

FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD

Newsletter

Save the Date

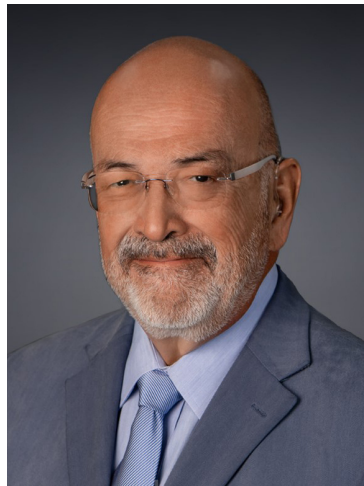
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022
Board of Education Meeting
Open Session: 6:30 p.m.
at John D. Piazza Center

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022
Regional College and Career Fair
4 to 7 p.m.
at Ontario Convention Center
2000 Convention Center Way, Ontario



Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022
Board of Education Meeting
Open Session: 6:30 p.m.
at John D. Piazza Center

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Dear Fontana Unified Families:

I hope you all enjoyed an exciting and successful start to the 2022-23 school year.

I am honored to serve as the Interim Superintendent during this time of transition providing support and leadership as the Board of Education conducts a search for a permanent Superintendent.

I am proud to have worked in education for more than 40 years, guided by an unwavering commitment to providing every student with the education, resources, and opportunities to achieve excellence.

The key to a district's success starts with a leadership team dedicated to working for the greater good of all children and I look forward to joining this District's team and supporting its mission of empowering every student to unlock their full potential.

I look forward to getting to know the Fontana Unified community over the next few months and to celebrate all the achievements of students and staff that are forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Juan M. López
Interim Superintendent
Fontana Unified School District



Around Campus

2 FUSD Schools Receive Certification as International Baccalaureate World Schools

Dolores Huerta International Academy and Southridge Tech Middle School have been certified as International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools, officially authorizing their IB instructional offerings and signifying the completion of Fontana Unified School District's K-12 IB Continuum. The continuum begins with the Primary Years Programme (PYP) at Dolores Huerta International Academy (DHIA), followed by the Middle Years Programme (MYP) at Southridge Tech Middle School and in grades nine and 10 at Jurupa Hills High School. The continuum culminates with the Diploma Programme, offered to juniors and seniors at Jurupa Hills High School. "Now that we can officially say that we are an IB school, there is trust," Southridge Tech Middle School Principal Dr. Roy Rogers said. "Many parents appreciate the work and foundation they receive at Dolores Huerta and the work we are continuing with their students, as well as the attention they get toward a rigorous and well-rounded internationally wide curriculum."

Sequoia Middle School Receives 2022 AVID Teacher Advocacy Award

Sequoia Middle School has been honored for its stellar implementation of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) – a college-prep elective that works to narrow the achievement gap between the lowest- and highest-performing students – and named one of three San Bernardino County schools to earn a 2022 AVID Teacher Advocacy Award. The AVID Teacher Advocacy Award honors and supports outstanding California AVID teachers and school site teams while encouraging the implementation of AVID schoolwide and the sharing of best practices among peers. Sequoia was awarded \$10,000 to be used for further implementation of AVID. Now in its 12th year as an AVID school, Sequoia currently has 170 AVID students – nearly 25 percent of its student body. Sequoia was named an AVID National Demonstration School in 2019, and serves as a model for other schools and districts that are interested in implementing AVID.

7 FUSD Administrators Promoted to New Leadership Positions



Seven of Fontana Unified's top administrators have been promoted into new leadership positions for the 2022-23 school year, with four FUSD campuses welcoming new principals and three former principals moving to the District office.

The promotions include:

- Antonio Viramontes – Principal, Jurupa Hills High School
- Dr. Barbara Kelley – Principal, A.B. Miller High School
- Tabatha Pachot – Principal, South Tamarind Elementary School
- Theresa Gomez – Principal, Randall Pepper Elementary School
- Dr. Annette Beasley – FUSD Director of Teaching and Learning
- Caroline Labonte – FUSD Director of Certificated People Services
- Dr. Rita Bayne – FUSD Director of Classified People Services

All of the personnel advancing to new positions have been promoted from within the District.

