



# OUR Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



## Crossing Guards: Ensuring the Safety of our Students

*For this month's Promise feature, we met with some of the newest members of our district team: Crossing Guards. Discover how they find joy in providing a safe and welcoming environment each day as families and staff travel to and from school.*



### Walnut & Eureka

From monitoring traffic and assisting students and community members across the street, to discussing traffic routing plans and adhering to proper safety measures, our PJUSD Crossing Guards are vital in ensuring the safety of our students and community. Just ask Crossing Guard Benjamin Arguelles, who is often stationed at Walnut & Eureka.

“My number one priority is safety,” said Benjamin. “All in all, what I do here is for the safety of the students, children, and parents.”

A retiree who likes to stay busy, Benjamin finds that being a Crossing Guard has provided him with a good sense of responsibility and fulfillment.

“This is a fun job, it takes a lot of responsibility. You must always be alert, [but] when [students] are crossing and they are smiling and they say ‘thank you,’ I feel rewarded. They know me already and I know them.”





Just down the street from Benjamin on Walnut & Hartley, you'll find Jolicia Kelley leading packs of students and families across the busy intersection.

"All the parents, and all the students, they brighten up my day," said Jolicia, who also noted that her particular intersection is known as a high-traffic zone that warrants extra caution.

"We have ran across a couple of instances where people didn't want to stop, so we make sure to go out on the street first, because the kids are our number one priority, we make sure that [their safety] comes before anything."

On the other side of town on Shearwater & American Eagle, Crossing Guard Fred Lewis estimates that hundreds of students from multiple campuses cross his intersection on a daily basis.

"I'm right there on American Eagle & Shearwater, the main street," said Fred. "I get kids from Apricot, Creekside, and the High School."

With weather changes on the horizon, Crossing Guards were given rain jackets and new ergonomic stop sign holders at a recent team meeting. They are constantly staying in communication with one another and work with School Administrators to report any concerns over student safety, such as heedless driving, to ensure that proper measures are taken.

**Thank You to Our Crossing Guards: AV- Mia Lucero, Fred Lewis, Jesus Jimenez; LP- Lulu Polk, Sherrilynn Martinez, Terrell McDonald, Analisa Lucero; NM- Martina Broughton, Alexander Martel, April Benefield; WG- Jasmine Gallegos, Jolicia Kelley, Benjamin Arguelles; CMS- Jessica Raynor, Sandra Lee.**