Measure S STEM Complexes Coming to Fruition

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STC ANAHEIM GARDENWALK
400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, CA 92802
It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through this school year and almost into 2022.

We have made it through these challenging times by working together, and I thank you for your continued partnership, grace, and adaptability. On behalf of our Board of Education and District leadership, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our students, staff, families, and community for your diligent efforts to help keep our schools safe. School attendance has a significant impact on a student's academic success. It takes a team effort as we continue to follow public health guidelines and protocols, which have allowed us to offer in-person instruction since September of 2020. Providing a safe and healthy school environment for our students and employees continues to be our top priority, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan, approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on October 21, will provide much-needed educational opportunities to mitigate learning loss and provide facilities improvements for our students districtwide. These will be funded by leveraging COVID funds and internal revenue sources, with no impact on taxpayers, and will have a lasting benefit to students and the community for years to come.

We eagerly anticipate the grand openings of our Measure S STEM Complexes at Villa Park, Canyon, and El Modena High Schools in December and January, and are thankful to our community for voting to approve the Measure S bond in 2016. We are very excited to see these Measure S Phase 1 projects come to fruition and look forward to welcoming our community to these beautiful new facilities at our upcoming school showcase events in January and February.

I wish you and your family a happy holiday season!

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
SUPERINTENDENT
Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Orange Unified School District
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867
(714) 628-4000 • www.orangeusd.org

2022 ORANGE UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY TK-12 SHOWCASES
You are invited to celebrate our elementary, middle & high school program highlights!

Jan. 26, 2022
4:30-7:00 PM

Feb. 2, 2022
4:30-7:30 PM

Feb. 9, 2022
4:30-7:30 PM

Feb. 16, 2022
4:30-7:30 PM

Visit Each Site’s Brand New STEM Complex
Learn About Our Signature TK-12 Academic Programs
See Student Performances and Activities
Check out what our schools have to offer!
For details about each event, visit www.orangeusd.org/showcases
This is our 17th year publishing the OUSD School News. There have been many changes over the years. Through all of the changes, the one constant has been focus on academic success. If you have an interest in reviewing past issues, you will find 2011 to the current issue posted on www.schoolnewsrollcall.com. Prior to that digital issues are not available.

In this issue on pages 26 & 27 we have included student book reviews. If your child would like to be a columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for specifics. Also, our Word Search contest is on page 26 and a fun Seek ‘n Find Contest on page 24.

Our next issue is April 13, 2022.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!
Greetings from Parkside Education Center!

The 2021-2022 school year begins with great excitement among our programs at Parkside Education Center. Our teachers, staff and instructional assistants have all been preparing for what proves to be an exciting school year.

Parkside Education Center is comprised of six programs: Aspire Academy, Independent Study, Home School, Home/Hospital, Adult Transition and the EDGE Virtual Academy. Each program is highly specialized and is unique to the individual needs of the students.

Aspire Academy — serves students in grades seven through twelve. The Aspire Academy is built on the belief that all students can learn when given the appropriate environment, educational expertise, and opportunity.

Independent Study — is an independent study high school program serving students grades 9-12. It has the benefits of a home school and a virtual curriculum blended with face to face instruction with highly qualified Orange Unified School District teachers. Students with special education needs may also participate in this program.

Home School — our Home School program is a traditional Home School option for students grades K-8. Students and families work together with two site teachers who provide curriculum and teaching strategies to families who wish for a Home School setting.

Home/Hospital — The purpose of Home/Hospital instruction is to help students maintain continuity of instruction during a period of temporary disability. Any student with a temporary disability that makes attendance in regular classes or another education program impossible or inadvisable may be considered for this program.

Adult Transition — serves adult students with IEPs to meet the needs of 18-22 year old young adults with developmental disabilities. Our key focus is to help young adults build independence and quality of life linking adult students to appropriate community and adult services.

EDGE Virtual Academy — our newest program at Parkside. The EDGE Virtual Academy serves students grades K-12. Students K-6 have daily, live instruction from a classroom teacher. For students 7-12 our staff uses APEX Learning for all curriculum. Students in both areas receive support from Orange Unified School District teachers.
The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that 325 schools across the country earned the highest level of distinction as National Blue Ribbon Schools. That number includes 28 Blue Ribbon Schools from California, and seven of those are in ZIP codes right here in Orange County. To put it another way, Orange County accounts for a quarter of the state’s newly minted Blue Ribbon winners.


Now in its 39th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program was established to shine a spotlight on positive learning environments where students are mastering challenging and engaging content. Over the years, about 10,000 awards have been presented to more than 9,000 top-ranked campuses, amplifying best practices that can be replicated elsewhere.

Schools are recognized in two performance categories—those that post the highest scores overall based on national assessments and those that have successfully closed achievement gaps. We are fortunate to have plentiful examples of both here in Orange County, which is setting a new standard for excellence by making a commitment to the academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs of all students.

