership focuses on continuing to be “future-ready.” The passage of Measure N in 2016 permitted us to modernize classrooms and add enhanced communication, creativity, critical thinking & collaboration tools for students and staff, as well as the ongoing investment in our teachers, through innovative coaching and modern instructional tools.

A focus around critical thinking enables us to present learning opportunities that enhance outcomes for all students. I am proud to share that CESD consistently outperforms in English Language Arts and Math.

In preparation for a return to school, we are focused on health and safety for all. Parents may see some adjustments as a result.

Expect Relevancy: Through our use of strategies that compel deeper thinking, we help children develop grade level mastery, as well as the essentials necessary to ensure that scholars learn in a manner that is meaningful to them.

Rebuilding Relationships: As we prepare to reopen, we must begin with a focus on relationships and serving the social-emotional needs of students.

Develop Competencies: We understand the importance of developing necessary competencies that are valued in an evolving marketplace, such as adaptability, creativity, and critical thinking.

In conclusion, I ask each of our families to continue to dream big for their children. We know CESD is where strong foundations are built — with safe, confident students.

Ms. Norma E. Martinez' has been the superintendent of the lauded Centralia Elementary School District since 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree from CSU Fullerton and is currently a doctoral candidate.



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Cypress School District

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Returning to School



Anne
Silavs
Superintendent

The success of the Cypress School District is grounded in our mission to inspire and empower every student, every moment, for every opportunity, and we remain steadfast in our commitment in spite of challenging times, including a worldwide pandemic.

We know one size does not fit all when it comes to educating our students. That's why we spent this summer working closely with our school community—parents, teachers, and staff—to develop a plan for reopening our schools that includes options to meet the needs and preferences of the children and families we serve as well as the technology resources necessary to support student success.

Fundamental to our plan are three important priorities:

1. Maximizing student instructional time.
2. Providing for the health and safety of students and staff.
3. Supporting families and working parents.

We also know that school closure in March hit our neediest students especially hard. That's why we committed ourselves to providing an in-person Extended School Year (ESY) program in July for our students with special needs, successfully serving over 70 students. Not only was ESY a great opportunity for students to reconnect to school and for teachers to address specific learning needs, it was an invaluable opportunity for staff to launch new safety protocols on a small scale in advance of school reopening for the 2020/21 school year.

Finally, we recognize that supporting social-emotional learning is an important part of educating the whole child and that these past few months have been particularly difficult for some students. That's why we are planning for enhanced supports and expanded counseling services at all of our schools next year to ensure our students are well prepared with the social-emotional and academic skills they need for success in a dynamic and rapidly changing world.

It is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Wednesday, August 12, 2020!

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/843-3200 • www.fvdsd.us

Reopening FVSD Schools This Fall



Dr. Mark
Johnson
Superintendent

The Fountain Valley School District is looking forward to the first day of school on September 9, 2020! At this time, our number one priority is to safely have all students back in traditional classrooms with their teachers every day. However, we also know that the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation and we must also be diligent in developing alternative instructional models that seek to reduce the number of students on campuses at any given time, wherein students physically attend school part of the week and attend 'virtually' on other days. Additionally, we know from a recent survey that 22% of our parents would prefer a full-time distance/virtual learning model, and we will provide this option for families who feel it is best for their child(ren).

As we work to bring students and staff back to our campuses safely this fall, we want to commend the efforts of our Reopening Schools Advisory, made up of over 50 stakeholders, including parents, teachers, support staff and administrators, who are working collaboratively to answer the hard questions about safety and protocols. Please know that reopening schools will depend on several factors coming together successfully, and that our plan must follow the guidance released by the California Department of Public Health and the Orange County Department of Education.

In true alignment with the FVSD Way, we have always known the tremendous benefits of studying, collaborating, planning and communicating, all of which are necessary to reopen schools safely. This approach, as well as our partnership our local health care officials and our neighboring districts, will allow us to develop the best model for our students, staff and our community this fall.

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Fullerton School District

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Great Schools–Successful Kids



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

The 2019-2020 school year has been like no other. The Fullerton community is hurting and there is real pain from the lasting effects of COVID-19. People have lost their jobs and businesses. Parents fear that they won't be able to provide for their families. Parents are worried about the safety and health of their children during this time. In addition to the pandemic and its crippling impact, we are again reminded of the devastating effects of racism with national news showing the death of George Floyd and others.

