

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



Volume 11, Issue 61

September / October 2021

Welcome Back to a New School Year!



Hawthorne School District students return to classrooms implementing all Los Angeles County safety protocols.

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Every child deserves a chance to succeed!
¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!

Preschool Program

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.



Hawthorne School District Preschool



The Benefits of Preschool

The most important years of a child's development is in the first five years of life. Children who receive a high-quality educational experience, in their early years, develop the skills necessary to succeed in life.

Children who are involved in preschool:

- Develop pre-reading, early writing, and math skills
- Enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop emotional behaviors and social skills

Los Beneficios de la Educación Preescolar

Los primeros cinco años de vida son los más importantes en el desarrollo del niño. Los niños que reciben una experiencia educativa de alta calidad, en sus primeros años, desarrollan las habilidades necesarias para triunfar en la vida.

Los niños que participan en la educación preescolar:

- Desarrollan habilidades en matemáticas, escritura y lectura temprana.
- Mejoran el pensamiento crítico y habilidades en resolución de problemas.
- Desarrollan habilidades sociales y comportamiento emocional.



HSD Preschool

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 970-7550 Phone | (310) 970-7555 Fax



Welcome Back!

We are well into the 2021-2022 school year. It has been especially fulfilling to see the start of this school year. After having students and staff working from home for a full year and then a hybrid return, it is wonderful to have all of our students back to a full-day of instruction. While many families have determined that it is best for them to continue in a virtual environment, more than eighty-five percent of our students and all of our staff have returned to campus.

Life in a worldwide pandemic is a new experience for all of us and we have had to learn to navigate daily experiences in a whole new way. Wearing a mask has become the new normal. Keeping our distance and washing our hands many times a day is just what we do now. I am so proud of our students and staff. Everyone is doing what is expected without complaints. I think we are all so happy to be back together in person, that these little inconveniences are just that. . . a little inconvenience.



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent



We have implemented measures to keep our schools clean and safe. Classrooms are misted to kill germs that may cause illness. Ionization systems have been installed to provide healthy air quality at all schools. New furniture has been purchased to assist in distancing students. We are following all protocols recommended by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure the safest environment for our students and staff. We strive to do all we can to keep our staff and students on campus. I, for one, would be happy to never have experienced a worldwide pandemic. Unfortunately, that is not the reality today. I have come to appreciate many of the things I took for granted before March 2020, especially, seeing our students engaged, laughing, learning, and thriving at school.

I look forward to an exceptional year!

¡Bienvenidos de nuevo!

Ya estamos adentrados en el año escolar 2021-2022. Ha sido especialmente satisfactorio ver el comienzo de este año escolar. Después de tener a los alumnos y al personal trabajando desde casa durante un año completo y luego un regreso híbrido, es maravilloso tener a todos nuestros alumnos de vuelta a un día completo de instrucción. Aunque muchas familias han determinado que lo mejor para ellos es continuar en un entorno virtual, más del ochenta y cinco por ciento de nuestros alumnos y todo nuestro personal han regresado a la escuela.

La vida en una pandemia mundial es una experiencia nueva para todos nosotros y hemos tenido que aprender a navegar por las experiencias diarias de una manera totalmente nueva. Llevar un cubrebocas se ha convertido en la nueva normalidad. Mantener la distancia y lavarse las manos muchas veces al día es lo que hacemos ahora. Estoy muy orgullosa de nuestros alumnos y del personal. Todos hacen lo que se espera de ellos sin quejarse. Creo que todos

estamos tan contentos de volver a estar juntos en persona, que estos pequeños inconvenientes son sólo eso. . . un pequeño inconveniente.

Hemos aplicado medidas para mantener nuestras escuelas limpias y seguras. Los salones de clase se nebulizan para eliminar los gérmenes que puedan causar enfermedades. Se han instalado sistemas de ionización para

proporcionar una calidad de aire saludable en todas las escuelas. Hemos comprado nuevos muebles para ayudar a distanciar a los alumnos. Estamos siguiendo todos los protocolos recomendados por el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Los Ángeles. Seguiremos trabajando en colaboración para garantizar el entorno más seguro para nuestros alumnos y personal. Nos esforzamos por hacer todo lo posible para mantener a nuestro personal y alumnos en la escuela. Yo, por mi parte, estaría feliz de no haber experimentado nunca una pandemia mundial. Por desgracia, esa no es la realidad actual. He llegado a apreciar muchas cosas que subestimaba antes de marzo de 2020, especialmente, ver a nuestros alumnos comprometidos, riendo, aprendiendo y prosperando en la escuela.