Much of this work is aligned with California’s Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, which provides a baseline of support for all students, additional assistance for some and targeted interventions for those with the greatest needs. Since 2016, OCDE has been the agency tapped to lead statewide trainings on MTSS, which encourages schools to know the name, face and story of every student on campus.

Far more important than any accolade, Orange County is producing a generation of scholars and problem-solvers while meeting the needs of a future workforce. But let’s not overlook this accomplishment. To represent a quarter of California’s Blue Ribbon award-winners is nothing short of astonishing, and we couldn’t be prouder of the educators, students, families and local stakeholders who made it possible.
Exceptional Educational Experiences

On September 21, 2021, Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES) was named as one of 325 schools across the U.S. as 2021 National Blue Ribbon School. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Anaheim Hills was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing School for being amongst California's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

Anaheim Hills Elementary has a closely connected school community of teachers, parents, and staff who collaborate to provide a supportive and personalized educational program for students. Throughout each AHES classroom, teachers utilize small group instruction to support the diverse learning needs of their students. Along with their strategic approach to academic success, Anaheim Hills Elementary School values and prioritizes students' social and emotional well-being and individual development. As a school, they focus on kindness, inclusivity, and building strong character traits that last a lifetime. Teachers utilize a school-wide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum supported by the school's Mental Health Counselor.

“I am proud to serve as principal of Anaheim Hills Elementary School, where each day I witness our teachers and staff providing exceptional educational experiences to our Panther students,” said Principal Nicole Van Wilgen Moore. “As a tight-knit AHES community, we rallied together to continue this important work for our students during the recent unprecedented times. It is an honor that AHES is now recognized as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School.”

AHES, along with other National Blue Ribbon Schools, will be celebrated at a ceremony on November 4-5 by the US Department of Education. Anaheim Hills Elementary is committed to continuing long-standing practices that have led to success while supporting the various needs of their students. More information is available on their website at https://www.orangeusd.org/anaheim-hills-elementary-school

Feeling Groovy

California Elementary home of iInspire Academy was thrilled to begin school all together here on campus. Our staff, students and community have been busy already. First, we hosted our annual “Feeling Groovy” Book fair. Students were able to purchase books and classroom supplies. In addition, we dressed up in different themes each day. September 15, 2021 began our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. This month recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. Finally, October is bullying prevention month and we wear and share Orange to come together in one giant message uniting our nation for kindness, acceptance and inclusion, and even the world, to visibly show that we believe no child should ever experience bullying. Our California Bears will show their P.A.W.S. and together we will succeed!
Cubs ROCK Values

At Cambridge Elementary, we pride ourselves on promoting and demonstrating the values of our Cubs ROCK motto--We are Responsible, We are Organized, We are College and Career Ready, and We are Kind. To promote our Cubs ROCK values, our teachers have been working hard on integrating lessons into the school day to teach and model these values. We have also been recognizing these values across campus in all settings by giving students Cubs Cash. This Cubs Cash allows students the opportunity to redeem incentives through our Cubs Cash Student Store. This store has become quite a hit with our students and has really helped them work towards developing our ROCK values across campus. Keep up the great work Cubs!

Dana Encheff
Principal
Cambridge Elementary School
425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • www.orangeusd.org/cambridge-elementary-school

National Merit Semifinalists

Canyon High School students Jayson Hall, Jeremy Letrac, Ethan Nguyen, and Ohm Patel were recently announced as semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented seniors will continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $30 million that will be awarded by the National Merit Corporation (NMSC) to students across the nation in the spring of 2022.

To become a Finalist, Jayson, Jeremy, Ethan and Ohm must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). National Merit Scholarship winners for 2022 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

Craig Abercrombie
Principal
Canyon High School
220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.canyonhighschool.org
Good to be Back in Person

It has been an exciting start to the school year at Canyon Hills School. Teachers and staff started the year anxious to be back teaching and working with our students. Students and staff arrive each day with a positive and optimistic attitude, ready to teach and learn while continuing to observe all the safety precautions that have allowed us to be in person at school. It is good to have so many of our students back in person and learning in the program. Our teachers, service providers, and staff continue to integrate technology and instruction, learning new skills, programs, and platforms to make their lessons even better. During the past year, staff members have become familiar with and adept at using a variety of online programs and platforms to develop new materials for learning in the classroom in both hands-on and digital formats. Our students thrive when we can offer a variety of learning modalities to meet each of their unique needs in a safe and nurturing environment.

The time of year for many celebrations is upon us. Red Ribbon Week, Pumpkin Patch, and Thanksgiving celebrations are on the horizon. The students always look forward to decorating pumpkins provided by the school’s Parent Association as well as the annual Costume Parade. We are looking forward to celebrating our country’s history and traditions with our annual Thanksgiving celebration.

Our students continue to use and enjoy the Canyon Hills Life Skills Lab, learning vocational and life skills. Combined with the classroom functional curriculum and the Unique Learning Systems’ standards-based curriculum, students receive a well-rounded education preparing them for life beyond Canyon Hills. We focus each day on improving the lives of our students at Canyon Hills.