While we have had to face fear, uncertainty, and endure the pain of loss, our Fullerton story through this crisis has been one of hope and strength. I have been inspired by you, our Fullerton Community. Staff and parent committees have worked hard and long to create plans in order to open up schools safely. The number of the 'what if' scenarios for which everyone has had to plan is vast and continues to change, but the community continues to show exceptional diligence and commitment to our children. The unique attributes of each individual are what make our community great and we understand that there is no "one size fits all" for our students and families. Collaborative groups have worked tirelessly to plan for school options to offer our students and families based on their situation, including MyFSD Academy, a flexible homeschooling learning model.

During this unprecedented time of change and uncertainty, while everything is a "new normal," FSD is committed to working to unify, care for, and educate our students in a manner that works for the families, students, and staff. As we enter a new school year, remember that Fullerton story is one of hope. It is filled with a community of strong, generous, and loving people dedicated to the success of our young students.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District

1051 W. Bastanchury Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/8702801 • www.fjuhsd.org

Leading the Way in Uncertain Times



Dr. Scott Scambray
Superintendent

Serving approximately 14,000 students, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District strives to provide a learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement and attainment of 21st Century skills. The implementation of 1:1 technology five years ago aided the District in leading the way with distance learning and allowed staff members, students, and parents to continue high standards of teaching and learning. We will continue to provide these high standards and remain flexible in our instructional delivery for this upcoming school year.

The District's outstanding academic programs include: Advanced Placement; Agriculture, AVID, Adult Transition Program, Early College, Engineering, Computer Science, International Baccalaureate, JROTC, Marketing and Business Academy, Forensics Science, Performing Arts Academies, and Troy Tech. We are also proud to unveil the new Cambridge Academy at Troy High School this school year.

The District's outstanding extracurricular programs include: Speech and Debate, Science Olympiad, Cyber Security, Visual and Performing Arts, Graphic Production, Coding, and Robotics. A variety of outstanding ROP programs are also offered including: Culinary Arts, Video Production, Medical Careers, Sports Medicine, Fire Technology, Engineering, and Automotive Repair.

Finally, we are proud of the Bond Measure I construction projects that have been or will be completed in the upcoming school year, including a new gym at Fullerton Union High School, a new aquatics center at Buena Park High School, and modernization of science classrooms at Sunny Hills High School.

Seeking to provide the best possible education for every student is exhilarating and compelling. We look forward to an exciting and productive 2020/21 school year.



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Committed to Student Success



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

The 2019-20 school year was one of the most challenging educators have ever experienced: a global pandemic, the historic shuttering of school buildings, and an overnight transition to distance learning. I could not be more proud of our phenomenal educators and support staff who worked diligently to ensure that our GGUSD students and families were supported during distance learning. District leaders are working around the clock to develop reopening plans that meet the needs of our community and adhere to county and state guidelines. Through a survey mailed to every home and Stakeholder Task Force with nearly 200 employees, parents and students, our reopening plans will be guided by the feedback of those we serve.

Currently, school principals are analyzing their survey data, potential enrollment numbers, and available space following county and state distancing guidelines. Each school team will develop its own site specific plan based on building capacity and the needs/preferences expressed by their school's families. During the 2020-2021 school year, GGUSD will offer three learning options including: 1.) students attend in-person class all day; 2.) a hybrid model of some in-person class and distance learning; and 3.) a Virtual Academy which will be 100% online learning led by a teacher via video and virtual lessons with opportunities for tutoring on campus. GGUSD is developing robust health and safety plans and has ordered personal protective equipment (PPE) for all sites. Our emergency response plans will include protocols that must be followed when an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive. We thank our community for their continued patience as we work to ensure a safe start to the 2020-2021 school year with educational models that equip students with the academic and personal skills for lifelong success. That's the Garden Grove Way!

Dreams Come Alive Through Unified Sports



Dr. Clint Harwick
Superintendent

Six years ago, Sue Williams an adaptive physical education teacher at Westminster High School, introduced Unified Sports to promote acceptance and inclusion through sports. A Special Olympics program, Unified Sports provides students with and without intellectual disabilities opportunities to practice and compete on teams together. As the program took shape, Williams noticed a camaraderie building between students of all talents and athletic abilities. "Not only do all Special Olympics athletes deserve the same access to competitive sports as their peers, but the social interaction and the campus-wide spirit of inclusion that Unified Sports fosters can change an entire school culture," said Williams.

