



Honoring Our Own



OUSD Employee Recognition Ceremony 2022



Greetings and Congratulations to our Award Winners!

Good evening and thank you for joining us as we celebrate the outstanding work done by our colleagues, year in and year out. Honoring Our Own is always one of my favorite events because we get to focus entirely on our most important resource, our people. Throughout the past year, the staff members we are celebrating have shown exemplary dedication to ensuring that students

across Oakland Unified School District receive an excellent education and that their fellow employees have all that they need. Each award recipient you will meet tonight represents all of our staff in a remarkable way. Their work is deeply rooted in our shared values and the belief that every child in Oakland deserves to be well-prepared for college, career and community success.

I want to say thank you to all of our employees for the dedication and passion they bring to work every day across the District. The academic and social/emotional support at our schools remains steadfast thanks to the educators, leaders and support staff who ensure not only a safe and nurturing environment, but provide students with the right blend of resources each one needs to excel.

This is our first employee recognition ceremony since the pandemic disrupted our District in unprecedented ways. The resolve of our honorees, in spite of these indiscriminate challenges, is what makes OUSD special. The seen and unseen stories of love and care are what continue to keep our community thriving.

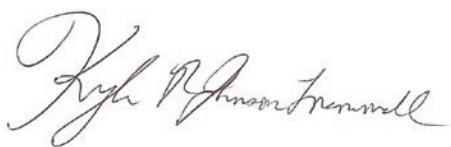
I know we are a stronger District with greater resolve to improve the educational outcomes of all students in Oakland. As a former OUSD Teacher and Principal, and as a mother of two OUSD Students, I see what you do every day to support our young people, and I deeply appreciate it. My plan is to support you in every way I can, and to attract and retain more of the best people to help us on this critical mission.

Our honorees tonight enrich our school communities in exceptional ways with their expertise, attention to detail, and commitment to our District's core values, especially putting Students First. We all know that this work is not easy, but it is entirely worth it. And I thank each of our honorees for doing all that they do with love, grace, and joy. You show all of us how to overcome obstacles, how to succeed, and how to lead.

This is the 14th Annual Honoring Our Own, and each year I am humbled by the remarkable stories of our staff. I am excited to learn more about our honorees who were all chosen by their peers, the people who see their value every day. That is perhaps the best thing about these awards: they come from the people who know the honorees' dedication and hard work as well as anyone. It is high praise to be honored by one's colleagues. I applaud all of you for being recognized.

Together, let's congratulate our honorees and thank them for everything they do in support of the young people of Oakland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dr. Johnson-Trammell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Johnson-Trammell

Superintendent

Oakland Unified School District



Students First

We support students by providing multiple learning opportunities to ensure students feel respected and heard.

Excellence

We hold ourselves to uncompromising standards to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

Equality

We provide everyone access to what they need to be successful.

Integrity

We are honest, trustworthy and accountable.

Cultural Responsiveness

We resist assumptions and biases and see the gift of every student and adult.

Joy

We seek and celebrate moments of laughter and wonder and see the gift of every student and adult.

Board of Education Directors

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Gary Yee

District 4 Director

Board Vice President

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District 1 Director

Board of Directors

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District 3

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District 7

Student Board of Directors

Natalie Gallegos Chavez

Samantha Pal

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Honoring Our Own

OUSD Employee Recognition Ceremony Wednesday, May 4, 2022

PROGRAM

RECEPTION

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Entertainment

Skyline High School Jazz Band
Youth Speaks

AWARDS CEREMONY

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Welcome and Acknowledgments

Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer

Opening Remarks

Dr. Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District

Remarks from the Oakland School Board

Dr. Gary Yee, Board President - District 4
Benjamin "Sam" Davis, Vice President - District 1
Mike Hutchinson, District 5
Clifford Thompson, District 7

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Leadership Service Award	.5
Teaching Excellence	.6
Classified School Employees of the Year 2020–2022	.12
Teachers of the Year 2020–2023	.18
i am OUSD Excellence Award	.20
Superintendent's Excellence Award	.21



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students



Honoring Our Own

OUSD Employee Recognition Awardees 2022



LEADERSHIP SERVICE AWARDS

School leadership is difficult work, and those who excel at this work seamlessly and simultaneously support the success and growth of Teachers, Students, Colleagues, Schools and the District at-large. Awardees in this category are models of the values, skills, development, and practice of Oakland school leadership.