STEAM Lab

Welcome to the Canyon Rim STEAM Lab where we are innovators, collaborators, thinkers and creators. STEAM is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. STEAM allows our students to take risks, engage in experimental learning, persist in problem solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. STEAM learning encourages independent thinkers, project based learning, development of creative problem solving skills, engagement with real world applications, and well-being and mental health.

Mrs. Chanin delivered a series of science lessons involving a virtual guest speaker, hands on experiments, and simulations that allowed students opportunities to actively engage and navigate their learning by thinking critically and creatively, collaborating with one another, and problem solving. Students will participate in a culminating activity that will encompass all lessons in the unit and will allow students the opportunity to connect their learning and demonstrate their knowledge. Way to go 6th graders!
Club Rush
This fall, Vikings participated in Club Rush put on by our new activities director, Ms. Geminiani, and her leadership students. This year’s Club Rush was highly-attended since students are back on campus full-time. During lunch, students got to learn about each club and sign up for the ones that interested them. We currently have fifteen clubs to offer! Leadership students have been putting on fun lunchtime games to boost school spirit and heading up activities for Hispanic Heritage Month in September and Bullying Prevention Month and Red Ribbon Week in October. Our Vikings also just finished a successful soccer season with the Lady Vikings “A-Team” playing El Rancho for the district championship! Next up is volleyball and flag-football beginning in November. Students are thrilled that they have the opportunity to participate with their peers and neighboring schools again! We invite you to tour CV and get in on the fun!

New Principal
Mrs. Lana Merha is thrilled to return to OUSD and join the Bobcat family! This year marks Mrs. Merha’s 24th year in education and she looks forward to continuing the collaborative culture and academic excellence that has been established at Chapman Hills.

Born and raised in Villa Park, California, Mrs. Merha attended OUSD schools as a child and graduated from Villa Park High School. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from California State University, Fullerton, she chose to pursue a career in education. Mrs. Merha has served as an elementary school teacher, Response to Intervention Coach, and a Reading Specialist. Her administrative journey began six years ago as an Assistant Principal at McPherson Magnet School in Orange. For the past two years, Mrs. Merha has been an Elementary Principal in Brea and is excited to return “home” to OUSD!

Raised in a family of educators, Mrs. Merha is a lifelong learner and strives to use her enthusiasm for learning to ignite the same “spark” in each student. Her goal is to work alongside the students, staff, and community to cultivate a learning environment where students feel inspired, encouraged, supported, and ready to R.O.A.R!
STEM is Growing at Crescent Elementary

We are excited to launch our TK-6th grade STEM program with an emphasis on Biomedical Science. This focus serves to introduce our students to the Biomedical Science field and develop problem solving skills in an ever-changing world. By introducing Biomedical Science in the early grades, we create endless opportunities for the future.

To support the implementation of our program, we have adopted Project Lead the Way (PLTW) as the instructional curriculum. PLTW is an innovative project-based learning program that empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges in an exciting and engaging way. However, the most important part of a strong program is the teacher. We are fortunate to have Mr. Ireland serving as our new STEM teacher and building the foundation for a strong STEM program. We are excited to see this program grow!

El Modena High School

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.elmodenahs.org

Coach of the Week

El Modena’s varsity football coach, Matt Mitchell, was named Los Angeles Chargers Orange County High School Coach of the Week! Annually, this program recognizes high school football coaches who have made the difference in the lives of their players through leadership, hard work, and a special dedication to their young scholar athletes. Charger linebacker Kenneth Murray came to one of our games to congratulate Coach Mitchell for this honor. According to El Modena quarterback Jackson Keays, Coach Mitchell deserves this award “because of the uniqueness of the program and the level of discipline instilled in each athlete. There’s an emphasis on playing the right way which sets us apart from other teams in Orange County. Coach Mitchell’s leadership emphasizes helping boys grow into young men. He teaches the skills that will be useful as we players evolve into adulthood.” Congratulations, Coach Matt Mitchell!
Teen Read Week

From October 11-15, El Rancho Charter School participated in Teen Read Week; a national celebration in libraries across our country. Mrs. McGuire, our school librarian, worked tirelessly to ensure that the event would be a success. The week was full of exciting events for both students and staff. From daily raffles, to hosting an awesome Book Fair; students across campus were talking about all things related to books and reading. Each day, the students had the opportunity to peruse the wonderful items for sale, ask questions, and share facts about their favorite authors, books, and genres. Read Week has definitely been a highlight of the school year!

