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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

16th Annual Edition

Covering the
Orange County
Public Schools K-12
Superintendents

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our 16th 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.

Orange County Department of Education

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Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Our Potential is Unlimited

It's been said that we are a nation divided, and that many of those same divisions run through Orange County. But spend any time in our communities and it is clear that our interests, values and destinies are very much aligned.

From San Clemente to La Habra, Orange County families want their children to attend high-quality schools that maximize each student's potential. They want the peace of mind that comes with knowing their kids are safe, secure and happy from the first bell to the last. They want clean campuses staffed by caring professionals who are committed to ensuring every child's academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs are met. They want options for college and career preparation, as well as personal enrichment.

It is easy to get caught up in the divergent opinions often associated with politics. It is tempting to want to choose sides. But the fact is, the traits that unite us as a county are far greater than those that divide us, and we are going to need to work together to heal the wounds of a global pandemic and fortify the values that we share and hold sacred.

The job of Orange County superintendent of schools is an elected position, but it's also a nonpartisan one that requires consensus-building. Since taking office as leader of the Orange County Department of Education in 2012, I have strived to unite educators, families, businesses, elected officials, law enforcement representatives, faith-based communities and other stakeholders behind a shared vision of what our schools can be. And we have found success in this model.

We have seen our county's graduation rate rise to nearly 92 percent and our drop-out rates fall accordingly. We have outpaced the state on virtually all measures of academic performance. We have seen our countywide suspension rate fall to 0.2 percent. We have expanded our business partnerships and exponentially increased the number of career pathways and work-based learning opportunities for students.

We have scaled up proven academic, behavioral and social-emotional interventions and supports — and not just across our county, but statewide. We have put a renewed focus on engaging technologies, civic learning and kindness. And we have met the moment of a once-in-a-lifetime public health crisis with communication, collaboration and compassion.

But the job is not done. As we emerge from a drawn-out pandemic, our students need accelerated learning, social-emotional interventions, counseling and access to wrap-around mental health services. Our dedicated school employees need extra support, grace and stability. Our families need resources, expanded learning opportunities, communication and a greater voice in matters of education and health.

As much as we have accomplished, we still have more to do to put our students in a position to lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. Yet we have the resources and resolve in this county to achieve anything. By working together and embracing our shared values, our potential is unlimited to create a healthier, kinder and more prosperous Orange County that can serve as a model for all of California.

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An Amazing School Year



Christopher Downing
Superintendent

The word amazing has described Anaheim Elementary School District over the years and this description is even more fitting for the District this past school year. Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, our AESD family came together and pulled off an *amazing* 2021-2022 school year.

We opened our 23 campuses in-person fulltime for our 16,000 students. We also offered a 24th campus called the AESD Online Academy to provide online learning for those who succeed in this type of learning environment. Our commitment to social-emotional wellbeing of our students did not waver, offering access to counseling and to free eye exams and glasses with

Vision To Learn. Through state funding, we implemented the Expanded Learning Opportunities program, extending the academic school day to nine hours with a combination of before and after school activities that are free of charge to families to engage the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of students. In addition, our Dual Language Immersion program with Spanish and Korean thrived to get students ready for our wonderfully diverse growing community. Our Lincoln Elementary School was even awarded the Seal of Excellence School Award by the California Association for Bilingual Education. In the area of the arts, the NAMM Foundation recognized AESD for Best Community for Music Education for the fourth year in a row.

All of these successes would not have been possible without our *amazing* AESD students, families, teachers, administrators and staff. We cannot wait for an even more amazing 2022-2023 school year with our expanding academic and social-emotional resources for our AESD community.

Working Together for Student Success



Michael B. Matsuda
Superintendent

I'd like to applaud the historic, proposed investment in education by Governor Newsom. I also commend the Governor's focus on improving access, affordability, and equity as a measure of accountability accompanying this funding. The proposal is bold. It calls for the UC system to increase four year graduation rates by almost 4 percentage points, and it requires closing the achievement gaps between students from under-resourced communities and their more affluent peers.

Colleges cannot make this happen alone, though, and they will need the help and partnership from K-12 schools and local leaders. The Anaheim Union High School District has significantly boosted college success rates at UC colleges over the last eight years with the help of The Anaheim Collaborative – a coalition of the City of Anaheim, local community colleges and universities, business, and not for profit organizations. For example, despite coming mostly from underrepresented populations, AUHSD students are persisting and graduating from college at higher rates than their peers at UC Universities and Community Colleges (almost 10% points higher). And Anaheim's college going Hispanic population is graduating college at a higher rate than peers across the state.

Good jobs and careers are a critical social justice issue. They are the foundation for elevating families out of poverty. The Governor's proposed investment in students' college success is a wonderful opportunity for California to advance equity across the state. However, it will take more than money to achieve success. Educators from K-16 institutions, business and community leaders will need to work together to build ecosystems of learning and support for our students, and we will need to discard the narrow educational approaches that have failed students for decades.

Anaheim Elementary School District

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Anaheim Elementary

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A Rich Legacy of Academic Success



Brinda Leon
Superintendent

After recently being appointed Superintendent for Brea Olinda Unified School District, I am excited for the opportunity to continue leading BOUSD, which has a rich legacy of academic success supported by dedicated employees.

The District's goal is to ensure that all students have the ability to reach their full potential while becoming productive members of an ever-changing global society, and we have implemented the tools to assist with this process.

Adding to our amazing faculty and staff, BOUSD offers a variety of curriculum to accommodate the different interests and needs of our students to assure academic success. Our elementary students have the opportunity to learn a second language through our Dual Language Immersion program, participate in our computer science immersion program, and take a hands-on approach to learning through our Career Exploration and STEAM programs. Not to mention, a handful of extracurricular activities such as elementary music programs, choir, math league, Chess Masters and run club.

At the junior high and high school levels, our students have the opportunity to explore our Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways. BOUSD offers seven CTE career pathways that combine rigorous academic learning with practical project-based courses integrating real world applications of knowledge and skill - broadcasting, construction technology, culinary arts, engineering, global IT, graphic design and patient care.

Our rigorous academics, combined with our robust clubs and activities, supports our mission to develop our students to become local and global influencers through dynamic learning experiences. I look forward to working collaboratively with the school board, staff, parents, and community to continue building an exceptional educational program while forging innovative partnerships to enhance opportunities for students.

Buena Park School District

6885 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8412 • www.bpsd.us

Igniting the Passion for Learning



Dr. Ramon
Miramontes
Superintendent

As the Superintendent of the Buena Park School District, it is my honor to serve the Buena Park community and to collaborate with all of the wonderful people within our incredible district who help Ignite the Passion for Learning!