It also adds perspective to students who participate as coaches or teammates that sports are more than a scorecard or stat sheet. Sports can be universal language of teamwork and togetherness. For some parents "who discover early in their child's life that their learning experience is going to be very different, there is a bit of grieving that takes place as the dreams they had for their child to be a part of a sports team dies," Williams added. "Unified Sports gives life to that dream that was thought to be dead." The Unified Sports program has a lifetime impact on the students as they develop a greater understanding and appreciation for all people, regardless of how they look or learn. Students realize that they are more similar than different and that they are just teenagers who want to fit in, feel valued, and hang out with friends.

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Adaptability Quotient



Terry L. Walker
Superintendent

During this unprecedented time in which we continue to grapple with the ever-changing COVID-19 global pandemic, in addition to social strife and racial injustice, the critical role of schools, as the heart of our community, has never been more apparent. The Irvine Unified School District's (IUSD) commitment to provide students the highest quality educational experience we can envision, rests upon our ability to pivot and adapt to meet the diverse needs of our students, staff and families in both the current moment and an unpredictable future.

As a superintendent, an educator and a father, I have a deep appreciation for the challenges these circumstances have presented our entire community. At a time when it would

be easy to find more wrong than right, more negative than positive, I have witnessed our staff, families and students make the conscious choice to face these challenges with grit, resiliency, adaptability, grace, compassion and hope. Out of times of great stress and tumult comes an opportunity to grow and be better for it. IUSD will continue to move forward to provide academic excellence and equity for our more than 36,000 students, as we strive to find innovative solutions that will enable us to continually improve teaching and learning and how we serve students.

Hindsight is 20/20



Dr. Joanne Culverhouse
Superintendent

It's easier to evaluate decisions and choices made in our past than in the present. We often say this when we regret the choices we've made because we did not realize the impact it would make. I have heard many of us wishing this year away due to the pandemic, political divide and civil unrest that is consuming our daily lives. But what if we changed our perspective and embraced the year 2020 that gave us the wisdom of hindsight. To look back and evaluate our choices, to see things with more clarity and to make better decisions. What if 2020 gave us the pause we needed to take a step back, to look at the bigger picture and to see things we've missed? What if 2020 gave us the perfect vision to become a better society? Let's change those should haves/could haves to will do and done. Let's make lasting change so that years from now, we can say we made the right decisions because hindsight was the year 2020. (Submitted in collaboration with Dr. Cammie Nguyen, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education and Student Services)

The Sun Always Rises



Dr. Jason Viloria
Superintendent

When we look back on our lives, we often don't see the whole film but rather a burst of moments that shape our present. Those memories are a potpourri of good times and times that have tried our spirit because, in the end, those are the moments that shape us. This school year will join the ranks of those memories, including the challenges and opportunities to rise to the occasion.

A guiding tenet of our work in LBusD has been continuous improvement, along with a focus on every student, every day, while leading through the lens of relationships. This school year tested that commitment. We were confronted with circumstances that were foreign and unknown to us, but we persevered.

Isabel Allende wrote, "We all have an unsuspected reserve of strength inside that emerges when life puts us to the test." I saw the emergence of this strength in our community, and I am immensely proud of what we accomplished collectively.

In the fall, I challenged our teachers and staff to build relationships with each other and the students we serve; relationships with personal connections that matter when all is said and done. In the spring, as we transitioned to distance learning, I saw the fruits of that labor. Those relationships were at the epicenter of our response to the complex challenges presented by COVID-19. It was those interpersonal connections that sustained our students and families as we navigated uncharted waters.

There are more unknowns than certainties for the future, but the sun rises every morning, and as long as the sun rises, there is hope.

Better Together!



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

For the Los Alamitos Unified School District, this has been an historic year — a dizzying sequence of accomplishments and challenges.

Last August, we launched a five-month process to fundamentally change how we govern our District, moving from an at-large trustee system to one based on trustee voting areas. We held 36 town hall meetings and hearings across the district to solicit community input, and our Board members discussed the issue in dozens of face-to-face conversations with District residents. I believe this process demonstrates democracy at its finest.