Carin Geathers

Principal

Burckhalter Elementary School

"An extraordinary leader and a true gift to the OUSD community, Carin is a lifelong learner, steering her team with a strong focus on high quality teaching and learning. Her commitment to students and families is evident; she leads with joy and integrity. She is an inspirational mentor to many, a leader among leaders, a gem of a human being, and an exceptional OUSD leader!"



Michael Scott

Director, Comprehensive Community High Schools

Castlesmont High School

"You cannot have an interaction with Michael without feeling positive or touched by his infectious energy. After three decades, he is still a reflective, lifelong learner, which makes him a great leader. Michael invests in his people. He assembles teams of people around him who are capable and mentors them to their highest potential."



TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Teaching Excellence Awards recognize the combination of a teacher's skill and passion, dedication, and self-reflection of practice that make for a rich and engaging learning environment for Students.



Christina Anderson

4th Grade Special Education Teacher

Fruitvale Elementary School

"Because she takes the time to find at least one strategy that works for each student behaviorally, students feel cared for, responded to, and safe. This is one of the many ways that Christina sets up an environment where students can take risks emotionally and academically."



Christie Blakley

7th-8th Grade History Teacher

West Oakland Middle School

"Christie does not shy away from teaching 'hard history' and is dedicated to teaching students the untold stories from history, particularly about marginalized and underrepresented groups. Students find this history exciting, and I have heard them debating and discussing the finer points of a topic outside of class."



David Byrd

9th-12th Grade Music Teacher

Oakland High School

"Mr. Byrd has a calling in life, teaching music. He teaches his students to strive for excellence as part of their musical groups, as individual musicians, scholars, individuals and as members of their communities. He teaches them to love their instruments, the music they play, and to respect each other."

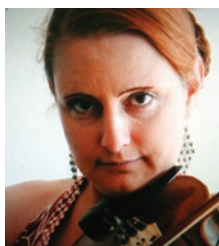


Stacy Fat

2nd Grade Teacher

Lincoln Elementary

"Stacy's unwavering love and positivity for her students left a positive imprint of her in my mind. She was always the go-to person when someone wanted to observe a lesson or needed a thought partner on how to push students to the next level."



Stephanie Holmes

6th-8th Grade Music Teacher

Edna Brewer Middle School

"Ms. Holmes is very adept at working with all grade levels. She knows that helping a 11-year-old is very different than helping a 13-year-old. She can tweak the most complex passage in an advanced musical score and explain to a beginning student how to hold the bow with the correct finger position."



Nini Humphrey

Preschool Teacher

United Nation Child Development Center

"While Nini has a great deal to share, she is intentional about following the lead of students, valuing the knowledge and experiences students and their families contribute to the learning environment. Her commitment to being a lifelong learner who seeks to learn more about all members of the classroom community serves to create an optimal learning environment."



Cory Jong

6th Grade Humanities Teacher

Urban Promise Academy

"Cory's 'Warriors for Justice' students have been deeply involved in climate justice advocacy and leadership, organizing other students to participate in climate strikes, designing and making murals and redesigning our current 6th grade garden space. They have been featured in articles, books, and even a TED Talk."



Peatro Knight

8th Grade Math Teacher

Madison Park Academy-Upper Campus

"Having Mr. Knight as my teacher seven years ago when I was in just the sixth grade, made school more exciting than it was. Being a student who always struggled in math, I never liked the subject, whatsoever. He broke problems down in ways I could understand. For the first and only time, I looked forward to going to math class, only because Mr. Knight made it interesting."