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, St. Jude Hospital, and the Boys and Girls Club, provide additional opportunities for our students to grow and thrive as we all work together on developing the whole child.

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. Both Beatty and Buena Park 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!



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Focused on Student Success



**Kirsten
Vital Brulte**
Superintendent

In 2021-22, Capistrano Unified School District enjoyed a return to normalcy, as school life felt more and more like it did before the challenges of the pandemic. Our faculty, administrators, classified staff, students and families endured a great deal in the last two years, and with positive attitudes and resilience, continued to achieve at a remarkable level.

- Newhart Middle School and Aliso Niguel High School officially opened their new STEAM buildings.
- State and federal COVID funds were targeted for a wide variety of uses that go directly to classrooms, including reduced class sizes, additional paraeducators and MTSS staff, technology enhancements and Elementary physical education to give more time for teacher collaboration.
- Marco Forster math teacher Sergio Sanabria was named an Orange County Teacher of the Year.
- Aliso Viejo Middle School guidance technician Sheri Saladow was named Orange County and State of California Classified Employee of the Year.
- Two schools earned California Pivotal Practice Awards, honoring their innovative practices in dealing with COVID-19.
- Tesoro High School received a 2022 RAMP Award from the American School Counselor Association, bringing the CUSD total up to 11 honorees.
- CUSD elementary and middle schools showed incredible growth in i-Ready and DIBELS achievement, outpacing national averages.
- Enjoyed in-person celebrations, like the VAPA Music and Arts Festival and District Teacher of the Year awards, for the first time in two years.

Throughout all of the changes during the year, CUSD remained focused on our unwavering commitment to student success. We are reinvigorated and excited for a fantastic 2022-23!

Reflecting on Accomplishments



**Norma E.
Martinez**
Superintendent

As we prepare for *New Beginnings* in the 22-23 school year, let's take a moment and reflect on the tremendous accomplishments for the 21-22 school year. We celebrate our 4044 students who gave it their all as we engaged in a full year of in-person instruction during these complex times. These students demonstrated resiliency, perseverance, joy, scholarly traits and were a true pleasure to serve!

Entering my eighth year as superintendent in the Centralia Elementary School District (CESD), I am incredibly proud of the tremendous growth and success that CESD has earned. Each of these accomplishments is a testament to the good people at work in our district, including amazing parental partnerships, giving it their all every day to serve the needs of our learning community.

Below are a few of the many accomplishments for CESD this past year:

- CESD offers the first lunch truck meal program in Orange County, now serving summer meals at local community spots
- CESD opens the Centralia Boutique, a place where families can get FREE new/gently used clothing, shoes, and more
- 100% recognition of all schools for positive school climates
- All 8 schools and the district recognized by the CA Department of Ed for Pivotal Practices for enhancing our education programs to meet the needs of students and families in these pandemic times
- The celebration of Los Coyotes School as a National Blue Ribbon School
- Honoring Raymond Temple School as a California Green Ribbon, Bronze Level School

On behalf of our Board of Education, I thank our families and staff for -a highly successful year. Let's do it again!

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Inspiring and Empowering!



Anne
Silavs
Superintendent

Our success is grounded in our mission to inspire and empower every student, every moment, for every opportunity. We remain steadfast in that commitment, even during unprecedented times. With the 2021/22 “transitional” school year behind us, we look forward to fully restoring all the signature programs that make our district an outstanding place to learn and grow!

STEM – Hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students apply knowledge during project-based learning in dedicated STEM labs on each campus. The program is designed so that students question today for a better tomorrow.

Music – Weekly instruction taught by credentialed music teachers. Students learn fundamental concepts, including pitch, melody, rhythm, and tempo. They also learn how to play wind, string, and percussion instruments. Band, choir, and music composition classes are offered for upper-grade students.

Smaller Class Size – Smaller class sizes in transitional kindergarten through third grade. We value the importance of smaller classes in primary grades when students are first learning to read and develop number sense.

Cutting-Edge, Evidence-Based Instruction – Rich and meaningful learning experiences provided for all students. Our teachers and staff are committed to professional learning that ensures exceptional levels of student achievement.

State Preschool – Free classes for income-eligible families. In addition to the private preschools operated on each campus, our State Preschool program ensures all children have access to high-quality early learning programs.

In partnership with parents and our local community, we effectively prepare our students for success in a dynamic and ever-changing world!

Fountain Valley School District

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

In Celebration of this School Year




Dr. Katherine
Stopp
Superintendent

We’ve crossed the finish line of a school year that was filled with great change and challenges. I am extremely proud of the achievements and resilience of our amazing students, particularly our eighth graders and all of those who promoted in the 2021-2022 school year. Time and again, our students have demonstrated their ability to adapt to an ever-changing world, excel academically, and shine brilliantly.

Over the past two months, I have met so many wonderful people from our schools and community. I heard what they believe is working well in FVSD and in which areas we can grow and improve. I value your input and partnership. I know you share in my appreciation of all our staff both behind the scenes and front and center who unselfishly give of themselves every day. Our FVSD staff is hard working and shows great heart and pride in supporting and educating our youth. FVSD staff rocks!

Finally, I want to express great appreciation to the school communities for the ways they came together to support one another and bring back traditions to celebrate our students and staff. Thank you to our Board of Trustees, families, our incredible PTA/O leaders, FVSF, FVPD/HBPD, and all our community partners who worked hard to make a difference and impact our students’ lives this school year.

I am incredibly proud of and impressed by our FVSD community. I am honored to serve as your superintendent. Have a safe and fun summer break, create moments, and make lots of memories! We look forward to welcoming you back to the 2022-2023 school year in the fall!



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Fullerton School District

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Great Schools and Successful Kids



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

The last few years have been challenging for everyone, but especially for educators with their dedication to students. FSD has met the challenge with a concentrated focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). FSD regards Social-Emotional Learning as an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. As a result of the hard work of both certificated and classified staff, FSD has implemented SEL opportunities for both students and staff which has contributed to the success of FSD.

Through these challenging times, FSD is proud to be the home of the California League of Schools 2022 Elementary Teacher of the Year, the *Parenting OC* 2022 Teacher of the Year, Parks JHS Schools to Watch designation, Ladera Vista JHS of the Arts Schools to Watch redesignation, Ladera Vista JHS of the Arts designation as an Arts Schools Network Exemplary School, and many more accolades and accomplishments. These achievements are a testament to a staff committed to the safety, education, and well-being of students.