We also began putting to work the bond funds our community so generously approved with Measure G. We finished upgrading the electrical and data infrastructure of our 53-year-old high school. We built an aquatic sports complex at the school, and we broke ground on a three-story classroom building that will provide students with state-of-the-art science lab facilities and be the focal point of the campus.

And then COVID-19 struck, and we had to close our classrooms. Our incredible teachers, staff and educational leaders jumped into action and, in only three days, put school online and distributed computers and Wi-Fi hotspots to all students who needed them. We continued to strengthen the distance learning experience to keep students as connected as possible to Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts. Our community united in a variety of ways to honor and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff during this unique time. We also maintained and expanded our free meal distribution program, providing hundreds of meals a day to our families and community.

Extraordinary challenges remain, but I know that through the exceptional skills of our staff, the visionary leadership of our Board, and the unfailing support from our community, we will meet them and continue to be Better Together!



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Reopening Plans for 2020-2021 School Year



Dr. Frank Donovan
Superintendent

We are so proud of how quickly everyone adjusted to At-Home Learning after our schools closed on March 13, 2020 due to the pandemic caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our first day of school is on August 31. We must get approval from health care officials to reopen our schools. We are working on three different scenarios including In-Person Learning, Blended Learning or At-Home Learning. Reopening our schools will be based on the following guiding principles:

- **Safety:** Students will return to schools when we have developed strategies and protocols to ensure the safety of everyone.
- **Science:** We will use the most current information from health care officials.
- **Staff Support:** We will provide training, support and resources needed to teach our students.
- **Student Learning:** We will continue to be innovative, creative, and flexible to address the needs of our students.

We understand that once schools reopen there could be parents/guardians who may continue to have concerns over safety. We will be opening a Virtual Academy and a Homeschooling option that will be open to all students. We will continue to provide all students with individual Chromebooks or digital devices.

I would like to sincerely thank our staff, students, parents, and community members for their hard work, dedication, flexibility and understanding as we navigate this temporary normal. Students and staff will come back to school when it is safe to do so. We continue to be at the forefront of elementary education and we will continue to provide rigorous academics with high expectations, the use of technology and an innovative focus on all students.


Destination District



Jim Coombs
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California as we hold true to our traditional American core values since 1906. Our students receive a quality education from outstanding teachers whose #1 priority is the success of their students. This success is evident in the fact that the students of Lowell, at all grade levels, exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California. We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our schools are a Gold Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence School. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is recognized as a "Schools to Watch" and CSBA Golden Bell award winner. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to the Lowell Joint School District as is our emphasis on higher education, personal integrity, and Character Education.

Specialized academic programs are provided at our schools for all students such as: 1:1 instructional technology, AP Computer Science (7th-8th), coding & robotics, STEAM Innovation Labs, and ARTS FOR ALL: vocal music, instrumental music, fine-art, dance and strings. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School is proud to provide students with enhanced educational opportunities through the Pre-AP/IB Honors Academy, Conservatory of the Arts (COFA), AP Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering, Audio Engineering, and Green Architecture. Each of these programs prepares our students to transition into our local high schools and on to post-secondary education. Lowell continues to focus on 21st Century learning, while assuring we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in their traditional American values. Together, it is the people of Lowell Joint that make Lowell a Destination District for our community.



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Flexibility is Essential



Dr. Fred Navarro
Superintendent

What an end to the 2019-2020 school year!

While none of us could have imagined our 20,000 students would transit to Distance Learning as quickly as we did, our District did so strategically and safely to ensure that staff and students had what they needed to succeed. Thank you to our entire school community for quickly stepping up to do what was needed to provide students with continuous meals, learning, and social/emotional support during school closures.

As we look ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, there remain many unanswered questions, as I also have announced my retirement effective July 2020. However, in looking ahead I leave you in the the very capable hands of excellent District leadership that will undoubtedly continue to provide students with an exceptional education, regardless of whether students are physically in school, learning virtually, or in some combination of in-person and virtual learning.

The wellbeing of staff and students will be at the forefront as the planning for the 2020-2021 school year progresses. The District will remain focused on reinforcing healthy behaviors and procedures, implementing enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures at all schools and District facilities, providing a continuum of high-quality instruction, and continuing to support the mental health of staff and students.

Thank you again for your trust in our District and support of our students. I am confident that NMUSD will continue to meet the ever-changing and challenging demands that lie ahead.