Jana Maiuri

6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

Edna Brewer Middle School

"For my part, Jana has been a beacon ever since my Cal Shakes debut production of 'Othello'—when she openly (and with incredible grace) wrestled with the issues of xenophobia and misogyny and race that we worked to highlight. Witnessing her navigate these themes with her students was a deep-felt lesson in empathy and care and courage."



Noah Mendel

3rd Grade Teacher

Greenleaf Elementary School

"When entering Mr. Mendel's class on any given morning, you will find his class in a circle, taking part in a community meeting. Students will be working in pairs or partnerships, grappling with a piece of text or building on each other's ideas. That students support each other's wellbeing in the classroom as well as the learning, is palpable."



Monica Novak

1st-2nd Grade Special Education Teacher

Oakland Academy of Knowledge (OAK)

"Monica, in particular, is an expert and leader in the area of inclusion. She is a true example of someone that believes wholeheartedly in educating students in the least restrictive environment alongside their same-aged peers."



Emily Novick

9th-12th Grade Science Teacher

Coliseum College Prep Academy

"Ms. Novick leads the most challenging and time-consuming hiking excursions into (usually) snow-covered Yosemite and still gets a huge turnout. If just any teacher tried to pull this off, students wouldn't go! This is a testament to how much Ms. Novick's students trust and enjoy learning with her."



Samuel Petty

5th Grade Math Teacher

East Oakland Pride Elementary School

"It is amazing to enter his classroom. His students are engaged and excited. He has found ways to get them involved in the academic discussion which allows them to explain their thinking and how they came up with the answers. His classroom is a safe place and students know that even if their idea is not the same as his it will be valued."

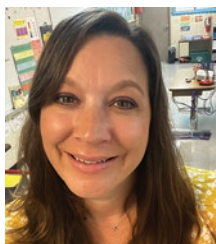


Pablo Pitcher deProto

2nd Grade Bilingual English Language Arts Teacher

Lockwood STEAM Academy

"In addition to being an excellent instructor, over the past few years I began noticing the leadership mantle that Pablo wears as naturally as his tattoos. His teaching and teacher-leadership is built on creativity, imagination, boldness, ingenuity, and courage to fight against oppressive systems by creating a safe and effective place for children in his classroom."



Miranda Romo

4th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

Chabot Elementary School

"I feel like throughout life we cross paths with many people few that leave footprints in your heart that you can never forget. For me it was my third-grade teacher. She gave me the building blocks to get by elementary school in a new country and eventually helped me get through college. When I needed her the most she was always there."



Leslie Rychel-Wickeraad

4th Grade Teacher

Chabot Elementary School

"She sets the bar very high and then provides the scaffolds her students need to reach that bar, creating long term learning projects which require the type of research, evidence, creativity, rigor and planning that many students do not experience until high school. She guides her fourth graders through each stage so that they master not only the content, but also the process of research."



Katherine Spees

5th Grade Science Teacher

Crocker Highlands Elementary School

"Ms. Spees teaches the power of a growth mindset and the importance of setting personal goals rather than comparing oneself to others. All of her students lead their own parent teacher conferences using a planning template that guides them to reflect on their progress. She constantly reminds them of the good each has within them."



Shalonda Tillman

2nd Grade Teacher

Madison Park Academy-Lower Campus

"All across Oakland literacy data is being celebrated. If you disaggregate that data for the last four years you will see Shalonda Tillman's name at the top. Her relentless, unapologetic focus on learning is why her students, even during a pandemic, made unprecedented gains. The families and students she serves will tell you, there is no teacher going above and beyond like Ms. Tillman."



Natalie Tran

Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Teacher

Montclair Elementary School

"Natalie gets to know every student in her class as a whole person. She sees exactly what each child brings to the classroom community, and her whole teaching approach involves finding and using children's unique strengths to help them overcome their struggles and develop a positive student identity. She has strong academic expectations and shows her students she believes they can succeed."