FSD is committed to the motto of Great Schools and Successful Kids and further enhances educational opportunities through personalized learning opportunities, a concentrated attention on Social Emotional Learning, and a focus on student voice and choice.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District

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We Will Do This Together



Dr. Steve McLaughlin
Superintendent

As we begin the 2022/23 school year, I am honored to be serving as superintendent of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. Serving over 13,000 students, FJUHS has a long history of providing the highest quality educational programs around, supported by a deeply committed and diverse community. This past school year, our dedicated staff of approximately 1,100 certificated, classified, and management employees came together to make the adjustment back to in-person learning and activities.

In the coming school year FJUHS will continue to offer a broad spectrum of outstanding programs including: Advanced Placement; Agriculture, AVID, Adult Transition Program, Early College, Engineering, Computer Science, International Baccalaureate, JROTC, Marketing and Business Academy, Forensics Science, Performing Arts Academies, Cambridge Academy, and Troy Tech. 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.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in mid-August for the 2022/23 school year. FJUHS remains committed to reconnecting with our students and families, with our site and district staff members, and with all of the various activities that make high school so memorable. As has been our history in FJUHS, we will do this *Together!* *Together* we support our staff, students, and families! *Together* we learn about and with each other! *Together* we lead through input from all stakeholders focused on student outcomes! *Together* we are FJUHS!

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Garden Grove Unified School District

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Students Rebound with School Support



Dr. Gabriela Mafi
Superintendent

A sense of joy returned to our campuses this year as students resumed the plethora of school activities previously paused due to the pandemic. Students reached new milestones in academics, art, athletics, and so much more. GGUSD schools earned high rankings in *U.S. News & World Report's* list of America's Best K-8 Schools and Best High Schools. We celebrated the high school graduation of more than 3,000 seniors with more than 900 committed to attend UC or CSU schools.

GGUSD staff played an important role in ensuring students rebounded stronger than ever with new before and after school learning programs and expanded mental health supports to meet the needs of all students. The district hosted monthly wellness workshops for families and opened four new Family Resource Centers to serve as hubs that connect families to critical services.

This summer, students will participate in our traditional summer school program and take advantage of new extended learning summer programs that were created with parent input based on student need. Next year, our Transitional Kindergarten program will begin to serve more 4-year-olds than ever before as the age of eligibility for TK expands. High school students and their families will benefit from new before-school programs due to a new state law that requires high schools to begin the first period of instruction on or after 8:30 a.m. And we will continue with the expansion of our mental health staff and programs. Through all that we do, we will continue to care for students as if they are our own children. That's the Garden Grove Way

Huntington Beach City School District

8750 Dorsett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888 • www.hbcasd.k12.ca.us

Rich and Innovative Experiences



Dr. Leisa Winston
Superintendent

As we close the books on the 2021-2022 school year, we are thrilled to announce that the HBCSD Board of Trustees recently approved our new long-term strategic plan, which includes a refreshed vision, mission, and learner profile that will guide us over the next five years. Over the past school year, we engaged in extensive data-gathering and feedback activities with students, parents, staff, and community members. From the start of the strategic planning process, our goal was to consider input from the entire HBCSD community and use data to inform our priorities. To maximize our reach and capture input from a broad representation of stakeholders, we facilitated a "guiding coalition" of representatives that informed the District's strategic planning process and vision for the future.

The collective voice of administrators, teachers, students, parents, and members of the community produced ideas anchored on creativity and innovation and guided by a set of core beliefs that were incorporated into the plan. The plan will be the vehicle to focus on priorities set by the Board, alignment of resources, streamlining operations, and ensuring our organization is working toward common objectives and intended outcomes for the next several years.

Vision — Igniting young minds to reach for a bright future

Mission — A community where learners thrive

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Huntington Beach Union High School District

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Together a Brighter Future



Dr. Clint Harwick
Superintendent

We congratulate our students and staff on another unforgettable school year - one marked by much learning, adaptation, and growth. In recognition of our successful efforts to assist students, three of our campuses received the California Pivotal Practice Program award for demonstrating their ability to implement unique strategies to support and encourage students during challenging times. As our students and staff navigated evolving circumstances, the HBUHSD continues to take pride in the ways we, as a community, have moved forward and succeeded despite obstacles.

Throughout the district, students excelled academically, showcasing their ingenuity and competitiveness nation-wide. Our performing arts programs not only held live performances once again, but won local and national awards. Over 58 of our sports teams participated in CIF playoffs, leading to multiple CIF and State Champions. Our STEM focused programs have thrived with a campus team being selected as a national finalist in a science competition.

In 2022-23, we look forward to continuing our partnerships with Golden West College to provide college courses on campus and the Special Olympics to support our Unified Sports program. A new addition this year will be a Unified Performing Arts program that will allow our special abilities students a chance to perform on the main stage.

If there is one thing this past school year has taught us, it is that as long as we work together and keep taking steps towards a brighter future, we can face any adversity and still succeed.

Irvine Unified School District

5050 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, CA 92604 • 949/936-5250 • www.iusd.org

