

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

Volume 14, Issue 45

October 2024

## Welcome Back to School



Students at Dolland Elementary School pay close attention during their first day of the 2024-25 school year.



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## INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Norwalk-La Mirada USD is charting a pathway forward for the 2024-25 school year by deepening its commitment to providing the resources for every student to meet their full potential.

We are embarking on the new school year under the theme of, “Every Hand. Every Heart. Every Mind. Together We Thrive: Uniting for Excellence.” This theme celebrates the power of unity, dedication, and collective action in our District. We are committed to fostering an environment where teamwork and the shared focus on learning is the core of our success. Our common purpose is to close both the achievement and equity gaps, and ensure that every student has the support and resources they need to excel.

Our Pillars of Success is a vital roadmap that leads every student in the District toward college and career readiness. This framework features Data Driven Dialogue and Collective Efficacy as the foundation of our efforts, which are then supported by Social-Emotional Learning as a Lever for Equity and Academic Rigor & Relevance. These core areas drive the vision of our District to develop students that are prepared to succeed in college, careers, and participate positively in our community’s civic life.

The District is anticipating another year of achievement from our students fostered by the collective efforts of our teachers and staff. Bolstered by the vision of our Board of Education, the future of Norwalk-La Mirada includes more program offerings, expansion of existing programs, and the continued use of Measure G funds to provide modern facilities for our school community.

The future is bright for Norwalk-La Mirada!



**Estuardo  
Santillan**  
*Interim  
Superintendent*

Norwalk-La Mirada USD está trazando un camino a seguir para el año escolar 2024-25 al profundizar su compromiso de proporcionar los recursos para que cada estudiante alcance su máximo potencial.

Estamos iniciando el nuevo año escolar bajo el lema “Cada mano. Cada corazón. Cada mente. Juntos prosperamos: unidos por la excelencia”. Este lema celebra el poder de la unidad, la dedicación y la acción colectiva en nuestro Distrito.

Estamos comprometidos a fomentar un entorno donde el trabajo en equipo y el enfoque compartido en el aprendizaje sean el núcleo de nuestro éxito. Nuestro propósito común es cerrar las brechas de logros y equidad, y garantizar que cada estudiante tenga el apoyo y los recursos que necesita para sobresalir.

Nuestros pilares del éxito son una hoja de ruta vital que lleva a todos los estudiantes del Distrito hacia la preparación para la universidad y la carrera profesional. Este marco presenta el diálogo basado en datos y la eficacia colectiva como la base de nuestros esfuerzos, que luego se respaldan con el aprendizaje socioemocional como palanca para la equidad y el rigor y la relevancia académicos. Estas áreas centrales impulsan la visión de nuestro Distrito de desarrollar estudiantes que estén preparados para tener éxito en la universidad, las carreras profesionales y participar positivamente en la vida cívica de nuestra comunidad.

El Distrito espera otro año de logros de nuestros estudiantes, impulsado por los esfuerzos colectivos de nuestros maestros y personal. Con el respaldo de la visión de nuestra Junta de Educación, el futuro de Norwalk-La Mirada incluye más ofertas de programas, la expansión de los programas existentes y el uso continuo de los fondos de la Medida G para brindar instalaciones modernas a nuestra comunidad escolar.

¡El futuro es brillante para Norwalk-La Mirada!



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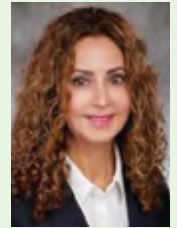
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*By Jose M. Rios, President, NLMUSD Board of Education / Presidente, de la Junta de Educación del NLMUSD*

The Board of trustees, administration, and staff would like to welcome students, parents and all district employees to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. A big thank you to classified and certificated employees for welcoming our students back to school. District-wide Back to School events have provided an opportunity for our school community to connect. Recent athletic sports events have created a positive school spirit and school pride at our schools.

The Board has started the superintendent search process. We've hired Leadership Associates to help facilitate the selection and hiring. The Board has been very clear in our direction to ensure that all stakeholders are involved, and have the opportunity to provide input in the selection of our next superintendent. Again, thanks for all you do and let's continue to provide a welcoming learning environment for our students and families.

La Junta de Síndicos, la administración y el personal desean dar la bienvenida a los estudiantes, padres y todos los empleados del distrito al inicio del año escolar 2024-2025. Un gran agradecimiento a los empleados clasificados y certificados por dar la bienvenida a nuestros estudiantes de regreso a la escuela. Los eventos de regreso a clases en todo el distrito han brindado una oportunidad para que nuestra comunidad escolar se conecte. Los eventos deportivos atléticos recientes han creado un espíritu escolar positivo y orgullo escolar en nuestras escuelas.

La Junta ha iniciado el proceso de búsqueda de superintendente. Hemos contratado a Leadership Associates para ayudar a facilitar la selección y contratación. La Junta ha sido muy clara en nuestra dirección para asegurar que todas las partes interesadas participen y tengan la oportunidad de brindar aportes en la selección de nuestro próximo superintendente. Nuevamente, gracias por todo lo que hacen y sigamos brindando un entorno de aprendizaje acogedor para nuestros estudiantes y familias.