Esplanade Elementary School

Rock Painting

During Red Ribbon Week in October, Esplanade students and staff participated in a rock garden project based on Linda Kranz’s book, Only One You. This project was spearheaded by Esplanade teacher, Mrs. Canto, and funded through community donations. Each teacher received a copy of the book for their classroom and read the book to their students. The book is about a little fish getting ready to go out into the big deep ocean on his own, getting advice from his parents about being himself and making the world a better place. After reading and discussing the book, each student and staff member painted a rock in their own unique way, showing how different we all are, and these are beautiful. The rocks were collected and now form a colorful rock garden on campus for everyone to enjoy. During this project, the students and staff of Esplanade were reminded that they each bring their unique gifts and talents to the community, which then brightens the whole world.
AVID Ambassadors

We have had our AVID Ambassadors meet, discuss issues important to them and plan for the school. WE have spirit day for the remainder of the school year, dedicated their lunch times to create red ribbon posters. Students at Fairhaven are ambassadors of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports school-wide. Students earn blue tickets that are “You’ve been Spotted” being a good citizen. This Friday they will be managing our Student Store where students can redeem good behavior tickets for prizes. Our AVID Ambassadors are also making weekly announcements in the morning to get our Falcons off to a great start! We are so proud of our AVID Ambassadors and the Leadership characteristics they demonstrate on a daily basis for all who enter our campus. We are AVID strong! GO FALCONS!

Families Reunite at Walk to School Day!

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 was a special day for Fletcher Falcons and their families. Not only was it National Walk to School Day, but it was the first time families were able to come together for a school-wide event since the COVID pandemic started! Because it was an outdoor activity, families were able to safely participate (masks were optional) and continue this Fletcher tradition. Fletcher students and their families met at Olive Park and after pictures with “Fletch” the Falcon mascot, and a quick word from Principal Pelly, they began their walk to school with an escort from the Orange Police Department! Walk to School Day promotes and supports safe walking and biking routes and encourages healthy students and families. It can bring awareness to needs in the community to make necessary changes to student walking and biking routes to school.
What is AVID?

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID Elementary is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System, and supports AVID’s mission to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society by teaching:

- Organization; Agendas, organizational tools, note-taking strategies; WICOR; Writing to Learn; Inquiry; Collaboration; Organization; Reading to Learn;
- Student Success Skills: Communication skills, study skills, time management, goal setting; Partnerships;
- A Day in the AVID Classroom: Students use agenda/planner throughout the day; Organizational tools are expected to be used throughout the day; Note-taking strategies are used by all students; Lessons with an emphasis on WICOR are represented in a variety of subjects; AVID 6th Grade Ambassadors are student leaders on campus.

Each classroom proudly displays a college flag each day. Additionally, every Wednesday, students and staff may wear AVID or college t-shirts to further promote that college is the plan for Handy scholars!

Imperial Elementary School

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.org/imperial-elementary-school

The Great ShakeOut

Imperial students and staff participated in The Great ShakeOut on October 21, 2021. In the days leading up to the large-scale earthquake drill, Imperial Eagles discussed how they could stay safe in an emergency. During the drill, students practiced how to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” to ensure that they know what to do in an earthquake when objects may be falling around them. Classes then safely moved out to the Supervision and Assembly area on the playground while the Emergency Response Teams assembled. The Search and Rescue Team searched throughout the campus to ensure that all students and staff had safely exited the building. At the same time, other teams rehearsed setting up a command center, site security, first aid, and a student release gate. Imperial Elementary regularly practices various emergency drills throughout each school year and our Imperial Eagles are ready for anything! We are Eagles, watch us soar!
Golden Bell Award!

Jordan Academy was recognized as a program that’s innovative and sustainable, makes a demonstrated difference for students and focuses on meeting the needs of all students.

Jordan Academy is now entering its third year of offering this specialized Spanish Dual Immersion with Computer Science Integration program. The school provides a unique educational experience that fosters a culture empowering students to be biliterate problem solvers, critical thinkers while providing a nurturing, culturally responsive learning environment that promotes equity and empathy.

Students in Jordan Academy’s program spend 50% of their day immersed in Spanish: Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math. Immersion students are learning Spanish through content, not merely the teaching of the language in isolation. The Computer Science Integration aspect of our program is a unique blend of coding, robotics, computational and algorithmic thinking/reasoning skills. Teachers utilize Apple’s Everyone Can Code curriculum for direct instruction of computer science skills. Students practice coding, computational, and algorithmic thinking/reasoning skills with CodeSpark Academy and Tynker. Hands-on robotics and program design are implemented with LEGO Coding Express and WeDo.

Jordan Scholars Can and Will Succeed!

La Veta Elementary School

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • www.orangeusd.org/la-veta-elementary-school

Student Council

Our Vikings have been sailing through the year with a new Student Council team to lead the way. Our Viking leadership group began in October with representatives from each 4th through 6th grade class along with a new President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer/Historian. Every other week our team meets to incorporate kindness and respect around campus, along with share ways for students in every grade level to get involved in school activities. A partnership has been created with primary classrooms to share details and develop a mentorship program.

Red Ribbon Week was a great success with students pledging to make healthy choices for a bright future. Each day brought about a new creative way for our students to show their school spirit and commitment to be kind.