Celebrating 50 Years of Educational Excellence



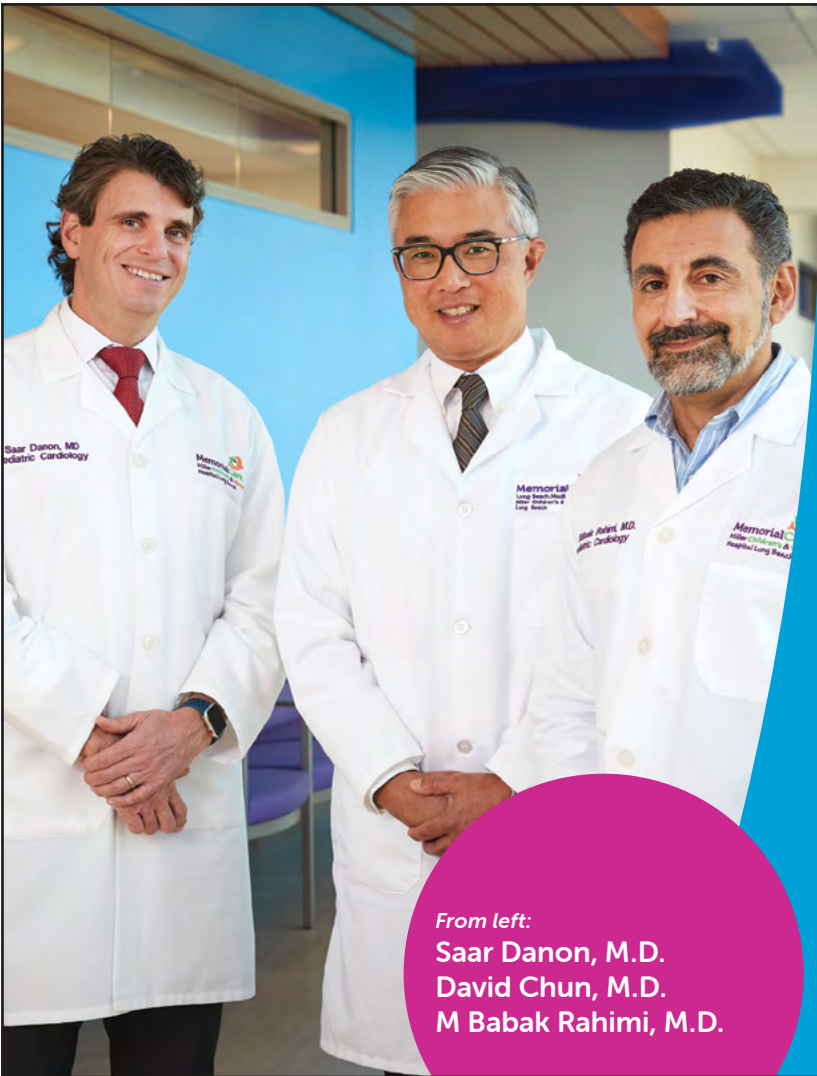
Terry L. Walker
Superintendent

This year marks the Irvine Unified School District's 50th anniversary since residents voted to unify our school district in June 1972. At that time, we had six schools and more than 6,000 students. In the 50 years that have followed, we have grown to 43 schools and more than 36,000 students.

As we celebrate 50 years of educational excellence, it is a time to recognize and honor the "US" at the center of IUSD, which has enabled our school district to provide the highest quality educational experience we can envision for generations of students. This collective "US" includes our visionary Board of Education and District leadership team, our dedicated teachers and support staff, our incredibly talented and engaged

students, our committed parents and families, and passionate community partners and leaders.

Together, we have created one of the highest performing school districts in the nation that is student centered, committed to equity and driven by continuous improvement. Throughout this year, we will reflect on this milestone for our District, while also looking forward to the important work still ahead, because we know excellence has no finish line. We will continue to make investments in teaching and learning, academic supports for students, educational equity and mental health and wellness to meet the diverse social, emotional and learning needs of our students so they are prepared for challenging colleges and careers, while becoming engaged citizens.



From left:
Saar Danon, M.D.
David Chun, M.D.
M Babak Rahimi, M.D.

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Laguna Beach Unified School District

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Every Student, Every Day



Dr. Jason Vilorio
Superintendent

Laguna Beach Unified School District is committed to unlocking all our students’ potential. LBUSD has remained steadfast to our collective commitment to excellence this past year and has continued our dedication to improving outcomes for all students.

Our focus on developing and sustaining outstanding curricular programs, extensive extra-curricular opportunities, and high-quality instruction provides our students with an exceptional educational program. Community partnerships expand our opportunities for learning beyond the classroom as students explore the world through the Coast Film Festival, get first-class art instruction from the Laguna Art Museum, or play a few music notes with the Laguna Beach Live. The support for our schools throughout the community, including our PTA and SchoolPower Foundation, continues to expand and enhance educational opportunities for our students.

This year, we continue to enhance our systems of support for our students, including additional social workers and counselors at each of our schools to better support student social and emotional learning. Our proactive approach to identifying and supporting all students’ needs, whether they are academic or social remains a crucial part of our support of each and every child. Our innovative professional development programs are focused on building strong student and staff relationships and celebrating the art and science of teaching. Our lessons connect with students through real-world problem solving using relevant topics with learning happening both inside and outside the classroom.

With the support of our community, PTA, SchoolPower, parents, Board of Education, dedicated and high-quality educators and staff, District leaders, and our growing partnerships, Laguna Beach Unified will continue to excel.

La Habra City School District

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

Finish Strong



Dr. Joanne Culverhouse
Superintendent

As the end of the year comes into focus, there is a sigh of relief and yet many reasons to celebrate after two very challenging years in education. I am sure that many of you have heard the saying, “life is a marathon, not a sprint.” I reflect on how this has applied to us as a District and family. Throughout the course of the last two years, there were times when we felt motivated, enthusiastic and unstoppable and other times where we felt that we could not take one more step. We spent valuable time preparing staff and students for on-line learning, hiring more counselors for SEL, developing intervention programs for our struggling students and so much more.

Each morning before coming into work, I give myself time. Time to sit quietly for a few minutes and reflect. Some days my mind is calm, and I can focus on gratitude and a positive mindset and other days, my mind is like a ping-pong ball bouncing from a “to do” list, to the intensity of my calendar, or solving issues that arise each day. No matter what types of thoughts enter my mind each morning, I always end the time with one intention for my day.

My intention most mornings have been thankfulness and I was determined to take the time to share my positivity with each staff member, student and families. Our success over the last two years rests on the shoulders of our Board of Education, staff, families, and community. I am thankful for the hours, days, and years we have put into preparing and committing to this “marathon” called education. Throughout this journey, we have had roadblocks and obstacles. We have celebrated the highest of highs and the lowest of lows with one another. When one person felt tired, we have rallied as a team and pushed each other forward.

As 2021-22 school year comes to a close, there will be opportunities to reflect on the wins that we had and the challenges we still need to overcome; to rest our minds and body, and to refuel and recharge for the upcoming school year. Until then, I am thankful for the opportunity to have served the La Habra City School District.

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Los Alamitos Unified School District

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Thriving Students, Thriving Community!



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

In Los Alamitos Unified, we empower students to reach their goals by providing unlimited possibilities and opportunities in academics, athletics, activities and the arts. Due to highly skilled and talented teachers and staff, visionary leadership from our Board of Education, and excellent family and community support, Los Al Unified students continue to be among the highest-achieving students in the county and state. Our strong academic programs begin with early childhood education and extend into elementary, middle, and high school courses that provide students the opportunity to explore STEAM, robotics and coding, countless Career Technical Education pathways, extracurricular activities, afterschool clubs, and award-winning performing arts and athletics. During the 2021-22 school year, students and staff continued to earn numerous district, regional, state, and national awards, and all nine schools and the District were honored with the California Pivotal Practice Award.

Additionally, we continue to invest significant resources in mental health and wellness to support our students socially and emotionally. This past year, we hired additional wellness counselors at school sites, established monthly wellness initiatives and themes for students and staff, and fostered a partnership with Stanford University’s Challenge Success program. We will continue to expand our mental health services for the 2022-23 school year with the increase of wellness counselors and full-time school psychologists at each of our sites.

We also greatly look forward to the official grand opening of our state-of-the-art, multi-story STEM building at Los Alamitos High School. The three-story facility offers more than 84,000 square feet of space, boasting 30 science, math, and engineering/robotics classrooms, a college and career center, student/media center, health office, and various counseling and administrative offices.