**Welcome Back to School!**  
**Bienvenido de Nuevo**  
**a la Escuela Todos!**  
**2024 – 2025**







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## Together We Thrive: Uniting for Excellence

Norwalk-La Mirada is embarking on the 2024-25 school year with the theme of Together We Thrive: Uniting for Excellence. This theme will encompass Every Hand, Every Heart, Every Mind of our District, showing our commitment to providing a world-class educational experience for our school sites both in and out of the classroom.

Our District has already been rewarded for these efforts as several schools as well as, staff have earned prestigious acclaim in the first few weeks of the school year.

Benton Middle School earned Exemplary Arts School Designation from the Art Schools Network, a sign of the commitment to its mission empowering all students to achieve academic excellence in a creative visual and performing arts environment. Eastwood Elementary's PTA was named a National PTA School of Excellence for creating an environment where families feel welcomed, included and empowered to support their children's success. Three schools (Benton, Eastwood, Hutchinson) earned Apple Distinguished School Honors, recognized for inspiring, imagining, and impacting teaching and learning through continuous innovation. Eight NLMUSD elementary schools (Eastwood, New River, Dolland, Dulles, La Pluma, D.D. Johnston, Lampton, Morrison) earned California Positive Behavioral, Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Implementation Awards, showcasing their support for the sustainable development of a safe, equitable, and positive climate and social culture for all. Finally two teachers, Kelly Garcia of Hutchinson Middle and Jennifer Petruescu of Dulles Elementary, earned 2024-25 Project Lead the Way (PTLW) Outstanding Teacher accolades. These two outstanding teachers earned the away for their work in their respective pathways.

These awards, along with the Pillars of Success, showcase our District's commitment to providing the resources for students and staff to reach their fullest potential. With this positive momentum to kick off 2024-25, we look forward to showcasing the talents of our exceptional students and staff in what promises to be a memorable school year for Norwalk-La Mirada.

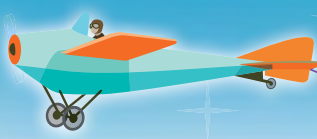
## Juntos Prosperamos: Unidos por la Excelencia

Norwalk-La Mirada comienza el año escolar 2024-25 con el tema Juntos prosperamos: unidos por la excelencia. Este tema abarcará cada mano, cada corazón, cada mente de nuestro distrito, lo que demuestra nuestro compromiso de brindar una experiencia educativa de primer nivel para nuestros planteles escolares, tanto dentro como fuera del aula.

Nuestro Distrito ya ha sido recompensado por estos esfuerzos, ya que varias escuelas y también el personal han obtenido prestigiosos reconocimientos en las primeras semanas del año escolar.

La escuela secundaria Benton obtuvo la designación de escuela de arte ejemplar de la red de escuelas de arte, una señal del compromiso con su misión de empoderar a todos los estudiantes para lograr la excelencia académica en un entorno creativo de artes visuales y escénicas. La PTA de la escuela primaria Eastwood fue nombrada Escuela Nacional de Excelencia de la PTA por crear un entorno donde las familias se sienten bienvenidas, incluidas y empoderadas para apoyar el éxito de sus hijos. Tres escuelas (Benton, Eastwood, Hutchinson) obtuvieron los honores de escuela distinguida de Apple, reconocidos por inspirar, imaginar e impactar la enseñanza y el aprendizaje a través de la innovación continua. Ocho escuelas primarias del NLMUSD (Eastwood, New River, Dolland, Dulles, La Pluma, DD Johnston, Lampton, Morrison) obtuvieron los premios de implementación de California Positive Behavioral, Intervention and Supports (PBIS), lo que demuestra su apoyo al desarrollo sostenible de un clima y una cultura social seguros, equitativos y positivos para todos. Finalmente, dos maestras, Kelly García de Hutchinson Middle y Jennifer Petruescu de Dulles Elementary, obtuvieron el reconocimiento de Maestra Destacada del Proyecto Lead the Way (PTLW) 2024-25. Estas dos maestras destacadas obtuvieron el reconocimiento por su trabajo en sus respectivas carreras.

Estos premios, junto con los Pilares del Éxito, demuestran el compromiso de nuestro Distrito de brindar los recursos para que los estudiantes y el personal alcancen su máximo potencial. Con este impulso positivo para dar inicio al año escolar 2024-25, esperamos mostrar los talentos de nuestros excepcionales estudiantes y personal en lo que promete ser un año escolar memorable para Norwalk-La Mirada.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

This is our 14th year publishing the excellence from the NLMUSD. There is never a lack of good news coming from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 23. We had a record number of entries in our May contest (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is May 21.



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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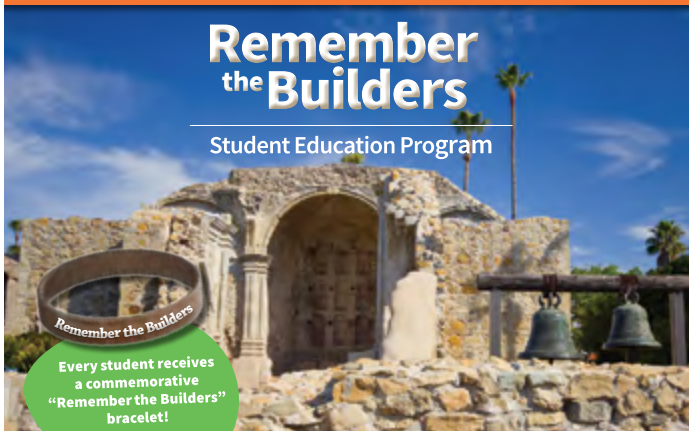
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**Mindy Chung**  
*Director*

### Finding a Path to Success at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School

At the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School (NLMAS), students from all facets of life and ages are working diligently to earn their high school diploma or equivalency. With flexible day and night schedules and a blend of

online and in-person classes, learners are completing essential credits in subjects like Language Arts, math, sciences, and social studies.