¡Espero que sea un año excepcional!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



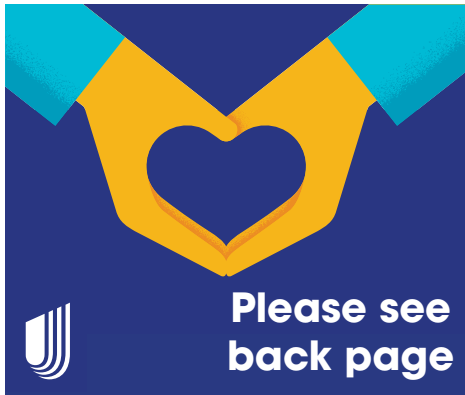
Welcome back to a new school year filled with excitement and hope.

This is one of our most popular issues when we highlight the principals and their bios. I remember way, way,

way back when I was a student in school I was amazed that teachers had lives outside of school. They actually have families, pets, and hobbies. It is also interesting to learn many of the principals began their teaching careers in the Hawthorne School District.

I remember the day I met with Dr. Morgan to discuss publishing the Hawthorne School District *School News*. She is so positive and appreciative of those around her. I did not meet the superintendents before her tenure, but I understand the longevity of administrators during her tenure.

Our next issue is November 3.



School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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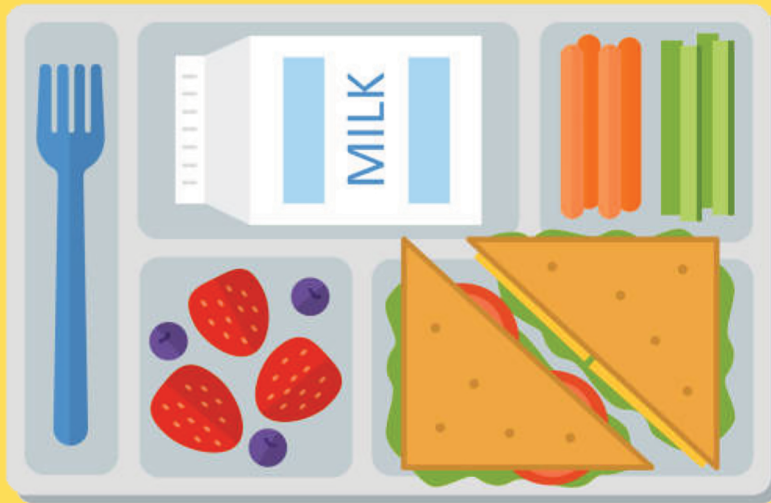
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Dear Parents/Guardians



Great News!



The Hawthorne School District will be operating the Seamless Summer Option at all HSD schools in place of the National School Lunch Program in the 2021-2022 School Year.

*Your child will be offered a **healthy breakfast and lunch free of charge** each day they attend school.*

Please complete a meal application at: family.titank12.com

Meal applications may qualify your household for programs such as Pandemic EBT (**P-EBT**), low cost utilities, internet, or transportation.

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Dispelling Myths About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids



Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Immunizations are one of the best means of protection against contagious diseases, including COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people 16 years and older, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The CDC continues to recommend everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, this is especially important as the new school year begins.

There is a lot of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccinations for kids. Below are answers to common questions you may have.

COVID-19 doesn't affect children as much, so why should my child still get vaccinated?

Anyone can be infected with COVID-19. Fortunately, it's rare for kids to get seriously ill from COVID-19. However, with the highly contagious Delta variant, there has been an increase in cases and hospitalizations in kids. Unvaccinated children also can spread COVID-19 to others.

If my child already had COVID-19, should they still be vaccinated?

Children should be vaccinated regardless of whether they already had COVID-19. Research has not yet shown how long they are protected from getting COVID-19 again after they recover and immunizations have been shown to provide increased immunity from COVID-19 infection even better than an actual COVID infection.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine alter my child's DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines will not change or interact with your child's DNA in any way. They deliver instructions to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause fertility issues?

There is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of COVID-19 vaccines.



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Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



LaTima Jones
Principal

LaTima Jones is beginning her fourth year as principal of Bud Carson Middle School. She was recognized as the Los Angeles Football Club's first Community MVP for her work with the LAFC and Chevron. She served five years as the principal of Kornblum Elementary School. Under her leadership, Kornblum received the prestigious honor of being named a Gold Ribbon School for parent involvement and The Title I Academic Achievement Award by the State of California in 2016. She led Kornblum School in integrating STEM into the curriculum through Project Lead the Way. She continues to support the excellent PLTW program at Bud Carson.

She has been an employee of the Hawthorne School District since 1997 as an elementary teacher, literacy coach and assistant principal at the elementary and middle school levels.