We are fortunate to be part of an extraordinary community where students thrive and are prepared to accomplish unlimited possibilities.

Lowell Joint School District

11019 Valley Home Ave., Whittier, CA 90603 • 562/943-0211 • www.ljisd.org

Destination District



Jim Coombs
Superintendent

The Lowell Joint School District strives to be among the leading districts throughout the State of California, holding 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 is evident in the fact that the students of LJSD exceed the scores of Los Angeles and Orange County as well as the State of California in all grade levels. We are honored to serve the families from the communities of La Habra, La Habra Heights, and Whittier. Each of our six schools are Gold Ribbon, Distinguished, and California Business Excellence Schools. Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate

School is also recognized as a “Schools to Watch” and six CSBA Golden Bell awards in the last six years. LJSD has also received two Magna Awards from the National School Board Association 2021 & 2022. The importance of education, family, and traditional American values are the bedrock to LJSD, 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: instrumental music, dance, vocal music, fine art, 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 onto post-secondary education.

LJSD continues to focus on 21st Century learning while assuring that we keep our attention on the whole child. This ensures that our students have the foundation to be globally competitive and grounded in traditional American values.



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Magnolia School District

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After School and Summer Programs



Dr. Frank Donovan
Superintendent

We have greatly expanded our Expanded Learning Program options. We have afterschool and summer school programs available for all students in grades TK - 6 this year. For the 2022-23 school year we will have afterschool and summer school options available for all of our students in grades TK – 6. In partnership with the City of Anaheim, we will continue to have the STARS Program at Maxwell. Our Boys and Girls Club Program will be available at all of our schools. In order to accommodate more students, we have opened up our own Magnolia School District Expanded Learning Program. This program will expand to six schools this summer and then all nine schools for the 2022-23 school year.

This summer we will have comprehensive summer school options. Our Summer Academy will consist of our 3rd Grade Summer STEM Program, 4th Grade Boost Program, Long Term English Learner Program, Extended School Year Program, Boys and Girls Club Program, and our Magnolia School District Expanded Learning Program. All students in grades TK – 6 are eligible for either our Boys and Girls Club Program or our Expanded Learning Program, and students participating in our Summer Academy can also participate in our Boys and Girls Club and/or Expanded Learning Program. All of our summer programs will provide academic enrichment and support as well as fun and engaging recreational activities.

We are pleased to announce that all of our afterschool and summer programs are free of charge to our students and there will be no program fees or costs of any kind. If you would like more information on any of these programs, please be sure to contact your child's school for more information.

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • www.web.nmusd.us

Preparing Students for Success



Dr. Wesley Smith
Superintendent

Education has looked different in recent years as we have learned to navigate a pandemic while continuing to provide meaningful and engaging learning opportunities for our 18,000 students throughout the cities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa. While Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) was able to provide in-person instruction at the start of the 2020-21 school year, we, like many school districts, continue to see the effects the pandemic has on our students, their families, and our employees.

We are a fortunate district though. We have seven dedicated and involved board of trustees that continue to place focus on our priorities to improve academic achievement, expand whole child support, more meaningfully communicate and engage with constituents, and develop maintenance and facility master plans.

Our 33 schools, from preschool to 12th grade, continue their commitment to student learning and the student experience. Our District helps students find their passion, purpose, and potential as we prepare them to venture into careers, college, and active citizenship as adults. We adapt our curriculum and instructional practices to meet the ever-changing needs of our students, provide purposeful technologies to support teaching and learning, offer a multitude of programs; from dual language, science, music and art in elementary schools to digital media arts, engineering, medical academy and global studies in secondary schools. We have opportunities to foster the unique interests and passions of all our students.

We place a strong focus on supporting the [emotional, behavioral, and mental health](#) needs of students through relationship-driven school communities. Students are encouraged to become responsible thinkers and problem solvers, and are held to high expectations for positive behavior and civic responsibility.

Our students' success is the result of our dedicated employees who are acutely focused on preparing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in life.

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Ocean View School District

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A Fond Farewell



Dr. Carol Hansen
Superintendent

This is a bittersweet time for me as I am retiring after seven wonderful years as Superintendent in Ocean View and with a career that spans over 38 years in public education. I am so proud of the achievements we have made during my tenure as Superintendent, and especially the quality education we provided this past year and throughout the pandemic. I am grateful for the partnerships and relationships that have been forged in Ocean View and it has been an honor and privilege to serve the students, staff and parents of our community. I am confident and optimistic about the future of OVSD and I am proud that our entire staff works each and every day to make Ocean View a District where “achievement and relationships matter!”

Here are just a few notable accomplishments from the 2021-22 school year.

- Marine View Middle School reopened after a beautiful and transformative modernization.
- Vista View Middle School began its modernization and will reopen in September.
- OVSD was one of only six schools in California to be honored for having a model School Attendance Review Board.
- The District and six schools were awarded the 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award from the California Department of Education.
- We enhanced our strong commitment to social emotional health and established WellSpaces in all middle schools.
- Barb Davis was named the Student Services Administrator of the Year in Orange County by the Association of California School Administrators.
- Luis Camarena was named an Orange County Classified Employee of the Year.

Orange Unified School District

1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/628-4040 • www.orangeusd.org

An Exciting Year – Much to Celebrate




Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

As the 2021-22 school year comes to a close, I would like to congratulate our graduating Class of 2022 as well as acknowledge our wonderful Orange Unified community. This has been an exciting year with much to celebrate. For the third consecutive year, Canyon, El Modena, and Villa Park were once again recognized as *U.S. News & World Report's* “Best High Schools in the Nation,” McPherson Magnet and Villa Park High School were the only two public schools in Orange County recognized as Project Lead the Way Distinguished Schools, and seven of our school sites — along with the District as a whole — were recognized by the California Department of Education for the successful implementation of “Pivotal Practices” in 2022.


On behalf of the OUSD Board of Education and District leadership, thank you for your collaboration in support of our efforts to serve the diverse needs of our students and families. We would not have been able to successfully continue the important work of educating and serving our students without you and your partnership.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer break. We look forward to seeing our students on campus on August 17 for the start of the 2022-2023 school year!

Please stay up-to-date on the progress of Measure S Phase 2 construction, implementation of innovative educational programs, and other important district communication by visiting www.orangeusd.org and following us on social media.