Courtney Woolverton

Pre-K Special Education Teacher

Burbank Child Development Center

"Courtney thinks deeply about all her students, always searching for new ways of supporting them in their growth. She uses multiple strategies and implements a highly modified curriculum, with an individualized daily routine to support students' individual needs. She is a teacher who does not give up until she finds something that works for a child."



Stephen Wright

Computer Science Teacher

Oakland Technical High School

"He believes all students are capable of learning and managing their learning. He built a web-based application where students can request help and other students can offer help. All of his teaching is about students discovering how to be self-directed learners."





CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This award category recognizes exemplary classified school employees who symbolize the profession's contributions and commitment to quality education. OUSD's Classified School Employees of the Year are selected through careful consideration based on rigorous standards from the State of California. They take into consideration nominees' work performance, school community involvement, leadership and commitment, and are considered at the county and state levels for further recognition. Eight of OUSD's Classified School Employees of the Year are also Alameda County Awardees skills and passion, dedication, and self-reflection of practice that make for a rich and engaging learning environment for Students.



Dan Augustine 2021

Senior Network Engineer

Technology Services

"Dan realized at the start of the pandemic that board meetings over Zoom would be important. He designed our Zoom board meetings and published a guide that was distributed across California for other districts to follow. Our Legal Counsel and Board Members met with Dan to gain needed clarity. Then he ran months of the early meetings until everyone was comfortable."



Enrico Bañuelos 2022

Alarm Technician

Building and Grounds Department

"Without him, I don't know what the school district would do. While we encourage him to take a vacation, he knows if he does that it will put our buildings in an unsafe situation which could then spiral out of control. He holds sacred to his commitment and his values. I commend him; I've never seen anyone like him, ever."



Tanya Beck 2021

Para-Educator

Coliseum College Prep Academy

"Ms. Tanya believes our kids need to be included in every aspect of what it is to be a student, including field trips and community involvement. She takes initiative to ensure it happens. She knows each student and how to work best with them. Tanya is a staunch advocate for mod/severe students to be full community participants."



Mario Bernardo 2022

Head Custodian I

New Highland Academy

"Mario not only works his regular shift, but he will also cover at other school sites almost every day either before or after his shift. If a principal notifies me of an emergency on the weekend at their school, I'm able to call him. He will visit any school at any time to ensure that the site has custodial coverage."



Tanya Chatman 2020

Custodian

Melrose Leadership Academy

"Ms. Tanya glows on the inside and it spreads out. Her positive energy is not just for her, but it spreads all throughout the school and impacts everyone who walks through the door. She willingly supports others and always works with our staff with issues that arise to help in any way she can."



Craig Colbert 2022

Community Assistant

Grass Valley Elementary School

"He oversees African American Male Achievement with 4th and 5th grade boys. During a recent fight that occurred on campus, Coach supported the boys in having a restorative conversation where they were able to really understand the gravity of the situation as well as future needed actions. He builds authentic relationships with students where they know they can trust him."



Gregory Houchins 2021

Custodian

LaEscuelita Complex

"La Escuelita includes four schools in one (as well as KDOL), and Greg supports all four school principals, willingly taking on whatever is requested. He always goes voluntarily and with a great spirit about him. Anyone who knows him agrees he is very charismatic and has great energy. He's always customer-service ready; we never have to ask him twice."



Solomon Hutalla 2021

Truck Driver I

Warehouse & Distribution

"We're kind of like ninjas, what folks need just shows up and everyone's amazed at how it got there so fast! It's because of drivers like Solomon. He just makes it happen. He is enthusiastic and reliable, whether he is taking meals to the food distribution sites, or now, to student home locations; his reliability is unparalleled."



Katie Lew 2022

Instructional Aide CDC, Bilingual

Laurel Child Development Center

"Ms. Lew's role was the weather lady. It was just the cutest expression of who she is. She decorated her house to be a weather station, flipping through different weather elements. She had rain clouds and the weather map; she was so into making that weather experience. She made learning fun and illustrative to our little pre-school students!"