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Dr. Carol Hansen
Superintendent

This has been a year filled with unexpected challenges and also many notable accomplishments, and those successes are due to our dedicated staff, our engaged students, our involved parents and our supportive Board of Trustees. Here are a few of the highlights of our 2019-20 school year.

- Westmont Visual and Performing Arts Academy, reopened after a beautiful and transformative modernization.
- The 2.5 acre Golden View Farm received a major refurbishment to the delight of the students and animals.
- A new, state-of-the-art, 13,000 square foot Central Kitchen was built to provide fresh and healthy meals to students throughout the District.

- Circle View was one of only 362 schools in the United States to be named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School.
- Circle View and Star View were named 2020 California Distinguished Schools.
- Golden View Environmental Science School was one of only 25 schools in the state to receive the coveted California Green Ribbon Schools Award.
- Using Measure R bond funds, all schools have had been enclosed with security fencing for added safety.
- Our Nutrition Services Department provided 132,187 Grab-n-Go meals to children while school sites were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'd like to commend our staff, students and parents for their incredible resiliency in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented set of events required great sacrifice, flexibility and grit on everyone's part and I am extremely impressed with the way everyone met that challenge. It was not easy but we made it and, we are Ocean View Strong! Have a great summer and stay well!

Reimagining Schools for Fall 2020




Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

It's hard to believe that the new school year is almost here. The past four months have presented circumstances unlike any we have seen in our lifetime, and I am extremely proud of our Orange Unified staff, students, and community for their resilience, perseverance, and support as we have navigated the changes and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Reimagining Schools Task Force, informed by data from the Family Survey and guided by our Strategic Plan Focus Areas and Core Values, presented the Board of Education with recommended educational options to best support our student groups and families in the new year. While we work on finalizing these plans, I want to let you know that the health and safety of our students and staff are at the forefront of our efforts. We have established procedures for enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures at our sites and are actively disseminating supplies, including sneeze guards, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, face shields/masks, and other items to support increased health and safety measures in our schools.

Nutrition Services continues to serve Grab-N-Go meals to our students in need during summer break, and we anticipate distributing 350,000 meals between June 15 and August 24. For up-to-date information about nutrition services and other resources, please visit our website at orangeusd.org/resources.

Thank you for your partnership as we reimagine what teaching and learning look like in the current climate. I hope you have a healthy, happy summer break and look forward to seeing your smiling faces when our sites reopen on August 19.



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Gain the Advantage in PYLUSD



Dr. Greg S. Plutko
Superintendent

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) continues to be a dynamic learning community that prepares each and every student for success now and in the future. Across 34 school sites, PYLUSD serves over 24,000 students in the cities of Placentia and Yorba Linda, as well as portions of Anaheim, Brea, and Fullerton.

In March 2020, our District had to make the difficult decision to close our campuses and switch to an online learning model for students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2020-2021 school year, we have created an adjustable education plan focused on a safe and traditional return to school with contingency plans for a non-traditional or hybrid model of instruction should online learning become necessary.

This includes the opening of our first ever K-12 online school, Buena Vista Virtual Academy. We add our new virtual academy to a long list of trademark programs that make PYLUSD a unique place to learn including our high school CareerLink Academies, Dual Language Academy, and state-recognized transitional kindergarten program, known as Preppy-K.

These future-ready programs and initiatives have sprung from the District’s strategic plan titled, *The PYLUSD Advantage*. Created with input from families, community members, and staff, this dynamic document guides our decision-making and ensures that our students will have the advantage of an outstanding education. The *PYLUSD Advantage* is actively used by both the Board of Education and District leadership when crafting policies, implementing programs, and making decisions.

While the District continues to grow and evolve over the years, one thing will remain steadfast—our focus on a student-centered approach to continued and improved academic achievement. This is the core of the PYLUSD mission and vision.