**Ocean View School District**

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Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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Gain the Advantage in PYLUSD



Dr. Michael Matthews
Superintendent

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

We look forward to the 2022-2023 school year and engaging each student in the learning process through the implementation of core curriculum and effective instructional strategies. Aside from our traditional school campuses, we will continue to have options available for students who wish to access their instruction through an alternative public school setting. This includes Buena Vista Virtual Academy, our K-12 online school, and Parkview School, our K-12 homeschool program.

Buena Vista Virtual Academy and Parkview School are just two opportunities among a long list of trademark programs that make PYLUSD a unique place to learn. This includes our high school CareerLink Academies, Spanish Dual Language Academy, and state-recognized transitional kindergarten program, just to name a few.

These future-ready programs and initiatives have sprung from the district's strategic plan titled *The PYLUSD Advantage*. Created with input from stakeholders, 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 making decisions, crafting policies, and implementing programs.

While the district continues to evolve over the years, one thing will remain the same—our focus on a student-centered approach to continued and improved academic achievement. I look forward to serving as the district's proud superintendent this school year and having the opportunity to experience *The PYLUSD Advantage* in action.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District

25632 Peter Hartman Wy., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234 • www.svusd.org

Thriving in the Face of Adversity



Dr. Crystal Turner
Superintendent

Saddleback Valley Unified School District has had an incredible school year filled with excellence and resiliency. When we returned in August 2022, the COVID landscape was still evolving. From the beginning of the school year, our staff and teachers eagerly welcomed students to our campuses and our Virtual Academy provided an exceptional alternative. Schools embraced a full schedule of Visual and Performing Arts, sports, and clubs. Finally, I had the great pleasure of shaking hands with our seniors at our celebratory graduation. As we close the 2022-2023 school year, we want to celebrate how SVUSD has thrived in the face of adversity. Here are a few highlights:

- De Portola Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School
- Six 2022 California Pivotal Practice Awards (this program replaced the Distinguished School Award)
- Two Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools received National Banner recognition
- 50 Dual Language Immersion Graduates, 74 International Baccalaureate Full Diploma Candidates, and 64 Advanced Placement Capstone Diplomas
- Elementary music expanded to all K-6 students
- Increased elementary school counselors
- PBIS at 15 elementary schools and 4 intermediate schools
- 4 CIF-SS Championships and 16 programs advanced to CIF State Championships (including Unified Track/Field partnerships)
- 97 Varsity athletic programs participated in CIF-SS Academic Awards program with an overall, non-weighted GPA of 3.44
- Over 14 Choral, 30 Instrumental Music, and 28 plays and musicals were performed with 41 Spirit of the MACY awards for theater
- Trabuco Hills HS performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

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Santa Ana Unified School District

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Committed to Rigorous Education



Jerry Almendarez
Superintendent

Santa Ana Unified School District remains committed to providing an academically rigorous education in a nurturing and supportive environment. As prepare for the new school year, supporting all our student's academic and social-emotional needs remains our top priority. That is why the district continues to add teachers, counselors, school psychologists, and other support staff for the 2022-23 school year.

This last two years have provided tremendous challenges. At Santa Ana Unified School District, we are using this pandemic as an opportunity to reinvent how we teach children. We are reviewing several initiatives to better support 21st century learning, and better prepare our graduates for the careers of the future workforce. These initiatives include offering more online learning options, improving the use of technology, changing traditional classroom schedules, and similar ideas. Our world continues to change rapidly, and we must change with it.

I remain proud of our accomplishments even through challenging times. This spring, we had more than 3,500 high school graduates. Nearly 900 graduates received Seals of Biliteracy. Our graduates will be attending top colleges and universities across the country including Stanford University, Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania, 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.

We continue to provide 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. This fall, we are also launching a robust Ethnic Studies program at each high school. We also offer free programs from Pre-K to high school to meet every family's needs. To stay up to date on our district and schools, follow us on social media.

Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3800 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us

A Special Place to Be



Dr. Sue Johnson
Superintendent

What a special place Savanna School District is! We can't be more excited to begin the 2022-23 school year as we continue to prepare our students to be successful 21st Century citizens. Through rigorous and relevant lessons, students will be provided with a strong foundation to ensure they are college and career ready when they leave our schools. 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.

We're excited to introduce our blended after school programs that will enhance and expand learning experiences for students. Students will have opportunities to participate in a variety of sports, music, art, and science activities in structured, engaging hands-on learning experiences. With the support from community partners, these after school clubs will focus on developing the academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of children.

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. With the added focus to ensure healthy campuses, we're very proud we've been able to ensure student safety at every level.

The entire Savanna School District staff and Board of Trustees welcomes you to the 2022-23 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!



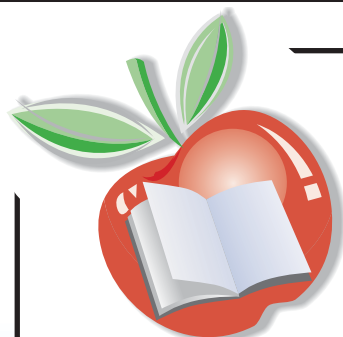
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Savanna School District

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Reid School
720 S. Western Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92804

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Preparing Students For A Bright Future



Dr. Mark Johnson
Superintendent

Tustin Unified School District is truly an extraordinary school district made up of dedicated, caring, passionate, and highly skilled people who work together to do exceptional things for their community. This year, Tustin Unified School District and 27 TUSD schools, received a CAPP award recognizing the hard work that students, staff, and the community accomplished together in the areas of student engagement, distribution of technology, nutrition services, and the social/emotional wellbeing of students. Applying additional state and federal resources, TUSD added counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses this year to meet the needs of students and families. All of this work is being done to ensure that our students have the best opportunity possible to achieve their social, emotional, academic, and athletic goals.

Of course, the work doesn't stop there. Our classrooms and facilities continue to be amazing places for students to learn and grow. TUSD offers full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools; robotics league and competitions in elementary, middle, and high school; STEAM magnet programs; 1:1 technology devices for students; a Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program; award-winning performing and visual arts programs; 13 college/career pathways at the high school level; specialized high school programs like Early College, International Baccalaureate, and Model United Nations; and the Tustin Connect K-12 online and independent study school.

We were proud to graduate 2,073 students this past year. These students could not have had a more challenging road yet they persevered and serve as an inspiration to us all. Our graduates continue to pursue higher education at some of the most prestigious universities in our nation as a result of their hard work, and TUSD's commitment to providing rigorous learning environments, engaging curriculum, and unique real-world experiences. We remain committed to providing our students with bright and successful futures that prepare them for college, career, and life.