In a safe, collaborative learning environment, students are not only gaining academic knowledge but also building essential life skills. Whether preparing for college or entering the workforce, NLMAS equips learners with the tools they need to thrive in their careers and communities. By fostering lifelong learning, the school empowers adult learners to achieve

success at every stage of life. Our recent graduating class of 2023-2024 included a diverse group of students ranging from ages 19-65 with personal stories of resilience and perseverance as remarkable as their future goals.



**Congratulations to the NLMAS Graduating Class of 2023-2024.**

## Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-4205 • [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org)



**Laurel Parker**  
*Director*

### From the Early Education Program

Today, we're highlighting the Early Head Start home-based program option that is offered to pregnant families and infants/toddlers ages 0-36 months. In this program, the home visiting teachers work directly with parents, the most important people in their child's life within the family's own home.

The home environment enables the home visitors to provide services in a culturally responsive manner. Our home visitors coach parents to promote secure parent-child interactions and school readiness experiences. This is done through a research-based curriculum focused on parenting concepts, skills, and practices to support healthy child development called Parents as Teachers.

Home visits occur once a week with socialization time with other families twice a month. Weekly collaboration and partnering empowers parents by teaching them how to create learning moments for their child and infuse them into the family's everyday daily routine. In NLMUSD we value early experiences and understand how vital they are for the healthy development of the brain.



**Dad Jesus with son Emiliano at a home visit.  
Their Home Visitor is Ms. Reyna Garcia.**



## Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2500 • [www.bentonms.org](http://www.bentonms.org)



**Robin Ridgeway**  
*Principal*

### Back to School

Benton is back to school and students have been busy! The ASB and W.E.B. Crew hosted a lunchtime social with games and activities for the 6th Graders to check in and see how the first month of school has been going for them, and all students participated a luau themed Back to School Dance.

Students have been able

to get involved in various clubs and activities such as Chess, Bible, Gardening, Carpentry, Mock Trial, and History Day as well as getting ready for the NLM Middle School Sports Tournaments for Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball. Environmental Science students visited Fermin Park to celebrate the International Day of Peace and Korean language students visited the L.A. Korean Festival; the 6th Grade Science Camp in Arrowhead is coming up soon. Drama students have just begun rehearsals for the fall play, *Silver's Secret*, and our first

musical concert will be in October. Benton has recently been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for its use of technology to Inspire, Imagine, and Impact student creativity, learning, and achievement. Benton was also recognized as an Exemplary School by the Arts School Network and will receive its award at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in October.



## Corvallis *MS STEAM Magnet*

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**Alejandra Rosales**  
*Principal*

### NLMUSD Teacher of the Year

Corvallis Middle School is proud to highlight Mrs. Malec, NLMUSD Teacher of the Year, for her dedication to our students in Science 8 and PLTW 8. She whole-heartedly believes that all students can learn and provides students with opportunities to do so everyday in her classroom. Mrs. Malec

greeted her students everyday and sets high expectations for them to achieve. Her students strive to meet the expectations set because she treats them with respect and encourages them to grow as learners. Mrs. Malec has brought the world to her classroom and exposed our students to many STEM professionals through the implementation of Letters to a Prescientist Program. This program exposes students to careers in STEM and helps them develop their writing and communication skills. She states, "this program has

allowed us to expand our community beyond Norwalk and helped grow our classroom into a global community." We are proud and fortunate to have Mrs. Malec teaching our Bulldogs.





## Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2560 • [www.dollandes.org](http://www.dollandes.org)



**Dr. Lorena Sierra**  
*Principal*

### Dolland Elementary School Earns California PBIS Silver Recognition

We are proud to announce that Dolland Elementary School has received the California PBIS Silver Recognition for our outstanding implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This award,

presented by the California PBIS Coalition, recognizes the school's efforts to foster a safe, respectful, and responsible environment where students and staff thrive together.

Our PBIS team, consisting of Mrs. Lena Franco (ESSS), Amanda Ortiz (Supervision), Debra Nunez (Parent), Valerie Jesolva (Teacher), Christina Stevens (Teacher), Lily Eichert (Teacher), Jessica Gregor (Education Specialist Resource Teacher), and Dr. Sierra (Principal)



has worked diligently along with all school staff to implement PBIS strategies that promote positive behavior throughout the campus.

At Dolland Elementary, we are dedicated to creating a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels happy to grow and learn. Through our PBIS practices, we encourage students to take responsibility for their actions, respect

one another, and contribute to a school culture of safety and positivity. This recognition reflects the collective efforts of our students, staff, and community members.

We are honored to be recognized and will continue our commitment to ensuring that Dolland Elementary remains a place where all students can succeed academically and socially. Congratulations to all Huskies for this incredible achievement!

## Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2610 • [www.dulleselementary.org](http://www.dulleselementary.org)



**Shanti Gallegos**  
*Principal*

### John Foster Dulles Elementary Receives 2024 CA PBIS Silver Award

John Foster Dulles Elementary proudly received the 2024 CA PBIS Silver Award, recognizing our commitment to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families, all working together to foster a positive and inclusive school environment.

Through consistent implementation of PBIS strategies, we provide clear expectations and positive reinforcement, ensuring every student thrives. Our data-driven approach informs our practices, supporting both academic and social-emotional growth.



This year, we kicked off with schoolwide PBIS Tier 1 strategies focused on our CARE expectations: Care about Safety, Achieve Your Best, Respect Yourself and Others, and Embrace Responsibility. We actively involve families and the community, reinforcing our collaborative approach to student success.

As we celebrate this milestone, we're committed to strengthen our PBIS initiatives further and aim for the Gold Award next year!



### Dulles Staff Prepare for our Kickoff

## Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2560 • [www.eastwoodelem.org](http://www.eastwoodelem.org)



**Darryll Ramsey Jr.**  
*Principal*

### It's Time to SOAR!

Each year, our dedicated staff seeks creative and effective ways to advance student learning. To address the growing needs of our students and enhance our focus on Tier 1 instruction, we have streamlined the intervention and

extension learning blocks across our campus.

As the Eagles, we have launched what we call **SOAR Time**. During these learning periods, students receive differentiated instruction tailored to their needs, particularly in English Language Arts. Teachers work in small groups to help students stretch their learning. They also create and facilitate engaging centers and stations, providing opportunities for students to collaborate with peers and deepen their understanding.

If you have the chance to visit our campus during the 30 minutes before snack recess, you will see our Eagles soaring!



**SOAR Time with Mrs. Miyoshi**

## Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4440 • [www.edmondson elementary.org](http://www.edmondson elementary.org)



**Sharon Stewart**  
*Principal*

### Strengthening Our Practices

This year we are proud to continue to be a DUAL Immersion School, an AVID Showcase School, a COTSEN School, and now a Community School. On Friday, August 30, 2024, our staff celebrated the inaugural AVID Day, dedicated to honoring educators committed to closing the opportunity

gap and impacting students' lives. This event served as a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to excellence in education. We reflected on our goals for the school year, emphasizing our dedication to student success as both individuals and a team. AVID Day inspired us to approach the year with a clear vision for making a positive difference for our students and each other. We look forward to witnessing the lasting effects of our #AVIDImpact throughout the year. Our commitment extends to strengthening our signature practices, including Writing

in Math, the Frayer Model, and Focused Note-Taking, while integrating WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) across all subjects. We are also excited to announce an AVID Showcase event planned for February 2025.





## El Camino *High School*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3595 • [www.elcaminocarousel.org](http://www.elcaminocarousel.org)



**Mark Hunter**  
*Principal*

### El Camino Students at the Latino College Expo

Several El Camino students attended the Latino College Expo at the University of La Verne on Saturday, September 14. The students were exposed to several colleges including UCLA, USC, as well as some smaller film schools and other institutions. The

highlight of the day was when El Camino student Jennifer Gonzalez applied for and was granted a \$19,000 scholarship for the University of La Verne. Many of the students that attended never thought that college would be in their future, but after attending the expo, that belief has now changed. Jennifer is looking forward to completing her Senior year and has a renewed vigor for what her future holds. Her parents were so excited when she shared the news with them as she will be the first one from her family to attend college.



## Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2745 • [www.escalonaelem.org](http://www.escalonaelem.org)



**Dr. Nnenna  
Okpara**  
*Principal*

### Off to a Great Start

Escalona Elementary School's Dual Immersion Spanish Kinder class is off to a great start. The program aims to help students become fluent in two languages while promoting strong academic skills and has been a hit with young learners. Led by Mrs. De La Torre, the Dual Kinder Spanish teacher, the class has provided a welcoming and supportive environment for students to learn and grow. This unique language

acquisition approach will successfully prepare students for future academic and cultural success. Excitement for the program is growing, as it will continue to expand each year with the addition of a first-grade class next year. The Dual Immersion program at Escalona Elementary School is one to watch.





## Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2790 • [www.fosterstars.org](http://www.fosterstars.org)



**Salvador Villagomez**  
*Principal*

### Math Journey 2024-2025

Math is for everyone! We are off and running for this 2024-2025 school year and we are excited about this year's journey. This year, we are really focusing on shining in the area of math. We are excited about the new math program and diving in to see how we can better build tomorrow's mathematicians. We are continuing our work with CGI-using math as a problem solving tool and not just a series of steps. In addition we have a solid counting collection library

to solidify our basic number sense at all grade levels. Our teacher teams are meeting weekly in PLCs and have already established our essential math standards at each grade level. Teams are just finishing up their first cycle of learning for all students and the return data is proving extremely useful in supporting our students. Teachers are also using inventive and creative lessons and activities to make learning math fun and interactive. The enthusiasm and excitement is evident in our young learners. There's work to be done, but Foster Road is on the right path towards building a love for math.

Let's continue to shine bright Foster Road Stars!