I look forward to another year of preparing PYLUSD students for success now and in the future.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District

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Engaging Strategies for Success



Dr. Crystal Turner
Superintendent

Now that the very unusual 2019-2020 school year has ended, I’m hoping everyone is enjoying a well deserved summer break! While the last quarter of classes was dominated by COVID-19 news and the transition to Distance Learning, the 2019-2020 school year was still filled with outstanding accomplishments and accolades for our students and staff. SVUSD continues to be led by SV Innovates: a focus on intentional lesson design and engaging strategies for students, all supported through innovative practices to produce successful students now and in the future. The support from our staff, families and community provide all of our students an outstanding educational experience. Some of the many District highlights from this year include:

- Expansion of Full-Day Kindergarten throughout all of SVUSD
- Mrs. Mandy Kelly (Trabuco Mesa Elementary), named a 2020 California Teacher of the Year by The California Department of Education.
- Three SVUSD teachers recognized by *Parenting OC Magazine* as Top 10 Teachers (2) and Top 25 Teacher in Orange County
- Two SVUSD staff recognized by *Parenting OC Magazine* as Top 25 Employees in Orange County (School Psychologist & School Outreach Community Liaison)
- 43 Two-Way Language Immersion Graduates
- 86 Full International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidates
- 79 Full Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diplomas
- Supportive PTAs with 234,050 volunteer hours in 2019-2020

These are just part of an extensive list of great things happening in SVUSD. As we prepare for 2020-2021, our focus remains on the safety and well-being of our students and staff. I’m confident we will provide our students and families with a safe learning environment, regardless of the model, in order to continue the excellent and innovative academic standard that is SVUSD!



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Reimagining How We Teach Children



Jerry Almendarez
Superintendent

Even through these challenging times, Santa Ana Unified School District remains committed to providing an academically rigorous education in a nurturing and supportive environment. This spring, we had more than 3,500 high school graduates despite school closures that forced students to continue instruction from home.

The graduation of all our students remains a top district priority, along with preparing them for college and careers. Sixty-four seniors graduated with AA degrees from Santa Ana College. In addition, nearly 700 students received Seals of Biliteracy. With more than \$7 million awarded in financial aid and scholarships, our students will be attending top colleges and universities

across the country including MIT, Georgetown University, the University of Notre Dame, all of the UC and CSU campuses, and Santa Ana College where they will receive free tuition freshman year as part of the District's partnership with the college. It's our promise to each one of our graduates – to remove barriers and to create opportunities for our students to achieve the college dream.

With a variety of college readiness programs including dual enrollment in college courses, dual language immersion, International Baccalaureate (IB), expanded Advanced Placement (AP), and 55 career pathways, Santa Ana Unified School District graduates are equipped and ready to compete competitively in our global economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink our core principles for instruction and serving students. This fall, we will offer several teaching models. They include safe in-person instruction, and virtual learning models to allow for flexibility for both our students and teachers. We will continue providing free programs in preschool and kindergarten through high school to meet every family's needs. To learn more about our schools, visit us at www.sausd.us and follow us on social media.

Savanna School District

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Today's Learners – Tomorrow's Leaders



Dr. Sue Johnson
Superintendent


What a special place Savanna School District is! We're excited as we look forward to the 2020-21 school year with continuing to focus on the implementation of our English Language Arts/English Language Development program, taking a 'deeper dive' into data to drive the instructional program and our continuing commitment to STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics!

A combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, highly qualified and caring staff and a long-standing commitment to excellence is continuing to prepare our students to be successful 21st Century citizens. Our dedication to integrating STEM across the curriculum ensures we provide students with real-life applications to meet the demands of an ever-changing global society as we create the workforce of tomorrow.

Because student and staff safety are paramount, we are continually assessing the safety and security needs of our campuses and are proud of the systems we have in place. We have consistently undertaken measures to ensure the safety of our schools in the past and will continue to do so.




We're excited to unveil a new Outdoor Learning Center and STEM Center at Hansen School when students return on August 10. These additions will enhance the learning environments for students now and for generations to come!

The entire Savanna School District staff and Board of Trustees welcomes you to the 2020-21 school year and look forward to a wonderful opportunity to ensure that today's learners will indeed be tomorrow's leaders as we continue to prepare our students to be successful, contributing members of the community. Savanna School District truly is a special place to be!



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Meeting the Challenges for Student Success



Dr. Gregory A. Franklin
Superintendent

Even in these challenging and difficult times, the Tustin Unified School District continues to find ways to adapt, persevere and overcome so that students can learn, thrive, be creative and pursue their future in college and career.

After only one school day of being closed last March due to the coronavirus pandemic, Educational Services staff provided online platforms, and teachers began delivering instruction through distance learning. The IT Department and school staff provided thousands of students with devices and internet connections. Nutrition Services began serving thousands of student meals per week at Grab-and-Go locations. Maintenance and Operations staff cleaned and sanitized facilities, and maintained campus security. Teachers and students hosted the District’s first Virtual Film Festival with over 500 student entries. Finally, parents – who are every child’s first and most important teachers – did an incredible job of helping students learn from home. Thanks to everyone who learned how to work differently, focused on students and did their best.