Celebrating Success



Dr. Cyndi Paik
Superintendent

Westminster School District continues to achieve academic success for our students, staff and families. We had thirteen of our schools receive the 2022 California Pivotal Practice Awards. This award is awarded to districts or schools that implemented a pivotal practice during the 2020-2021 school year when the state required distance learning due to the pandemic. The recognition was in place of the California Distinguished Schools program. Please see the list of schools and their pivotal practice areas:

- District Office — Student Engagement; Anderson Elementary — Virtual Olympics and Parent & Family Engagement; Clegg Elementary — Technology to enhance student learning and engagement; DeMille Elementary — Parent, Family, and Community Engagement; Eastwood Elementary — Rigorous environment with technology; Fryberger Elementary — Engaging Students with material focusing on Environmental Science; Johnson Middle — Technology tools to support student engagement; Meairs Elementary — Technology to engage students; Schmitt Elementary — Using Technology to meet the social and academic needs of students; Schroeder Elementary — Student and Family Engagement through Technology; Sequoia Elementary — Student and Family Engagement through STEAM and PBL; Stacey Middle — Teaching the whole child-socio-emotional wellbeing; Webber Elementary — Daily Video Morning Announcements and SEL lessons; Willmore Elementary — Technology tools to support student engagement

Additionally, we began to celebrate 150 years of excellence in our schools. Our district celebration will be taking place in the Fall. At WSD, we offer multitude of programs, services and specialty academies from the first in the state Vietnamese Dual Language program, Spanish Dual Language Program to Science Technology Engineering Arts Math programs at all of our middle schools. It is an exceptional place for the leaders of tomorrow, our students.

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ROP and CTE Need Greater Awareness



Dr. Brian Dozer
Superintendent

At Coastline Regional Occupational Program (ROP) we have always believed that enhancing every student’s high school journey with a career technical education (CTE) experience is our goal. One key component in that goal is parents, as they exert a strong influence on their students’ choices. Yet awareness of ROP classes and their value to today’s students is low. Coastline ROP is focused on raising that awareness and shining a light on the fantastic work that we and our district partners do in the classroom to prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s careers.

We sometimes hear from parents that ROP courses are somehow “less than” compared to an approach that focuses on the academic skills needed to earn a four-year degree. Nothing could be further from the truth. Today’s students must also have technical skills coupled with mastery of the employability skills (adaptability, communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving) that are learned in every ROP course. In fact, employers often cite employability skills as the most critical to workplace success. ROP classes are for ALL students, regardless of their post-secondary paths.

We also know that ROP students have a better understanding of what career they wish to pursue. High school is the place for students to explore their career options, not college. Some begin their journeys with an idea of what they want to do and have it confirmed. Many learn what they do NOT want to do for a career. Both are equally important. So, while we use the term “career technical education,” what Coastline ROP really offers our students is college and career readiness.

North Orange County ROP

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

Profound, Intentional & Maximum Impact!



Dana Lynch
Superintendent

Offering high-quality career technical education (CTE) to half a million secondary and adult students over the last fifty years, the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (NOCROP) has made a profound impact on the region. Working collaboratively with school districts, community colleges, universities, and business partners, NOCROP equips students with the essential skills and knowledge necessary for success in college and careers. Our instructors are recruited from industry and then utilize their previous work experience to empower students via engaging and relevant project-based learning.

Focusing on Career Ready Practices, they steer students through learning activities designed for intentional impact. Our students develop vital leadership skills by participating in professional student organizations and competing at the regional, state, and national levels. Their learning extends beyond the classroom through service projects that support the local and global community. They complete sequenced, UC/CSU “a-g” approved courses that fortify their capacity to earn certifications, licensure, credentials, college matriculation, articulated college credit, and scholarships. And because of their training, they have a rich, personal narrative and deeper understanding of how to navigate and flourish in the world of work.

Access to CTE is a necessity for ALL STUDENTS! Exploring future career options, as well as the required education and training, benefits students no matter their age. Incorporating CTE into K-16 curriculum makes learning relevant. Elevating the student learning experience through CTE lays the foundation for student equity and future success. NOCROP champions teachers and support staff who collaborate and deliver responsive and innovative CTE for maximum impact. Join our team! Become a partner!

College and Career Advantage (ROP)

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

Importance of Career Technical Education



Dr. Paul Weir
Executive Director

The 2022-23 school year welcomes a more familiar beginning to a new school year. College and Career Advantage (CCA) continues to integrate lessons learned from the past two years to enhance programs and continue to provide high-quality CTE experiences for all students.

CCA proudly offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that assist our community by providing highly qualified candidates for the ever changing and growing workforce needs in Orange County. CCA offers courses throughout Capistrano and Laguna Beach Unified School Districts during and after the school day. Credentialed industry experts teach classes across multiple industry sectors. CCA’s goal is to enhance every

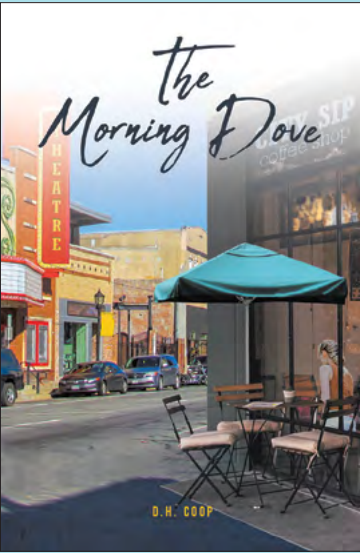
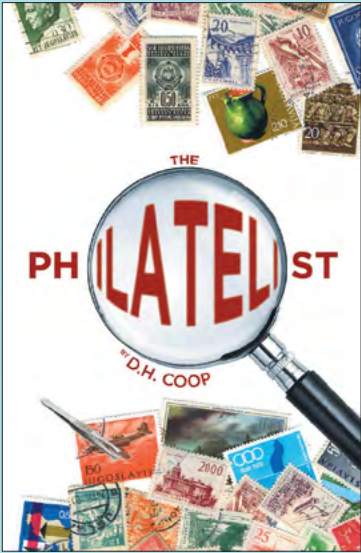
student’s high school journey with high-quality CTE experiences and provide the community with industry specific training opportunities that can lead directly to employment.

Students taking CCA courses can earn college credit, meet UC a-g entrance requirements and earn honors GPA weighting. Students also have the opportunity to participate in industry internships at over 500 local businesses and industry partners. This added value helps prepare students for the world beyond their K12 education.

Approximately 17,000 CUSD and LBUSD students take CTE courses. CTE exposure begins in elementary school; middle schools offer CTE exploration labs and high school students can move through several CTE pathways.

Statistics show students participating in CTE courses are more likely to graduate from high school, attain their college goals and earn a degree than students not participating in CTE courses. CCA’s high-quality CTE courses prepare students to be successful in life beyond high school regardless of where their journey takes them.