Canyon Crest Elementary Student Wins Bronze Medal at USA Track & Field Junior Olympics

Canyon Crest Elementary School fifth-grader Dominic Romanio's track and field career is off to a strong start, after he helped his 10 East track club teammates sprint to a third-place finish in the 4x100 relays during the 2022 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships, held July 31 in Sacramento. Racing against the top relay teams in the country – ages nine and 10 – Romanio took the anchor leg in the relay as the team completed one lap around the track in 54.93 seconds, narrowly edging the fourth-place finisher by .08 seconds and securing their place on the winner's podium as bronze medalists. The Junior Olympics triumph caps off a tremendous year for Romanio, who has only been running competitively since joining his club team in 2021. Romanio also placed in the Junior Olympics 200-meter preliminary round, finishing in 14th place with a time of 29.10 seconds. Romanio also competes in 100-meter events.



FUSD Alumna and Educator Oversees Increase in Advanced Placement Pass Rates



When Summit High School Advanced Placement (AP) teacher Megan Perez graduated from Kaiser High School in 2008, she was certain that she had left Fontana Unified forever. While attending UCLA, Perez was determined to embark on a career as a lawyer, but the former valedictorian soon realized that her destiny was in the classroom and returned to teach history at Kaiser High in 2013. In the years since, Perez has inspired hundreds of Kaiser High students to achieve at the highest levels, with pass rates for the AP classes she teaches – AP Capstone, AP Human Geography, AP Government and AP Psychology – well above the average in California and globally. Kaiser graduates taught by Perez have gone on to attend a number of elite universities, including MIT, Stanford, Johns Hopkins and Yale. “Returning to Fontana to help guide the next generation of students gives me a lot of pride. I feel like I’m giving back to my community,” Perez said. “Many of my students come to me as freshmen taking the AP Human Geography class, which gives them a solid foundation to build on. It’s incredible to watch the students develop their skills over the years and prepare for their own journeys.”

Class of 2022 Graduate Recognized as NHSDA Dance Arts Scholar

A.B. Miller High School Class of 2022 graduate Kassandra Hernandez has been dancing for as long as she can remember. Growing up, Hernandez swayed to the rhythm of the cumbia and bachata music she heard at home. At A.B. Miller High, Hernandez's talents were nurtured to their full potential, culminating in her being selected for the school's exclusive Conservatory of Dance as a junior. Having mastered a number of dance styles – including jazz, hip-hop, modern and ballet – Hernandez's long hours of practice were rewarded when she was selected as a National Honor Society for the Dance Arts (NHSDA) 2022 Dance Scholar, one of approximately 160 high school seniors from across the country honored by the NHSDA this year. Hernandez was celebrated for her leadership skills and commitment, ability to collaborate with other dancers, grade point average, and other intangible qualities such as outreach, teaching skills and event production. Hernandez said she is thankful her A.B. Miller teachers gave her the confidence to resume dancing after an ankle injury had sidelined her for years.



Community Resources to Support FUSD Families

Fontana Unified School District has established partnerships with a wide variety of community support service providers to assist our families with resources they may need. Those resources include food banks and pantries; housing, shelters and rental assistance; social emotional support and counseling services; medical resources; and legal assistance. Visit www.fusd.net for more information on the available resources and community partnerships.

District News

Recruitment/Hiring

In the last month, the District has moved forward with additional applicant testing for various positions – and was able to conduct additional testing for a significant number of vacant positions. The number of applicants has been encouraging, despite the state of the current job market.

The Learning Policy Institute noted that some of the state's largest school districts have been faced with a 10% vacancy. Two thirds of districts surveyed for this study were impacted by an increased number of vacancies over pre-COVID-19 years and experienced greater challenges in filling these positions.

There are many factors that have contributed to these vacancies, including issues related to distance learning, health concerns related to COVID-19, and the creation of additional positions facilitated by federal recovery funds. – which must be used at least in part to support learning recovery, and in turn can increase staffing needs. The creation of new positions often results in a reallocation of staff, leading to shortages in other areas.

Despite these challenges, Fontana Unified has remained committed to addressing staffing needs. The District has processed additional substitutes and entered them into its system, which has helped address the coverage needs identified at school sites. Districts throughout San Bernardino County have reported that they continue to struggle to fill positions such as substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, school-nutrition workers, and bus drivers despite offering hiring and retention bonuses. The county office is currently compiling the results of surveying reports of these challenges shared by the various districts in the county.

Labor Negotiations

Fontana Unified has conducted planning meetings with the members of the FUSD negotiation teams for upcoming sessions with its labor partners. These meetings have been productive, and District administrators have been able to discuss and review some significant areas of interest for changes that they believe would be beneficial and effective in the District's efforts to service students and their families. The District is optimistic with the work and plans to enter the upcoming sessions with students' needs as the central theme of every decision.

Fun Fact

Did you know that Summit High School was recently featured on the Today Show? Seniors Josiah & Amaris shared their thoughts on the 8:30 start time for high schools with reporter Erin McLaughlin.