Be a STAR, be Safe, Trustworthy, Accepting, and Respectful.



**Math is shaping up to be a road to success.**

## Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2840 • [www.gardenhill.org](http://www.gardenhill.org)



**Sarah Gilbert**  
*Principal*

### Building Relationships and the Arts!

Gardenhill is proud to enhance our educational offerings with a robust arts program! We're supporting this initiative with Meet the Masters, expanding our 5th-grade band with new additional instruments, and integrating STEAM into our STEM curriculum to foster creativity in our Science programs. Weekly dance

rotations are coming soon to involve movement and fun. Additionally, we're working on positive self-talk through our "self love tree," encouraging students, families, and staff to share their affirmations with our community. These programs not only support artistic expression but also promote a positive school culture. Below you can see a picture of our Kinder Buddies, where older classrooms pair with younger classrooms to support and build relationships. Students engaged in their first "getting to know you" activity between Mrs. Nametz and Mrs. Zolman's class. Looking forward to a year of fun, learning, and involving families and our community for a positive impact on all!



## Glazier Elementary School

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2890 • [www.glazierelementary.org](http://www.glazierelementary.org)



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
Principal

### Connections and Celebrations!

Glazier Gladiators have started the 2024-25 school year with great success! Whether students were returning to school and joining for the first time, we had a great kick-off with Rotation Stations that helped all students understand our routines and expectations across our campus.

This clarity is part of our action steps for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). All staff members are affirming students who showcase our 3 Rs—Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready. Our Glazier Store is up and running to redeem the Glazier dollars earned inside and outside of the classroom. We have Glazier TV in production, kicking off our week during Monday Morning Huddle, helping remind students of the 3Rs in action across our campus, and our Junior Coach program is up and running to provide student leadership in safe play during recess and lunch. We appreciate our volunteers and community partners through our Community Schools grant. It is a great time to be a Gladiator!



**Who will win the Gladiator helmet this week? Attendance counts!**

## John Glenn High School

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3000 • [www.jghs.org](http://www.jghs.org)



**Dr. Jennifer Padilla**  
Principal

### We are Glenn!

Our namesake, John H. Glenn, is often associated with achievements in space exploration and public service. Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth, and later served as a United States Senator. It is only fitting that John H. Glenn High School continue to honor our namesake, enhancing courses, pathways, and clubs that

promote science, technology, engineering, public service, and the values of leadership, innovation, and community involvement.

We continue into the '24-'25 school year with the theme, "We Are Glenn" - celebrating the diversity and contributions of each staff member, student, and community educational partner. Alumni, parents and families, students, you can join us as well by sharing who you are with our "I am Glenn" submission at the QR code (below).



**WE ARE GLENN!**



<https://forms.gle/NrFVaBoYeo7Xhw59>

Are you a glenn student, parent, staff member, or alumni?

Submit your photo and "I AM" statements here!

Check us out.

[johnglenn.nlmsd.org](http://johnglenn.nlmsd.org)  
[weareglenn eagles](https://www.instagram.com/weareglenn eagles)  
[JohnGlennEagles](https://www.facebook.com/JohnGlennEagles)



## Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2945 • [www.hutchinsonhawks.org](http://www.hutchinsonhawks.org)



**Jenny Bae**  
*Principal*

### Hutchinson Middle School Named Apple Distinguished School

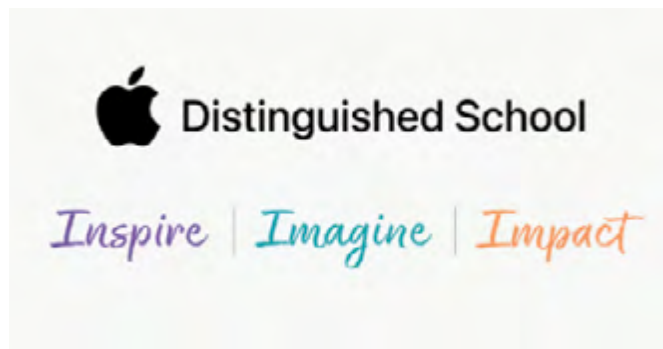
Hutchinson Middle School is proud to announce its recognition as an Apple Distinguished School, an honor awarded to the most innovative schools in the world. This prestigious title highlights Hutchinson's use of Apple technology to create dynamic, personalized learning experiences. Our school integrates iPads and other Apple products to help students connect with the world, spark creativity, deepen collaboration, and make learning meaningful and engaging.

Hutchinson's approach to education aligns with Apple's vision for the future of learning. The school empowers students to lead, learn, and thrive by encouraging them to discover new possibilities, develop solutions, and make a lasting impact on the world. The Apple Distinguished School award celebrates Hutchinson's commitment to forward-thinking teaching and learning practices.

In addition to the school-wide recognition, Hutchinson is excited to congratulate teacher Kelly Garcia for being named a 2024-2025 Outstanding Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Teacher. Out of hundreds of educators across the

country, Garcia is one of only 103 to receive this prestigious award. PLTW teachers are known for their dedication to inspiring and engaging students through hands-on, real-world learning experiences in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Mrs. Garcia's passion for empowering students and supporting their success is evident in her classroom every day. This award highlights her exceptional commitment to helping students thrive.