The 2020-21 school year could be even more challenging. The Center for Disease Control has provided guidelines for reopening schools, and they will be difficult to implement. Depending on the guidelines in place for the beginning of school, the District is planning scenarios that include returning to school with social distancing, distance learning or a hybrid combination of in-person and online instruction. Regardless of the instructional delivery model, TUSD’s goal will be that students and staff are safe and that students are learning.

As always, the Tustin Unified School District will muster its creativity, compassion and commitment in meeting the challenges ahead and preparing our students for a successful future. Go TUSD!

Great Programs, Great Teachers



Dr. Cyndi Paik
Superintendent

Even in what has proven to be the most unparalleled of times, Westminster School District (WSD) remains guided by our mission of preparing all students to be responsible, resilient, resourceful, and productive world citizens. We have been a “destination district,” where parents from different areas of Orange County has chosen us for our wide range of programs. The broad choice of engaging instructional programs including Spanish and Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion, GATE Magnet Academy, Computer Science, and STEAM Magnet, visual and performing arts, exploratory STEAM, and coding programs in our great schools.

WSD is also proud to be the home of some of the state’s best teachers. This year, we are delighted to recognize another one of our best, Shay Reardon, who was recently selected as one of the Orange County Teachers of the Year by the OCDE. Mrs. Reardon is a gifted teacher and mentor who makes a positive impact on her students learning as well as influences other teachers by sharing her instructional knowledge and strategies with her colleagues in order to reach all learners. We are proud of Mrs. Reardon’s dedication and commitment to student excellence.

Diverse programs and effective teachers are just a few great ways WSD has remained successful. Additionally, for 2020-2021, we are planning for these educational options: in-person, virtual learning, and hybrid models. WSD is fully committed to our values that promote and celebrate diversity, inclusivity, equity, and ensures a learning environment that promotes respect. Join the WSD family and enroll in our amazing programs now because “We don’t just see students. We see potential.”

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The Ability to Pivot



Carol Hume
Superintendent

In March, we responded to a pandemic that changed almost every aspect of our lives. Our current system of educating students came to an abrupt halt. Students and teachers had to pivot to a distance learning model and staff members had to shift to working remotely with very little notice. There were challenges with both, but from my perspective, students and staff rose to the occasion.

As a program that offers career technical education to high school students, the shift to distance learning and working remotely was relatively easy, but it was not without its challenges. These challenges tested students and staff on their ability to

pivot, to adapt to change. As a result, they learned how to be more creative, to take initiative and to be empathetic, many of the characteristics associated with adaptability. This skill is critical in today's ever-changing world. In fact, a study in the United Kingdom found 91% of human resource decision-makers said they expect future employees to be recruited based largely on their ability to cope with change and uncertainty.

Career technical education classes integrate academic knowledge with technical skills. In addition, teachers emphasize the importance of adaptability, communication, teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It is the academic knowledge and technical skills coupled with mastery of the professional skills that leads to post-secondary success. While the educational experience may have been different this spring, it was most definitely a learning experience for everyone involved. We all learn from the challenges we face and to quote Peter Hilton, "Adaptability to change is itself a hallmark of successful education."

College and Career Advantage (ROP)

33122 Valle Rd., San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/234-9464 • www.ccadvantage.org

Career Skills are Essential



Patricia Romo
Executive Director

As the world emerges from a global health crisis, students need to be prepared for an ever-changing future. College and Career Advantage (CCA) offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses available throughout Capistrano and Laguna Beach Unified School Districts during the school day and after the school day. Classes are taught by industry experts in sectors such as Engineering and Architecture, Aviation, Healthcare, Public Services, Law, Robotics, Dental Assisting, Surgical Technology, and many others. All CTE courses integrate academic skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) with career skills.

While learning valuable industry skills, these courses offer the opportunity to earn college credit, meet UC a-g entrance requirements and earn honors weighting. In fact, 100% of CCA courses are UC a-g approved. This added value helps to prepare students for the world beyond their K12 education. In many cases students can graduate from high school with a diploma, college credit, industry certifications, and having completed internships with over 500 local business and industry partners.