Our school community has been a tremendous support during these first few months. All La Veta staff members have contributed to the successful implementation of iReady for the new school year. We look forward to accomplishing our academic goals and setting the bar higher as we develop positive relationships in the classroom. GO VIKINGS!
Lampson Elementary School
13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153
www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5

Alejandra Pantoja
Principal

Fall Virtual Literacy Night
Lampson Elementary held its first Fall Family Virtual Literacy Night on Monday, October 18th and we had an educational and fun night. Lampson teacher teams read a story/selection and an activity. It was great to see parents, students and teachers in their ‘jammies’ and drinking hot cocoa!

Every grade level had a special book and an activity to go along with it:

- TK/K shared *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and had caterpillar craft.
- 1st grade shared *The Very Busy Spider* and had a spider craft
- 2nd grade shared *The Dot* and families designed their own ‘dot’.
- 3rd grade shared *The Magic Yet* and families created their own ‘Magic Yet pennant’.
- 4th grade shared “The Napping House” and families join in on a ‘Listen & Sketch’
- 5th grade shared an excerpt from *Harry Potter* and families took part in a recipe
- Our Resource and IS teachers shared *The Legend of Spookely the Square Pumpkin* and families created their own Pumpkin Sun Catcher Activity.

Civic Learning
Happy Fall! We have had a wonderful start to the 21-22 school year at Linda Vista! One of the unique elements of Linda Vista is our schoolwide focus on Civic Learning. In fact, Linda Vista was awarded an Award of Merit for Civic Learning in 2020 and 2021. This fall we continued this beautiful tradition of learning through student participation in our 9/11 Memorial flag ceremony. Students who participate in scouting of any kind dressed in uniform raised the flag to half-staff, led the entire school in the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and a poem honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. Shortly after that ceremony, our 5th grade students led an assembly honoring Constitution Day. They led the whole school in learning about important people who participated in the development of the US Constitution and the circumstances in history surrounding this important document.

Our next civic learning event will be a special honoring of veterans. Students will be offered the opportunity to put a flag on our fence with the name of a veteran they want to honor on it. A portion of the proceeds for this event will go to the Wounded Warrior Project charity. Additionally, our 5th grade students will be doing a Veterans Day project in which they research a veteran in their family (or a friend) and write about him or her, then present this report to students at a schoolwide assembly. Linda Vista loves learning about United States history & honoring our military!

Psst...
Are you looking for me for the contest on page 24?
Project Lead the Way
McPherson’s Project Lead the Way program earned Distinguished School status for both the Gateway and Launch programs! Project Lead the Way is a STEM based program that engages students in hands-on, problem-based learning opportunities. All McPherson students, kindergarten through 8th grade, participate in the program.

Recently, McPherson sixth grade students learned about the design process by designing and building furniture for their pretend clients, an IKEA customer. The design had to be modern, comfortable, and functional. Pictured, sixth grade students use a decision tree matrix as they worked collaboratively to decide on which design to build.

Elementary students also participate in PLTW and enjoy their time in the STEM lab. Recently, McPherson third graders learning about how an airplane flies. They experimented with the concepts they learned about by making their own paper airplanes. McPherson fourth graders were investigating potential and kinetic energy by building a pendulum with a VEX robotics kit.

Nohl Canyon High School

The 2021-2022 school year has brought positive changes to Nohl Canyon. With all students returning to in-person instruction, we have the return of programs that benefit all students. VAPA, robotics and now for this school year, the introduction of Sports for Learning. Sports for Learning is a Physical Education program that incorporates social emotional learning along with cooperative physical education activities. Our Sports for Learning instructors come to Nohl Canyon every Monday and each class is provided 50 minutes of Physical Education. Our instructors are positive, energetic, and knowledgeable in kinesthetic movement and social skills. Thank you to Sports for Learning and OUSD for providing this positive program to Nohl Canyon.
Art Masters
At Olive Elementary, we believe that students who are immersed in positive and enriching experiences will enjoy coming to school and will be successful because of their attendance. For this reason, we are always looking for ways to provide new and engaging experiences for students each year. For example, Olive students participate in Art Masters each year, with a rotation of artists through the years. Each year, Olive goes above and beyond by hiring an art teacher to come in to work directly with the students. Having an artist on site to teach the lessons has proven to be both inspiring and engaging for students and staff. The best part of Art Masters is watching the students surprise themselves with their finished products. Every child is an artist, and this program proves it. Art Masters lessons are always a favorite memory of Olive students. Go Ocelots!

Orange High School
525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangehighschool.org

Vital Link
Orange High Welcomes Vital Link President, Dr. Brian Dozer for the Pedal-Ed Scholarship Ride
Pedal-Ed is a $20,000 scholarship drive for Career Technical Education (CTE) students who are enrolling in Orange County community colleges. Dr. Dozer and Vital Link chose Orange High School as one of the stops during his fundraising ride. Vital Link’s goal is to provide scholarships to help reduce student obstacles that prevent them from completing CTE programs. Pedal-Ed aims to highlight the value of programs like those at Orange High School to help address the labor market shortage.