Both honors reflect Hutchinson Middle School's dedication to preparing students for a bright and innovative future. We are so proud of our students, staff, and school community. Go Hawks!



## Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3120 • [www.ddjohnstonelementary.org](http://www.ddjohnstonelementary.org)



**Dr. Krystal Jones**  
*Principal*

### Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Our school has been diligently working to strengthen our PBIS framework, aimed at promoting positive behavior and creating a nurturing learning environment. Our PBIS team meets regularly to implement clear behavioral expectations, reward systems, and data-driven interventions. The staff consistently reinforces positive behaviors with praise and incentives such as "golden tickets." Students enjoy our Friday morning assemblies where we do a raffle and pick our golden ticket winners to spin the wheel. In addition to our tier 1 supports, our team, which includes our Elementary Student Support Specialist and school psychologist, provides supports for students that need small group or individual services.

As a result of these efforts, our school has earned PBIS bronze status, a testament to our staff's dedication to fostering positive behavior and building a strong school community. This achievement reflects measurable improvements in student behavior, the effectiveness of interventions, and active engagement from the entire school. Reaching bronze status is an important milestone,

and we will continue to enhance our school climate to prepare our students for both academic and social growth.



**Our school was recognized at the board meeting for earning PBIS bronze status.**



## La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3315 • [www.lamiradahs.org](http://www.lamiradahs.org)



**Ben Webster**  
*Principal*

### Great Start!

La Mirada High School has had a great start to the 2024–25 school year! The Matadores are finally back on campus with the opening of our new stadium. Our first Friday night game was held on Aug. 30, with over 2,500 people in attendance. The event was kicked off with food trucks, recognition of the La Mirada Hall of Fame Inductees, and a helicopter flyover. We are very grateful for our fans, parents, students, and staff members who have worked to bring back Friday Night Lights to La Mirada High School.

We are also pleased to report on the outstanding achievements of our Matadores in the classroom. In 2023, LMHS received an award for achievement by College Board for the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses and earning passing grades. In 2024, LMHS increased the number of tests taken and the overall passing rate. La Mirada HS students are receiving a world-class education and are outperforming the global average. In particular, several of our AP courses had pass rates of 89% or higher: calculus BC–92%, precalculus–89%, Spanish language–90%, U.S. government–97%; U.S. history–91%.



## La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3205 • [www.laplumaelementary.org](http://www.laplumaelementary.org)



**Maureen Bixby**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating Success

La Pluma Elementary is thrilled to announce that we have been honored with the 2024 California PBIS Implementation Silver Award. This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our entire school community—students, staff, and families alike. The Silver Award highlights our commitment to fostering a positive, supportive, and inclusive



**La Pluma receives a silver recognition  
from the California PBIS Coalition**

environment for all students. We achieved this through consistent implementation of PBIS strategies, data-driven decision making, and creating a culture where every student feels valued. Our inclusive approach extends beyond the classroom, with families and the community playing an integral role in our success. This award celebrates the collective effort of everyone at La Pluma and demonstrates how, together, we are making a lasting impact on our students' academic and social-emotional growth. We are incredibly proud of this achievement!

## Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3255 • [www.lamptonschool.org](http://www.lamptonschool.org)



**Anamaria  
Quiroz**  
*Principal*

### **A Collaborative Effort**

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been recognized with the PBIS Bronze Level of Implementation! This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community in fostering

a positive and inclusive learning environment.

PBIS, or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, is a proactive approach that promotes positive behavior, enhances academic outcomes, and creates a more supportive atmosphere for students and staff alike. Achieving the Bronze Level signifies that our



**Lampton receives The California  
Positive Behavioral Interventions and  
Supports (PBIS) Recognition for  
the 2023-24 school year!**

school has effectively implemented PBIS strategies and demonstrated measurable improvements in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance.

This accomplishment reflects our commitment to making sure that all of our students feel valued, respected, and empowered to succeed. We are proud of the collaborative efforts of our teachers, staff, students, and families in making this achievement possible.

As we celebrate this milestone, we remain focused on continuing to build on a foundation of positivity and growth. We look forward to further enhancing our PBIS practices, and will strive towards even greater levels of success in the future.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this achievement, and let's continue to work together to make our school an exceptional place to learn and grow!

## Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3495 • [www.localisismiddle.org](http://www.localisismiddle.org)



**Tania Magana**  
*Principal*

### **Welcome Back**

We are excited to welcome back our Lobos at Los Alisos Middle School!

Thrilled to share some exciting news about a program that is making a significant impact at our school: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID is an academic program designed to support students in their pursuit of higher education and career readiness, and we are proud to be part of this transformative initiative. Los Alisos Middle School's AVID



program participated in UCLA's "I'm Going to College" initiative this month. This event offered students the chance to attend a UCLA football game at the Rose Bowl, introducing them to the excitement of college athletics and the benefits of higher education. For many students, this was their first visit to the Rose Bowl or experience

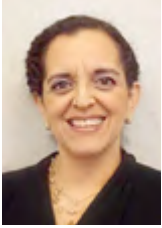
at a college game. This event not only highlighted UCLA's vibrant game day environment but also aimed to inspire students by showing them the possibilities that higher education can offer. Students shared that they had fun and saw themselves at UCLA in the future. This was a great opportunity for our students and families that attended.