Munera Mohsin 2021

District Family Engagement Specialist

Office of Equity

"The enrollment process can be challenging for non-English speakers; Munera is a vital connection between Oakland's growing Yemeni community and the Student Welcome Center. With her support, Yemeni students have enrolled in OUSD schools quickly and seamlessly. She leads our "Jewels of Yemen" group for Yemeni girls. Our students genuinely respect her as their role model."



Clarence Mure 2022

Noon Supervisor

New Highland Academy

"He is known to relate effectively to the students who have behavior challenges. Staff say they can always count on Coach Clarence. He facilitates students to communicate and solve conflicts on their own, encourages them to do well academically and socially, and checks in with each one. He knows the name of every student, which is over five hundred."



Michelle Ortiz 2021

Administrative Assistant I, Bilingual

Garfield Elementary School

(now Transportation Specialist, Transportation Services)

"Ms. Ortiz keeps the office warm and welcoming; she is most often the person families see when they enter the school. She has a unique way of communicating with all families (we have students from all over the world speaking over 18 languages). She has amazing empathy and a strong ability to support and deescalate any stressful situation."



Rodolfo Perez 2020

Outreach Consultant

Greenleaf Elementary School

"I have witnessed countless times our parents put their trust in Rodolfo and relied on him for advice, resources, follow up support, teacher communication, and numerous other needs. Regardless of race or ethnicity, all families know they can reach out to him for support, whether they have a school concern or a need at home."



Melvin Phillips 2021

School Security Officer II

(now Culture & Climate Ambassador)

Fremont High

"Students feel fully seen by Officer Phillips, which is commendable for someone who has to tell students daily they can't leave school to go to lunch! Student well-being is his priority. He makes sure they feel good and happy, but also that they're in class and learning. They know he cares about them. He's part of everyone's family at Fremont."



Nakheu Saephanh 2021

Food Service Manager VI

Central Kitchen

"Nakheu is pretty much the calm during the storm no matter what obstacles come her way, she knocks them down. During COVID she managed way over thirty people with thirty personalities and ethnic backgrounds, and she was able to unite everyone. If I had a nickname for her, it would be something like Resilience, Reliable, or Humble."



Jacqueline Simon 2020

School Security Officer

(now Culture & Climate Ambassador)

Community Schools & Student Services

"When it comes to high skills and knowledge, one of the most notable is her ability to deescalate students. She can take a student at level 10 down to having a calm conversation in nothing flat. Jackie is a true problem solver; our staff always wants her to be part of the solution with family interactions."



Diana So 2020

Para-Educator

Chabot Elementary School

"Her skillset and knowledge of classroom strategies is unparalleled. On the fly, she is able to make essential student resources. She is so interested in how students learn and in creating tailored support systems in the classroom. Ms. So really understands how to support students to build independence in social, behavioral, and academic areas."



Robert Strong, Jr. 2021

Lead Painter

(now Manager, Buildings & Grounds)

Buildings & Grounds

"Robert not only demonstrated excellence as Lead Painter, but he also managed the roofers while their manager was out on leave. When COVID started and everyone else was at home, he remained in the field and was still willing to come in and take care of issues. He continued to handle and juggle both of these departments."



Miaona Tan 2022

Food Service Assistant I

Oakland High

"Ms. Tan has been a godsend. At the beginning of the school year, we had people continuously calling in sick. Although she is assigned at Oakland High, because of her skillset and the fact that she is so open and has been so willing to go to any site that we needed her to go, she has saved the day, multiple times."



William Taylor, Jr. 2020

**Truck Driver 1, Transportation Services
(now Supervisor, Central Kitchen)**

Central Kitchen

"Anything we ask of William, his response is always, 'of course.' His acts of service above and beyond the call of duty are many. Any emergency delivery that needs to happen, he's the one we go to. If another person's truck breaks down, he's the one who goes to rescue them. The level of his commitment is simply remarkable."