Ms. Jones graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1995 with a degree in psychology. She earned her teaching credential through Chapman University and attended Pepperdine University to complete her master's degree.

Ms. Jones was a student-athlete throughout her years at USC earning the Scholar Athlete Award of Honor for Academic Excellence, as receiving a solid education was her primary goal. She earned All-American honors in track and field, was a Pac-10 Conference champion and qualified for the 1996 Olympic Trials. She also became a member of Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority Inc., a community service organization. She uses these experiences to connect with students and their families. She stresses that education is the foundation on which they will build all their future successes.

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • euc-hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Mike Goldstein
Principal

Mike Goldstein is beginning his 23rd year in the Hawthorne School District. He grew up in Santa Cruz California and attended college at the University of Redlands, where he played football and earned a BA in History. After graduating in 1997, he received his teaching credential and MA in Cross Cultural Teaching from National University. In 1999 Mr. Goldstein was hired by the Hawthorne School District. He worked at Hawthorne Middle School for 7 years as an 8th grade Language Arts/ Social Studies and Special Projects teacher. During that time he enrolled in the Educational

Administrative Leadership program at California State University Northridge, and graduated with an MA in Educational Administration in 2006. Prior to becoming principal at Eucalyptus, Mr. Goldstein served as Assistant Principal at HMS (2006-2008) and Eucalyptus (2009) and Principal at York Elementary School from 2009-2013. Mr. Goldstein lives in Redondo Beach with his wife Cynthia and two daughters; Cyndi (age 16) and Amanda (age 15). When he's not at work, Mr. Goldstein enjoys traveling with his family. He is proud to begin his 9th year as the principal at Eucalyptus, and loves the fact that several of his former Hawthorne Middle School students now have children attending Eucalyptus. Go Koalas!

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones
Principal

Akila Jones has been with the Hawthorne School District since October 2000. Her first teaching position was first grade at Eucalyptus Elementary. She later moved to Hawthorne Middle School where she has held three positions: Special Projects teacher (2006), Assistant Principal (2014) and currently as Principal. This is the start of her 4th year as principal of Hawthorne Middle School.

Principal Jones and her staff are excited about beginning a new school year! It is important to Ms. Jones that everyone who steps through the doors of HMS- students, parents, guardians, teachers, and staff- are excited to be at school. This attitude enables HMS to meet

the challenges of academic excellence in a positive and nurturing way. Ms. Jones and her staff will work hard to continue building strong relationships with parents, students and community partners while focusing on social-emotional learning, the use of data to drive instruction, and consistent implementation of a rigorous and relevant curriculum, to ensure every student meets their goals and has a successful school year. Students can look forward to academic experiences that will help them make real-world connections, in an environment that is safe, caring, and supportive.

For fun, Ms. Jones enjoys spending time with her family and two dogs, traveling, camping and visiting national parks. Ms. Jones is a lifelong learner who enjoys traveling and learning about the world through experiences.

Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620 • www.hawthornemsa.org



Esau Berumen
Principal

Principal Esau Berumen has been member of the Hawthorne School District family since 1997. He began his career as a long term substitute teacher at York Elementary School. After one month as a substitute teacher, he became the 7th Grade Life Science teacher at Hawthorne Intermediate School, which is now known as Hawthorne Middle School.

In 2003, Mr. Berumen applied for and became the first Biology teacher at the soon to be open Hawthorne Math & Science Academy, HMSA. He is one of the six HMSA founding teachers. As the school grew, he became the Science Department Chair and the school's College Prep Advisor. During his last year of teaching Biology at HMSA, he received the school's Teacher of the Year award. In 2007, Mr. Berumen became the assistant principal of HMSA, and in 2010 he became HMSA's third principal. In 2016, Mr. Berumen was awarded the Hawthorne School District's Roger G. Bly Leadership

Award. During his tenure, HMSA has been awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award twice, 2010 and 2016.

Mr. Berumen earned his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Occidental College. He earned both his teaching credential and his first Master's degree in Cross Cultural Education from National University. In 2004, he went back to school to earn both his administrative credential and second Master's degree in Educational Leadership from California State University Northridge. In 2012, Occidental College's Alumni Association awarded him the Young Alumni Seal Award. Recently, Occidental College's Alumni Association awarded Mr. Berumen the 2017 Alumni Seal Award for Professional Achievement.

Mr. Berumen has been married for 19 years and is father to three children. In his free time, he enjoys being with his family and watching an occasional game of rugby. This past summer he started to read Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir and The Bomber Mafia by Malcolm Gladwell, he is hoping to finish one the two books soon.

Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



Josh Godin
Principal

Josh Godin has been in the Hawthorne School District for 19 years. He started as a 5th grade teacher at Kornblum. He then left to teach 1st grade in New Mexico for one year, but he came back the next year to Jefferson Elementary. Mr. Godin taught a 1st and 2nd grade combination class, 3rd grade, and 4th grade while at Jefferson. He left Jefferson to become the Special Projects

Teacher at Prairie Vista Middle School for 1 1/2 years. Mr. Godin was an Assistant Principal at Bud Carson Middle School for four years. This will be Mr. Godin's fifth year as Principal at Jefferson!

Mr. Godin is excited for his fifth year at Jefferson and ready for another great year! He is eager to work with the outstanding staff at Jefferson and looks forward to a fun filled year with many opportunities for parents to see why Jefferson is a Distinguished School. He knows the students will grow academically and socially throughout the year, especially since they have been out of traditional in person school for a long time.

For fun Mr. Godin likes to do many outdoor sports, such as surfing, basketball, and running with his two dogs on the beach, Morgan, 6 1/2 and Cali, 5 1/2 years old. Mr. Godin grew up in Oregon and graduated from Portland State University. In college he played football and ran track. Mr. Godin also loves to travel with his wife of 14 years.

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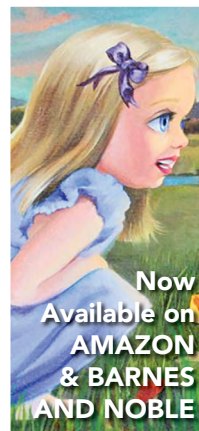
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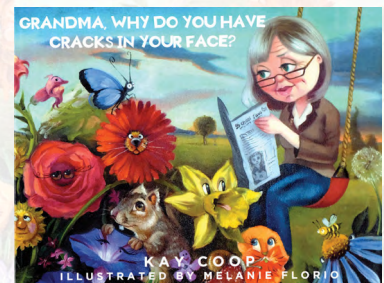
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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?



By Kay Coop | Illustrated by Melanie Florio

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(September 20 through November 10)

Option B: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4pm - 5:30pm
(September 21 through November 11)

Option C: Fridays 4pm - 5:30pm & Saturdays 11am - 12:30pm
(September 24 through November 13)

Option D: Saturdays only: 9am - 10:30am or 11am - 12:30pm
(September 25 through November 13)



GIRLS 14 & UNDER SEPTEMBER SUNDAY CLINICS

3pm to 5pm

GIRLS 14 & UNDER PRE-TRYOUT CLINICS

Thursday, September 30 • 5pm to 7pm

Friday, October 1 • 5pm to 7pm

GIRLS 14 & UNDER TRYOUTS

Saturday, October 2

10am- 12pm: Girls 12 & Under

2pm - 4pm: Girls 13 & 14

Sunday, October 3

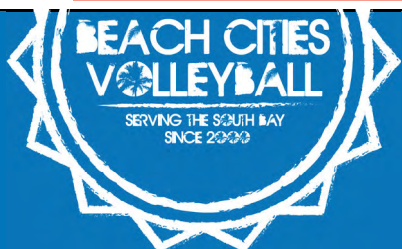
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Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



Marisa Stewart
Principal

Marisa Stewart is proud to be the Principal of Kornblum School. Mrs Stewart was born and raised in the Southbay area and has spent her entire career in education serving the families of the Hawthorne School District for the past 25 years.

Mrs. Stewart has worked in the Hawthorne School District since 1996 where she worked as an instructional aide at Zela Davis School. She became a bilingual teacher at Zela Davis and then later moved to Ramona School at the inception of the Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Program. She taught at Ramona School for several years until moving to the district office as the first district English Learner Specialist and earning district

teacher of the year. Once completing the certificate for administration, Mrs. Stewart worked at Hawthorne Middle School, Eucalyptus School and most recently Prairie Vista South as assistant principal. She received her bachelor's degree from California State University Long Beach. She completed her teaching credential program at Chapman University in Fullerton and later her Master's Degree and Administrative credential through California State University Dominguez Hills.

Mrs. Stewart is thrilled for her 4th year of being a Kornblum Cardinal and working with the fantastic students, staff and families at Kornblum. We have many wonderful plans to continue our academic success and build up the Kornblum Community. That is why the school slogan is "Excellence is the Standard".

Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Wendy Ostensen is excited to be the principal of Prairie Vista Middle School, Home of the Panthers. She has been in the field of education for 30 years. During this time she has been a science teacher, activity director, middle school site administrator, and elementary school site administrator. She is proud to have worked in the Hawthorne School District for her entire educational career, and she is an honored recipient of HSD Leadership

Awards in 2007 and 2018. Ms. Ostensen earned her Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from California State University, Long Beach and her Master's Degree/ Administrative Credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Ms. Ostensen grew up in southern California and resides in Hawthorne, "The City of Good Neighbors." Her two sons are former HSD students, so she also approaches the job from a Hawthorne parent's point of view. She is excited to continue collaboration with the dedicated PVMS staff to continue the focus on academic standards in order to prepare students for success in college and career readiness. Ms. Ostensen is also looking forward to working with PVMS' students and parents in order to improve and enrich student achievement. Ms. Ostensen embraces the school's fine arts academy which showcases students' wonderful talents and performances in music, dance, art, and theatre.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



Dr. Patricia Ray
Principal

Patricia Ray grew up in Anaheim, California but began her teaching career in the Bronx, New York. She returned to California and joined the Hawthorne School District family in 1999. She has taught at Washington and Kornblum Elementary Schools and also at Bud Carson Middle School. Dr. Ray then served as the literacy coach at Jefferson Elementary school for several years before becoming an administrator. Dr. Ray

was the assistant principal at Zela Davis Elementary School and Prairie Vista Middle School before being promoted to principal of Prairie Vista Middle School. This will be her fifth year serving the Ramona families as their principal.

Dr. Ray graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in political science and sociology, earned her teaching credential and master's degree in elementary education from Hunter College in New York City, and attended Pepperdine University to complete a master's degree in administration. Most recently Dr. Ray graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a doctoral degree in educational leadership for social justice.

Dr. Ray enjoys going for bike rides on the weekends and loves to travel and learn new things. This summer she hiked in the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Please ask her about her trip.

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



Maritza Cruz-Brown
Principal

Mrs. Cruz-Brown has been with the Hawthorne School District since 1998. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1998 with a degree in sociology and earned her teaching credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills in 2003. In 2004, she received her master's degree in administration from Pepperdine University.

Mrs. Cruz-Brown began her teaching career at Eucalyptus School, where she taught second and fifth grades. After nine years as a "koala-ty" educator, she became a hawk at Hawthorne Middle School, where she taught sixth grade math and

science and played an integral part in the expansion of the Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Academy (TWBI). In 2012 she became the math coach for Washington and Kornblum Elementary Schools. After two years of coaching, she served as the assistant principal at Zela Davis Elementary School where she helped implement the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. She is very enthusiastic to start her seventh year as the principal of Washington Elementary School.

Mrs. Cruz-Brown grew up in Southern California and now resides in Lakewood, California with her family. They have always encouraged her to grow professionally and try new things. Mrs. Cruz-Brown enjoys traveling and making memories with her family.

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



John Paterson
Principal

John Paterson is honored to be the new principal of York Elementary School. Mr. Paterson began his career with the Hawthorne School District 17 years ago, as a 4th grade teacher at Zela Davis. In 2012 he became a teacher on special assignment, for three years, as District Math Coach. Mr. Paterson then served as assistant principal for 7 years at several schools in Hawthorne (PV South, Zela Davis and

Prairie Vista). He earned his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University Dominguez Hills, with an emphasis in mathematics. He also holds a M.A. degree, in the field of Educational Technology, from Pepperdine University. As an administrator, Mr. Paterson promotes the success of all students by maintaining a safe learning environment, where they can maximize their potential as members in a community of lifelong learners and strive to positively contribute to our advancing global society.

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



Matt Rohrer
Principal

Matt Rohrer is excited for another year as Principal of Zela Davis Elementary! Mr. Rohrer has worked for the Hawthorne School District for 25 years. He attended the University of Southern California for undergraduate studies and obtained Master's Degrees from National University and the University of Southern California. He started working for the district as Assistant Director of the Outdoor Education Program and then as a 6th Grade teacher at York Elementary.

Mr. Rohrer moved to Prairie Vista Middle School and taught 6th Grade for ten years before becoming a Special Projects teacher. Mr. Rohrer has also worked as a Dean of Students and an Assistant Principal for the Hawthorne School District.

Mr. Rohrer is excited to work with the wonderful students, staff, and families at Zela Davis Elementary! He is committed to maintaining and expanding Zela Davis' proud reputation as a STEM and Project Lead The Way school. Additionally, Zela Davis is proud to partner with SpaceX and United States Space Force to promote bonds with the local community and create unique STEM opportunities for our students.

Mr. Rohrer lives locally in the South Bay area. He has two sons, a daughter, a puggle, and a cat. He enjoys reading books, spending time with his family, and being outdoors. Mr. Rohrer can be found camping in the mountains, riding ATVs in the desert, or at the beach in his free time.



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