Get your Hands on a Good Book



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Activities Away from Technology

Q. My 10-year-old son only wants to stay indoors, play video games and eat chips and the like. He doesn't like sports. I'm trying to get him outdoors and moving but he complains about the heat. Any ideas on how to get him away from becoming a chubby couch potato and away from the TV?

Jodie Lynn

A. There are plenty of programs that your son might like such as swimming, drawing, painting, camping, making pottery, volunteering at a pet shelter, cooking, graphic design for kids, etc. The whole idea is to get him out of the house, off the couch and into a scheduled activity three to five days a week. Some of them start in the morning and some in the afternoon. Some of the facilities where the activities take place have lunch served to the kids. It's usually a pretty healthy one at that. They should give you a weekly copy of them. If not, ask for one. Some programs allow kids to bring their lunch. This means that he will be eating less of the bad things and more of the good. He might even decide that eating fruit is a good break from chips. If your son can find something he likes and can participate in it with a friend, he'll be more willing to stick with it, especially if there's no pressure to be a super star. This will also give him less time to play video games or to watch TV.

Learning to Communicate

Q. My brother's wife is always making excuses for their kids regarding just about everything. When they start to talk on whatever the topic is, she completes their sentences and basically they have grown to look to her to speak for them. When I take them out by myself, they can barely explain things or answer questions about the topic at hand. How can I help her to realize that they need to learn how to speak for themselves?

A. As parents we want to protect our kids from making poor choices, maybe because we've made a similar one and know what the results could potentially turn out to be. Unfortunately, they need to be able to make mistakes so that they too can learn from them; it's how everyone learns best in building life skills. If we talk for them and make excuses for them, not only will they become dependent on us but they will not be able to communicate well and make wise decisions. If you can talk to your sister-in-law about it without causing friction, do so in a way that helps her understand that her current protection of them is enabling their dependency on her. If you feel it's an impossible task, talk to your brother first. If neither one can see your point, don't push the issue. Just do the best you can with the kids when you have them by encouraging them to think and speak on their own. Sooner or later they'll ask her to stop.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com





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**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

Are You Disconnected?

This is one of the most difficult times there has ever been to be a parent. The extreme use of media and extended challenges of the pandemic have changed our children; thus, the way they need to be parented. And some needs of children never change.

All children need to feel connected. Can you see the difference between, “You’re a good friend!” and “I really needed someone to talk to last night, thanks for being there.” Instead of talking at children, talk to them; look into their eyes, be with them and listen. Since children often require constant attention, it is totally appropriate to say, “I want to hear what you have to say, and (cooking) needs my full attention right now. I’m turning the timer for 15 minutes. When you hear it ring, come and I will listen!”

Read to your children every night. Eat dinner together as a family. Play games together. Go on outings together. Don’t talk on your cell phone in the car, talk to them. This precious time of being the architect of a child’s life is very short. There are no re-runs in the parenting game; connect with your children so they feel valued and appreciated.

Does Excessive Media Harm My Children?

I am doing research on the effects of media on this, the next and the next generation; the outlook is disturbing. Extensive use of the media creates: Non-creative, judgmental, non-intuitive, non-empathetic, anxious, nervous and overwhelmed, and morally deficient kids. Do you want those labels put on yourself or your children? No? What to do?

Strictly regulate their media time. During school hours, one hour; after homework and chores — on the weekend, two hours. (1) Keep all cell phones, tablets, keyboards in a basket and farm them out like a library. (2) Have face-to-face time with your children every day, (3) Be savvy about social media so you can monitor what your child is doing, (4) Talk to them about what they are watching.

Help your children understand that all information via the media isn’t the truth, talk about the dangers of innocently inviting strangers into your life, and talk to them about addiction. Over-anxiousness can lead to suicide; help your children learn about the dangers of too much input, too little down-time, too much competition, too much emphasis on whether you are liked or not. You taught them to talk when they were little, now you need to invite them to use the skill of talking as a way to connect with other people.

The place where children turn to their friends instead of family is getting younger and younger. This is your input time—your time to be sure they have the armor of knowing they are loved.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel is an author, taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com.



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Ask Dr. Shari

Lessons of POWERFUL Communication



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

At no time has the ability to communicate effectively been more important. There is no question that the political atmosphere of recent years has degraded us and demoralized us. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all" seems to be an archaic ideal as we watch grown adults spew pointless negativity on a regular basis.

If we want to stop the degradation of society, one of the most important changes we can affect, is to upgrade our standards of interaction. Children desperately need models of good behavior, and constructive communication, more than ever.

Following are 5 skills that every child and adult must learn in order to be powerful communicators:

Listen: Even if you do not agree, hear people out, gain an understanding of a person's values as they speak. Never talk over people. Don't interrupt. Affirm that you have heard their thoughts, and then you can share your view with the expectation of the same courtesy. People react more calmly, and are more inclined to listen, when they feel they have been heard.

Ask: Don't claim to have the answers. Get a depth of clarification on their views that contradict your own. Accept that people have different value systems. You will never change a person's mind by imposing your values on them; this only creates defense and negativity. If you want to share an opposing view, do so respectfully, acknowledging that you understand and accept that your partner in the conversation might feel differently.

Avoid Negative Energy: Proper communication is neither negative nor dramatic. A productive conversation stays respectful at all costs. An agreement to proceed productively, is core to powerful communication. Respectfully end a conversation that seems to be turning negative, and agree to reconvene when the atmosphere is calmer.

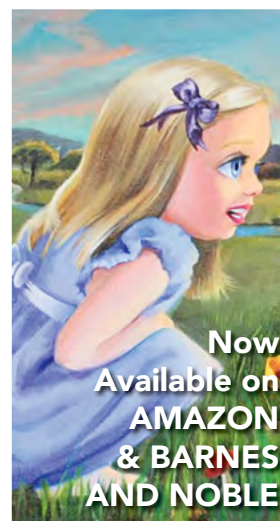
Maintain Integrity: Don't falsify or exaggerate. If you stray from truth, your communication will be weak, and your informational value will be lost. Even one incident of falsification can destroy a person's credibility.

Develop Mastery: Commit to communicating powerfully until it is habitual. Master communicators listen, ask questions, operate with respect, maintain integrity and avoid negativity and drama. Like the mastery of any important skill, it takes practice.

We can make an enormous difference by committing to these simple standards.

Please share your stories of how you and your children practice to be powerful communicators. ss@doctorshari.com

Dr. Shari has conducted multiple Communication seminars for businesses all across Orange County, and divisions of OC, including the Sheriff's Department, Health Care Agency and Social Services, as well as taught Communication at the graduate level



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