Orange High School features eight different career pathways that support students in preparation for their career or college degree. One highlighted pathway at Orange High is Agriculture in which students get to experience hands-on projects in Animal Care, Livestock, and sustainable Agriculture. In true Panther Pride fashion, student leaders gave Dr. Dozer a warm welcome.
Character Education Program

Palmyra has partnered with Harper for Kids by implementing their Character Education program schoolwide, which is based on Coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. The main characters, Inch the inchworm and Miles the mouse, set out to discover the meaning of success. In their quest, they discover the blocks (character traits) in the Pyramid of Success and meet a variety of animals who give clues to the meaning of success.

In October, Palmyra enjoyed a virtual assembly with Harper for Kids for grades TK to 6th. They highlighted part of the journey Inch and Miles are on using the Pyramid of Success including Hard Work, Enthusiasm, Friendship and Loyalty. Followed by another virtual assembly with a special guest Houston’s Dash pro soccer player Megan Oyster! She’s an awesome role model, played soccer at UCLA and loves Coach Wooden’s Pyramid of Success. We have a monthly Awards Assembly honoring students’ application of the building blocks for success. Our focus is to teach our students to always do their best by offering good examples and strategies that lead students to being a “Successful Student”.

Social-Emotional Learning

We are working as a school community to embody our new vision and mission. Our vision – Preparing, valuing, and empowering our scholars to learn, lead and succeed – is at the center of all our planning, as we work to implement our mission. Panorama supports our scholars in developing a resilient growth mindset to confidently learn, purposefully adapt, and empathetically lead in our evolving community and world.

We have focused on mindset through social-emotional learning. Each month we read a book as a school to dive deeply into one social-emotional core competency. For example, we began our year focusing on self-awareness with the Bad Egg and Only One You. After reading Only One You, teachers and students painted rocks for our Zen Garden that symbolize themselves. The teachers enjoyed painting their rocks and sharing their creations with their students. Our students enjoyed identifying words and symbols that uniquely represented them, and many of our classes worked together with their buddies.
It's So Good To Be Back!!!

It is so refreshing to have all of our students back on campus. Not only are we able to check in on them and make sure that they are doing well, but they have a great opportunity to get involved in ways that weren't possible due to the pandemic. Our ASB, AVID, and yearbook leaders have done a great job setting the tone for this year. We have seen yearbook sales higher than in recent years. Our AVID program fundraiser for Halloween grams sold out in a matter of days. Our ASB started to sell new spirit shirts and have been a huge hit on campus. Our art students did a wonderful project on Hispanic heritage month, and as a student body, we had a large amount of participation in red ribbon spirit week. Although our students missed being a physical part of many aspects of school last year, they are now finding so many ways to immerse themselves in our school culture. It’s just exciting to see them thriving in so many ways.

Jeff Morgan
Principal

Prospect Elementary School
379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • www.orangusd.org/prospect-elementary-school

AVID Leadership Team

Prospect’s AVID Leadership Team is made up of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students who exemplify and build leadership skills by volunteering their time to help with special events and activities on campus. Read what two of our leadership members had to say about our AVID Leadership Team.

AVID Leadership in Prospect Elementary consists of many different jobs for the AVID Leadership Team. This year we will be focusing on many different things; we started with our annual Walk to School Day. Red Ribbon week is a “Say No to Drugs” week. Students will make a poster based on what the theme of that day is. Red Ribbon Week is a one week event starting on October 25th to the 29th. Book Fair is an exciting time, because kids will be able to buy books. The money will be used for the school’s needs. Eureka store is a little shop in which students get to use their Eureka’s (tickets students receive for being either; ready, respectful, or responsible) for goodies. A daily morning flag salute is what two students do for two whole weeks. Then our teacher (Mrs. Aguirre) will pick two other students for the following two weeks, and so on. There are many other things we do, but here are some of the most exciting ones.

— Emmanuel Ramirez

AVID Leadership is a leadership group where a bunch of people have a meeting a couple times a month and discuss different issues, fundraisers, spirit days, or what is going to happen next. A few examples are we get to say the morning flag salute, run the book fair, make posters, and it helps building leaders for tomorrow. I love AVID Leadership because it gives people including myself a chance to have different opportunities.

— Aleah Lewis
**IB Education**

An IB education aims to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. One example of fostering intercultural understanding is in a lesson taught by our Spanish teacher about the exceptional daily routines of primary school children and teachers as they prepare to go to school in Bolivia. Students explored unique routes and risky conditions leading to learning sites, and questioned the reasons long walks and even homemade ziplines are the only ways to school. The lesson objective was for students to understand how fortunate we are to have established and rather safe roads in our community. Sometimes simple routines are taken for granted, such as our crossing guards at the stop sign helping our community to be safe or even the privilege to wake up at seven instead of four in the morning. Many children in Bolivia are citizens of the jungle and concurrently of a nation that is characterized by 60% living in extreme poverty, meaning that basic needs are not easily met. As students inquire about their peers’ situation, some wondered if children residing in Bolivia should leave their home-country and seek a safer place that supports their dreams. By recognizing differences and being receptive to diversity, we are developing awareness and responsibility which are certain to bring future changes and student action that will be implemented by bright and inquisitive minds.