Approximately 17,000 students in CUSD and LBUSD take CTE courses beginning in middle school and expanding in high school pathways. These students will be better prepared for both college and careers. We have a saying around here, "skills pay the bills" and that rings true for all of us regardless of the path we take to a successful career. Statistics show that students who take CTE courses in high school are more successful in attaining their college goals, earning a degree and earning more money in their chosen field. These high-quality CTE courses prepare students to be successful in life beyond high school, wherever their path takes them. Learn more at www.ccadvantage.org.

North Orange County ROP

385 North Muller Street, Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/502-5800 • www.nocrop.org

Extraordinary Learning Experiences



Dr. Terri Giamarino
Superintendent

The 2019/2020 school year will be etched in our minds as we are forever changed by COVID-19. The ROP students and staff demonstrated resilience as they transitioned to distance learning. Although challenging at times, the grace, collegiality, and hope the ROP teachers exhibited was extraordinary. In our nearly fifty-year history, the ROP has equipped and empowered tomorrow's innovative, civic-minded professionals through career technical education (CTE). Nearly 15,000 secondary school students across 30 campuses participate annually in classes held within the school day, after-school, and summer. Thousands of students also benefit from our Adult Career Education Programs. And at the heart of ROP are hundreds of community partnerships leveraged to give students extraordinary learning experiences.

Whether students are self-motivated, focused on college and career, or perhaps have no idea where their interests and aptitudes may fall, ROP courses are designed to help all students learn professionalism skills. Most courses articulate with one or more local post-secondary institutions so students can earn advanced placement or college credit. Integrating academics with hands-on technical skills, courses are rigorous, standards-based, and UC/CSU "a-g" approved. Extending learning beyond the classroom, students connect to local and global communities via service and work-based learning experiences. Thousands of students engage in leadership activities through professional student organizations. Design, Visual, and Media Arts Pathway students offer free graphic design services to local businesses. Biotechnology Pathway students learned how to split cells and create a business in biomedical innovation at University Lab Partners. The ROP student experience develops character, fosters collaboration, nurtures compassion, stimulates creativity, and tests high-level critical thinking—all highly-sought, transferable skills. Visit us at www.nocrop.us.

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kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- Learning: Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- Networking: Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- Building the Résumé: Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- Personal Growth: As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects



Kate Karp

The title of this wonderfully helpful resource is directed at children, but Barbara A. Lewis’s *Kid’s Guide to Service Projects*, Free Spirit Publishing, 1995, is a volunteer guide for any age. The more than 500 suggested projects, ranging in difficulty from caring for a neighbor’s pet to getting state laws and city ordinances passed, will appeal to anyone who want to make a difference and earn breathing space on the planet. The projects, all worthy, are described simply and clearly enough to encourage any aspiring humanitarian.

The projects focus on human and animal welfare, community development and safety, the environment, literacy and politics, further divided into 10 categories. In the introduction, Lewis gives short shrift to anyone’s claims of not having enough time or that the goals are too involved for any one person to attempt. Instead, she maps out projects for every passion, and invites the reader to send her anything that she hasn’t thought of. She then provides a template of 10 steps to make any effort a successful one; gives handy how-tos for pesky paperwork tasks such as creating fliers, writing petitions and press releases, and lobbying for a cause; and suggest seven ways to raise funds.

Anyone who wants to be proactive in solving problems for the community, either local or at large, will find frequent use for *The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects*. It will be particularly helpful in the service requirement for graduation from high school; and families, youth and religious organizations, and classroom teachers will all find something to forward worthy efforts. Most of all, lone individuals who feel the need to take action on a problem but may be overwhelmed by the details will be happy to find that Lewis has done the initial organization for them. And that in itself is a great service.

Kate Karp is an editor for School News Roll Call and a freelance writer and editor.

Word Search Contest

Words Associated with School

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put OC Super in the subject line)

Entries must be received by January 15, 2021
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Achievers	Focused	Principal
Character	Homework	Recess
Classrooms	Instructors	Reunion
Curiosity	Integrity	Student
Discipline	Learning	Success
Educators	Mentors	Technology
Encourage	Nutrition	Thinkers
Excellence	Parents	Workers

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Parent To Parent

Being Proactive for Cyber Safety



Jodie Lynn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* for 20 years and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* www.ParentToParent.com

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