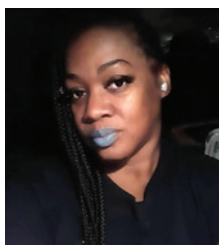


Asha Washington 2022

Attendance Specialist

Peralta Elementary School

"Having been at Peralta for many years, Asha has institutional memory of crucial day-to-day tasks. She has helped train new staff and supported their learning. In some cases, she has shared the workload. There have been days when our lunch person was unexpectedly absent, and she helped heat and distribute lunches. Asha always goes above and beyond."



Lawana Wyatt 2020

Food Service Manager III

(now Central Kitchen Manager 1)

Central Kitchen

"Lawana always wants everything presented just right. Our team does the everyday meals for fifteen schools, spanning from CDCs through high school. We have an assembly line, and what we prepare we send out. If it's not right, she'll request we do it over, because how the food is that reaches our students and staff really matters."



Simñon-Pedro Zimmerman 2022

Network Infrastructure Specialist

Technical Services

"Simñon is currently our one and only Network Specialist, which means he goes out to all school sites and repairs network issues, replaces equipment, and resolves Wi-Fi problems. He has a hard job, as this is normally a function that requires two people, but he does it all singularly, without complaint and with so much grace and kindness."



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

OUSD Teachers of the Year are selected through a rigorous process that includes classroom observations, feedback regarding their teaching practice, and self-reflection on their teaching philosophy and pedagogical practice. OUSD Teachers of the Year are considered at the county and state levels for further recognition, and we are proud to celebrate these Teachers for their accomplishments and contributions to Oakland's youth.



Michelle Chu 2022-2023

Transitional Kindergarten

Lockwood STEAM Elementary School

"I got to see firsthand all the dedication, passion, hard work, collegiality, and love for the community she served. Every minute is sacred and never wasted. Scholars feel safe, seen, and valued. They thrive in the learning environment she cultivates, through clear expectations, strong routines and procedures, with words spoken in kindness and dignity."



Phoebe Diamond 2020-2021

3rd Grade Teacher

Chabot Elementary

"She has an unshakable belief that every child is capable of mastering the standards. Her third-grade classroom is a place of deep learning and critical thinking. The academic discussions and vocabulary are truly remarkable."



Jessica Jung 2021-2022

3rd Grade Teacher

Bridges Academy

"Last spring Jessica spearheaded a GoFundMe to address the urgent state of crisis many of our students' families were suddenly faced with. Through our efforts and Jessica's organizing, we were able to raise over \$150,000, and Jessica was instrumental in coordinating the direct economic relief for hundreds of families at the school."



Ji-Yun Kim 2020-2021

**9th Grade Biology, 11th Grade Physiology, and AP Biology Teacher
Fremont High School**

"Ji-Yun is a force when creating classroom culture. Her understanding of, and insight regarding instruction and pedagogy, far exceeds a content-area lens as she has led and coached teams of teachers across a range of disciplines and experience."



Shartresa Nixon 2022-2023

**6th-8th Reading Intervention/Literacy Teacher
United for Success Middle School**

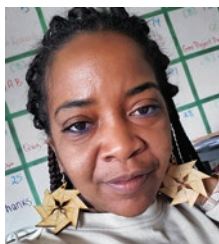
"Ms. Nixon is committed to the well-rounded development of students and has brought many programs such as AVID as well as co-founding the Black Student Union to create both intellectually rigorous and emotionally safe spaces for the students. She takes a warm demander and culturally responsive stance with not only her students, but all of the students on campus."



Chantel Parnell 2021-2022

**6-8th Computer Science Teacher
Bret Harte Middle School**

"She lets them know she isn't the only one with knowledge in the room. In a field that is currently dominated by white men, Ms. Parnell is showing those often left out of the tech industry, girls and BIPOC students, that they can and will succeed."



Floresa Vaughn 2022-2023

**Math Teacher
McClymonds High School**

"The first couple of months I entered the school, Ms. Vaughn had already started to take me into the direction of more AP classes such as AP statistics. She was sure that I could do it and gave me the resources and optimism I needed to get through the class. I've had people who have believed in me but none quite like Ms. Vaughn."



i am OUSD

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Those receiving this award embody and exemplify the core values of the Oakland Unified School District.