**Running Springs is a candidate school* for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme and pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse and inclusive community of students by delivering challenging, high quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision.**

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This month at Serrano we kicked off our Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Initiative.

Eagles SOAR

We had the whole school outside for an assembly where our Eagle mascot made an appearance accompanied by the Cerro Villa Jazz Band.

Prior to the assembly, our PBIS Committee developed a program that will identify and support desired behaviors here at Serrano. PBIS seeks to reduce or eliminate poor behavior schoolwide through the encouragement of positive behaviors.

We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact this initiative will make on our Serrano campus!
Leveraging PTA to Support our Sycamore Elementary School

Our Sycamore Elementary Parent Teacher Association, a nationally recognized association, is excited to commence the 2021-2022 school year by engaging the Sycamore community through various fundraising events and school events. Our PTA board and members, in partnership with our Community Liaison, Marisol Lagunas, and Sycamore teachers join with our new Principal, Dr. Perales, to bring incredible events for students and community.

Dr. Perales met with the PTA cabinet at the beginning of the school year to develop an events calendar. Joined by Mrs. Abrica, our fifth and six grade teacher, the PTA and community began to gather funds for the 6th grade student activities. Our Island’s Snacks Fundraiser was a great success! We raised almost $12,000 towards our programs via this fundraiser, with about $6,000 going directly to our school programs. The fundraiser had 111 participants and 56 students sold 15+ items earning their attendance at an upcoming magic show to be held following OUSD COVID protocols. For a school of 360 students, the participation in our first fundraiser is a testament of the strong community involvement and support of our students, faculty, and parents. We are super hopeful that this year we will be able to fundraise a net profit of $20,000 via our events and fundraisers to support our school programs.

Our new principal and Sycamore PTA mission is to be influenced by our students’ success through the alignment of our school goals with our PTA’s commitment to academic success. Furthermore, to keep our community engaged this year, Sycamore established social media accounts. Besides the typical phone messages, parent meetings, and flyers, parents now have another way to receive information from the school. Please follow us at Twitter @OUSDSycamore, Instagram Sycamore_OUSD.

Great Time at Taft

Learning is in full swing at Taft Elementary! Our amazing teachers have been working hard creating engaging lessons, providing relevant feedback and encouraging academic growth for our students. We have been collaborating, analyzing data and attending trainings to enhance our instruction. Beyond the academic program, we have been fortunate to participate in Art Masters school wide, Sports for Learning, GRIP Meet Ups and Mentors Lunch, Parent - Teacher Conferences, Weekly Taft Ticket Drawings, Monthly Student of the Month Awards and Positive Behavior Assemblies. We also held our first Parent and Family Engagement Bingo Night, which was a great time.
Villa Park Elementary School
10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • www.orangeusd.org/villa-park-elementary

VPE Staff Implements
Villa Park Elementary School is beyond happy to have all our bobcats back in person. The year is off to a great start. Now more than ever, we need to implement small group instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Our VPE staff implements small group instruction in a variety of engaging ways. If you were to walk on our campus on any given day you would see small groups meeting in our quad, small groups sitting on towels just outside their classroom, and small groups within the classroom. With support of COVID funding we have additional staff on campus to work with small groups of students in order to provide intervention and enrichment. We have also started our afterschool tutoring sessions for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. We are so proud of our bobcats for always doing their personal best. We are grateful to all our highly qualified and dedicated VPE staff for going above and beyond every day for our students. GO BOBCATS!

Dr. Sara Beggs
Principal

Villa Park High School
18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • www.villaparkhigh.org

2021 Cheerleader’s Choice
Villa Park High School Cheer Program has been selected as a 2021 Cheerleader’s Choice: School Spirit Spotlight Winner!
Varsity TV will spotlight and highlight our cheer programs across the nation with exclusive in-depth features. Over 800 high school and college cheer programs were nominated and the Spartans were hand selected to be in the TOP 20 for voting. Over 70,000 votes were cast and Villa Park was one of six cheer programs in the US announced to be featured on Varsity TV this upcoming season.
Our Villa Park Cheerleaders and Coach Izzy are extremely honored and excited with this big announcement. We cannot wait to share our story of continuing a tradition of excellence at VPHS, being ambassadors in our community, our hard work year round and sharing our love of the sport of cheer!

Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

Contest!
Santa is somewhere in this issue.
When you find him, email the page number to:
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put OUSD in the subject line.
Your entry must be received by January 15, 2022.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a $20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Choose Triumphantly Returns
The award-winning Villa Park High School Vocal Music Department hosted our 7th annual Villa Cafe Showcase on October 6 in the VPHS Amphitheater. The community showed incredible support for our amazing students and were able to observe all their hard work come to fruition!
The program from musical theater consisted of an eclectic variety ranging from jazz numbers, to singer songwriter, to movie music and finally, to pop. We had quite a whimsical version of “All Star” by the band Smashmouth as well as feature tunes from Disney Pixar films like Cars and Coco. Finally, we effectively got the large crowd into the Halloween spirit with the tune “I Put a Spell on You” from Hocus Pocus.
Award winning Choir Director Mrs. Stacy Oh stated, “It was thrilling to be able to perform for a live audience once again!”
The arts rock at VPHS! Thank you for reading and have a great month of November and December!
CSTEM Program
West Orange Elementary is excited to launch the UC Davis CSTEM program! The C-STEM program provides students with an exceptional opportunity for hands-on integrated math and computer science learning with robotics. Computer programming and robotics are just the beginning. Students take the concepts they learn and apply them to real-life problems where they think critically and come up with creative solutions. During 2021-2022 our Warriors will begin their journey of learning new coding skills while increasing their mathematics understanding with CSTEM and their core curriculum. Our Warriors across grade levels start their day learning math, talking about math, and engaging with hands-on learning. During our weekly math lunch challenges, students answer mathematics riddles for a chance to win Warrior bucks. In addition, the number talk’s strategy is used across classrooms for students to develop academic mathematics vocabulary with collaborative peer-to-peer conversations. Join us via social media to follow our journey as we become a mathematics academy.

Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School
935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.org/yorba

Free Technology for Kids
Yorba Middle School is excited to announce that we were selected as a Verizon Innovative Learning School for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years! The Verizon Innovative Learning initiative, brings free technology, free access, and immersive hands-on learning opportunities to kids inspiring tomorrow’s creators to use technology to build brighter futures. Verizon, through its partnership with Digital Promise, equips every child and teacher at Yorba Middle School with a Chromebook with 5G internet access including a free data plan. In addition to free technology and access, Verizon Innovative Learning schools (VILs) also receive extensive teacher training and support to leverage technology in their classrooms. Through Verizon Innovative Learning, students and teachers are taught to use powerful tools innovatively, and teachers receive comprehensive, ongoing professional development on how to effectively leverage mobile technology to improve learning.
Football Word Search Contest

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 OUSD in the subject line.)

Entries must be received by January 15, 2022
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a $20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Clipping  Linebacker  Scrimmage
Coach  Loss of  Special
Conversion  Down  Teams
Cornerback  Offsides  Super Bowl
Defense  Personal  Tackle
Field Goal  Foul  Tailback
Flanker  Possession  Touchdown
Goal Post  Quarterback  Yardage
Interference  Roughing
Kicker  Safety

Congratulations to
Samina Ahmed and Laura Garza
Winners of the September Contests!

Wafflematics
Title: Narwhal's School of Awesomeness
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)
Author: Ben Clanton
Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Wafflematics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Countless Wishes
Book Title: Wish
Author: Barbara O'Connor
Have you ever been sent somewhere without your parents? Have you had so many wishes you would just wish would come true? I read a book called Wish. The main character is named Charlemange Reese, Charlie for short. Charlie and her family lived in Raleigh. Her mom and dad fought a lot. Charlie's dad fought so much, it led to him going to jail. Her mom just lay in bed all the time in the darkness. Charlie also had a sister named Jackie. Her family wasn't working out, so Charlie had to go to her mom's sister, Bertha and Bertha's husband, Gus. Charlie made wishes lots of times--making a wish at 11:11, when she finds a four-leaf clover, etc. At the end she gets letters from her mom and dad, who never did so before. What do you think the letter says? Will it make Charlie feel something?

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Daniel's Review

Yoona's Review
Kailani’s Review

**Do You Have An Imaginary Friend?**

*Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate is about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson’s dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move from place to place. When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson’s life whenever Jackson needs help.

Kailani T.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they’re imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Jenna’s Review

**Carry Us Away**

Book Title: *Stargirl*
Author: Jerry Spinelli

Change is a big word and is something a lot of people do so that others will like them. Stargirl is a character that differs from everybody else. Leo the narrator always tells himself that Stargirl is weird but, do you think that? Your opinion may change throughout the book because of Stargirl’s choices. Stargirl is new to the school and catches attention quickly for being unique such as singing with her ukulele in the cafeteria. She becomes the good luck charm at the football game because she starts singing which motivates the players to try harder. She becomes the Queen of the school, but does she maintain her popularity with her quirkiness? Read to find out!

Jenna C.

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

David’s Review

**One Big Puzzle**

Title: *Holes*
Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it’s really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of “holes” in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a “Mom, I know it’s bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?” type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!

David H.

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

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Our Preschool Head Teachers are Montessori trained and certified either through the American Montessori Society (AMS) or Association Montessori International (AMI) accredited training programs. Our Assistant Teachers are certified Early Childhood educators.
Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.