## Moffitt Elementary School

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3650 • [www.moffittmax.org](http://www.moffittmax.org)



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
Principal

### Maximizing Instructions

The Moffitt Staff is committed to maximizing instruction for all students. Teacher collaboration at Moffitt helps bring teachers with diverse years of experience together to build a common understanding around instructional practices and strategies that foster higher level thinking skills in students.

Teachers engage in collaborative protocols during their weekly PLC time and staff meetings. During the collaborative

opportunities educators work together to share school wide instructional practices that are implemented in every classroom across all grade levels. At the last staff meeting teachers had the opportunity to share the implementation of goal setting, thinking maps, two column notes and the writing process. The opportunity to engage in celebrating and sharing the great work that is happening at Moffitt is one of the benefits of collaboration. Teacher collaboration at Moffitt fosters a collaborative culture that puts the students learning first.

"Collaboration allows teachers to capture each other's fund of collective intelligence" -Mike Schmoker

## Morrison Elementary School

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3710 • [www.morrisontigers.org](http://www.morrisontigers.org)



**Patrick Lazo**  
Principal

### PSIS Bronze Award

We are proud to announce that Morrison Elementary received the 2024 California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Bronze Award. To achieve this, collaboration

needed to occur with a focus on creating a positive learning environment. We would like to thank our faculty and staff members for supporting PBIS at Morrison. A special thanks goes out to our PBIS Team: Mr. Lazo (Principal), Mrs. Boisseranc (5th Grade Teacher), Mrs. Silva (1st Grade Teacher), Mrs. Biefeld (Kindergarten Teacher), Ms. Moreno (ESSS), Mrs. Lopez Lozano (Categorical Programs Assistant) and Mrs. De Los Santos (Parent) for working together to implement PBIS on our campus. This award demonstrates our commitment in creating and maintaining a positive, equitable, safe, and supportive learning environment for our students. As we continue to deepen our implementation with PBIS we will now set our sights on being recognized again but with the goal of receiving the Gold PBIS Award.



**Morrison Elementary was honored by Norwalk La Mirada Board of Education members for receiving Bronze PBIS Award State Recognition.**

## New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3770 • [www.newriverelementary.org](http://www.newriverelementary.org)



**Jody Gardner**  
*Principal*

### **"Together We Shine" with Growth and Community**

At New River Elementary, this year's theme, "Together We Shine," reflects our commitment to building a supportive, thriving community. We're proud to have earned a Gold-level award for our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)

implementation, resulting in stronger relationships and more positive behaviors both in classrooms and on playgrounds. Our students continue to excel, with consistent growth in reading and math scores.

Our Community Schools Team and Parent Resource Room have seen increased family engagement, while our newly established English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) ensures our English learners receive extra educational support and opportunities to strengthen both English and their first language.

Playworks has transformed recess into a time for building friendships, and calming areas in all classrooms to support emotional well-being. With social-emotional lessons provided by our counselor and ESSS, every student is equipped to thrive emotionally and academically. At New River, we shine together!



**It's a team effort at New River with our Supervisor, Ms. Vicky, our ESSS, Mrs. Martin, our RSP para, Ms. Wendy, and Principal Gardner Milbourn**

## Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3830 • [www.norwalklancers.org](http://www.norwalklancers.org)



**Dr. David M. Olea**  
*Principal*

### **New Athletic Facility and Gymnasium**

Norwalk High School (NHS) is excited to announce the grand opening of our new athletic facility and gymnasium on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 4:00 PM. Thanks to Measure G and all those supporting this cause in 2014, our current and future Lancers will have state-of-the-art facilities for competitions,

performances, and school activities. This new gymnasium and our athletic fields will provide our school community with a new sense of pride while acknowledging and preserving our Lancer heritage. Our new facility will include three full courts, a wrestling room, a weight room, a cheer/dance studio, an athletic training room, locker rooms, a concession stand, team rooms, and more. This will be a celebration to remember as we usher in a new era at NHS!





## Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4060 • [www.nufferelementary.org](http://www.nufferelementary.org)



**Makara Sar**  
*Principal*

### Student Council

The start of the 2024-2025 school year is off and running. Speaking of running we had 18 students who ran for student council office. These 8 students represent the student body as officers that range from President all the way to school event coordinator. Each person gave a speech in front of the school and did an amazing job. The students then learned about their civic duty and voted for the best candidate.

We also started our Jr. Coach program in which students applied to work at recess to help manage games with our supervision aide. Each student that applied had to go through an interview and answer a few questions. Each student learned about speaking with confidence and staying calm and professional during that process. We are looking forward to helping these students with their leadership skills.



## Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4315 • [www.sanchezelementary.org](http://www.sanchezelementary.org)



**Alicia Rubio**  
*Principal*

### Looking Toward the Future

It's never too early to start talking about college and career. Our students learned about different colleges and universities by engaging in different activities during the month of September. Some of the activities included taking virtual tours of local colleges and universities as well as watching videos and discussing what it's like to be a college student. Students also learned about many different careers they can work towards and the steps it takes to get there. The monthly theme, College and Career Readiness culminated with a Career Day. Members from our own school district, the City of Norwalk as well as many other professionals came and shared about their careers. Students

learned about the road toward becoming doctors, editors, mayors, military majors, part of a grounds crew, educators, schoolboard members as well as many other careers. Our students loved engaging in learning about what others do as well as what they would like to do when they grow up. They are excited about working towards their goals.