Gabriel Kindred

Special Education Teacher

Edna Brewer Middle School

"Gabriel Kindred supported Career & College Services before transitioning to teaching through the Classified-to-Teacher Pathway. Having earned his preliminary credential and Master's Degree, he hopes to grow into a school leader. He currently serves as mentor in the Classified-to-Teacher pathway, supporting others on their pathways to teaching."



Carlos Sturla

Painter

Buildings & Grounds

"Recently, on what turned out to be an extremely traumatic day, two Gardeners (Tom O'Neill and Mable Paige) from Buildings & Grounds were struck by cars on the way to work. Carlos stopped his car and blocked High Street to prevent further danger to the injured staff. He exemplifies the OUSD values of Excellence and Integrity."



Darielle Vigay

Social Science Teacher

Life Academy

"Darielle Vigay is a graduate of the After-School-to-Educator Pathway, having served as an after-school program leader before transitioning into a Social Science teacher. She is an OUSD alum, and worked as a teacher for many years at Elmhurst United before making her transition into school site leadership at Life Academy."



SUPERINTENDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

As Superintendent, Dr. Johnson-Trammell selects her recognition awards based on individuals who exemplify the best in what we seek from our employees—that is, individuals willing to take risks, innovate and collaborate with fellow employees to further the District's mission.



Mara Larsen-Fleming

Director Health & Wellness

Community Schools & Student Services

"Mara stepped up to organize and manage a very complex and effective contact tracing system to keep our students, families and staff safe, and to maximize student learning. She is our District's wellness champion and is as passionate about staff wellness as she is for student health and well-being. It's impossible to work alongside Mara and not be inspired to also bring such a high level of care, thoughtfulness, collaboration, and support in how we serve students, families, schools and community."



Sailaja Suresh

Senior Director, Strategic Projects

Office of the Chief of Staff

"As a direct result of Sailaja's leadership, know-how, perseverance and brilliance, OUSD's COVID pandemic response has been second-to-none. Helping lead OUSD toward the best approaches and solutions, she has spearheaded communications and partnered across city and county resources to be certain we were always at the forefront in our response. She has overseen budget development, ParentSquare, and critical project management approaches helping us become a more effective and responsive organization. Sailaja leads with impeccable integrity, grace and always puts students first."

This evening's entertainment is provided by the Skyline High School Jazz Band *and* Youth Speaks

Skyline High School Jazz Band



Known for its long history of excellence, the Skyline Jazz Band has performed locally at venues such as Yoshi's (Jazz Club) and the Dimond neighborhood's Oktoberfest. The band also competes against other jazz ensembles at festivals near and far, such as the El Cerrito Jazz Festival and the Reno Jazz Festival. Led by band director and educator, Adam Green, the brass -wind percussion student ensemble is dedicated to studying, rehearsing, and performing the wide expanse of jazz music. Throughout their tenure with the band, students musically explore the rich history of jazz traditions along with current and emerging styles, to produce a deep knowledge of the genre and a diverse repertoire.

Student performers tonight include:

Peter Bank, Keith Barnes, Daniel Buol, Owen Katz, and Dominic Macmillan

YOUTH SPEAKS

Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is a leading presenter of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs. Trailblazers of local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, and more, Youth Speaks offers a comprehensive slate of literary arts education programs and provides numerous opportunities for youth to be published and heard. Youth Speaks has worked with hundreds of thousands of youth and has helped create partner programs in 47 cities across the United States.

Student poet performing this evening is *Jayvyn Morthel*



THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUSD acknowledges the following individuals and companies whose energy, dedication, and tireless efforts made this event possible.

SPECIAL THANKS

City Bloom
Mario Capitelli
Bianca D'Alessandro
Michael Knox
Oakland Audio-Visual Services
Oakland Minuteman Press
EIJI OTO Design

Pinx Catering
Elizabeth Schaefer
Special Events Production Co.
Stuart Rentals
Western Event Services
Isaac Kos-Read
Vistra Energy



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students