**Members of the NLMUSD grounds crew presented on the different jobs they do to keep our campuses beautiful**



# Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4700 • [www.southeastacademy.org](http://www.southeastacademy.org)



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
*USMC, Director*

## Connecting with Teachers

During Back to School Night, Southeast Academy families used this opportunity to connect with teachers. An extremely important night to speak about expectation and responsibilities for everyone involved. Parents traveled to their cadets' classes, touring the campus learning about curriculum, school policies and

procedures. For our families they observed how their cadet day-to-day experiences has changed at Southeast Academy. Maintaining a balance of communication between Southeast Academy, families, teachers, and cadets.



## Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4370 • [www.waitemiddle.org](http://www.waitemiddle.org)



**Adriana Nakano**  
*Principal*

## The Care Bear Team

The Waite Middle School community is fortunate to have three outstanding counseling members that we also refer to as the Care Bear Team! Mr. Madrigal, Intervention Counselor, Mr. Morales, Counselor

and Ms. Becerra, Wellness Specialist, work together to ensure that students, staff, and families have the necessary tools to succeed. You will often find them in classrooms providing academic and SEL lessons, in the quad for fun events or working with parents. This year's Coffee with the Counselors has been well attended and our community is appreciative. Our Care Bear Team also brings outside agencies to educate students and families. Students enjoy the energy that they bring to Pantherland! WHOOP WHOOP!





## Note-ables



**Kate Karp**

### A Gentle Halloween

Val Smalkin is an award-winning ventriloquist, musician, composer and performer, and you might wish that she were your fairy godmother or at least your babysitter or neighbor.

Ms. Smalkin understands the small kin—her pun, not mine—of the world and knows also that they often want to be reassured that the faces of perfectly nice people are behind those scary masks and that everything's OK. Come to think of it, so do many of us larger kin, but it's the really little ones that her CD "A Gentle Halloween" addresses.

The songs on the collection are great for preschool- and primary-age children and lend themselves well to movement, vocabulary and art. Children will hop and jump



around to "I See You" and "Haunted House" while at the same time learn body and movement vocabulary. "Five Weird Witches" counts backward and teaches the concept of zero. The melodious "Jac O'Lantern" is pretty enough to be about Christmas and can inspire an art project or a pumpkin carving. Get out those electric-battery candles!

Of course, a couple of mildly creepy offerings might delight the brave kindergartner. "Dark and Light" is a good

review of opposites, and "Skin and Bones," a "there was an old woman" tale, has a great jump scare at the end!

"A Gentle Halloween" is available [at this link](#) or by emailing [info@sillygooseandval.com](mailto:info@sillygooseandval.com). It can be in your hands before you can say "Boo!"

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

## Halloween Word Search Contest

### Rules!

One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com](mailto:SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com) (Please put NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2024

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BLACK CAT	HALLOWEEN
CANDY	JACK O LANTERN
CARVE	MUMMY
CEMETERY	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDER
DECORATIONS	SWAMP CREATURE
FRANKENSTEIN	TRICK OR TREAT
FRIGHTFUL	VAMPIRE
GHOST	WEB
GHOUL	WEREWOLF
GRAVE	WITCH
HAUNTED HOUSE	ZOMBIE



**Congratulations to **Marcela Almazan**  
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!**

# Los Angeles County Office of Education

## Innovation Lab Program Bring Educators and Tech Companies Together to Develop Solutions For K-12 Education



**Debra Duardo,**  
**M.S.W., Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

A new Innovation Lab program launched this summer as part of a partnership between the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the University of Southern California (USC) Edtech Accelerator, with the support of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (GLAEF). The groundbreaking collaborative effort seeks to

gather input from educators and staff on some of the most pressing challenges facing K-12 schools today in hopes of developing better solutions to those complex problems.

This summer, LACOE, USC and GLAEF brought together educators from across Los Angeles County for an Innovation Design Summit to listen to their concerns. The event, held at USC on August 2, 2024, gave educators an opportunity to share firsthand experiences and identify pain points that have long hindered their ability to effectively support students.

Instead of vendors selling solutions in a vacuum, the Innovation Lab Program prioritizes a collaborative model where schools drive the process. This approach ensures that technology solutions are carefully considered and strategically implemented to address the specific needs of schools and ultimately improve student outcomes.

Identifying specific challenges faced by school districts was the first step in the Innovation Lab Program. Next steps include:

- **Solution Sourcing:** Leveraging USC's network to discover potential technology solutions.
- **Company Development:** Providing selected tech companies with a curriculum to enhance their product efficacy and market readiness.
- **Teacher Engagement:** Involving teachers in the program to provide feedback on technology solutions.
- **Evaluation and Dissemination:** Assessing the effectiveness of the solutions and sharing findings to create a trusted vendor network.

By placing teachers at the forefront of the solution-finding process, The Innovation Lab Program aims to create tools that are not only effective but also truly meet the needs of those on the front lines.

This powerful partnership, with its innovative approach aims to transform how technology is integrated into education and enhance the learning experience for students.

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360  
[www.lacoe.edu](http://www.lacoe.edu)