



# FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD NEWSLETTER

November/  
December 2021

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Dear Fontana Unified families,

The holidays are fast approaching, and we have much to be thankful for in Fontana Unified School District. Our students continue to demonstrate high levels of excellence as they embrace all the learning opportunities available to them – all while continuing to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to all of our employees, volunteers, families and community members, who go above and beyond to ensure our students are supported academically and emotionally. Your commitment to our students plays a vital role in their success and well-being. As a reminder, all schools and the District Office will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from Nov. 22 to 26; school will resume on Nov. 29. Additionally, our District will be closed for Winter Break from Dec. 20 to Jan. 10, with school resuming on Jan. 11. As many of us prepare to gather

with friends and family in the upcoming weeks, we would also like to remind our Fontana Unified community to celebrate the holiday season safely. We encourage each of you to continue to be mindful of COVID-19 protocols – such as washing your hands, wearing a mask, and making sure you and your children stay home when you are sick. To access additional resources regarding COVID-19 – including testing locations, vaccination sites, FAQs and more – please visit [fusd.net/coronavirus](https://fusd.net/coronavirus). Thank you all for your continued patience and perseverance during these times. Together, we will continue to provide safe learning environments that foster student success, engagement and empowerment.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Randal S. Bassett  
Superintendent

### Save the Date

Monday, Nov. 22 – Friday, Nov. 26  
Fall Break – No School

Wednesday, Dec. 1  
Board of Education Meeting  
Open Session: 6:30 p.m.  
John D. Piazza Center  
Watch live

Wednesday, Dec. 15  
Board of Education Meeting  
Open Session: 6:30 p.m.  
John D. Piazza Center  
Watch live

Monday, Dec. 20 – Friday, Jan. 10  
Winter Break – No School

## Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Sept. 8, 2021

- Superintendent Bassett provided a District update on COVID-19 communications, which explained three possible levels of exposure that families and employees may be notified of: 1) a confirmed case on campus, 2) potential exposure (withing six feet for 15 minutes or more), or 3) local outbreak (connected cases) or outbreak (large number of cases).
- Mr. Bassett also shared on legislative updates regarding the Trailer Bill, which has recently allowed new options and flexibilities for funding and budgets regarding independent study and staffing, and reported that school districts are anticipating updates are from the California Department of Education regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and LCAP modifications.
- Information was presented to the Board about the current and temporary structure of the ACCESS Academy, as well the long-term goals for staffing. The presentation highlighted functions currently covered at "host schools," technical support that is available at the enrollment center, and where to direct teacher and parent questions/needs. The Board voted to allow District administration to hire an assistant principal, counselor and attendance clerk for ACCESS.
- The Board approved an agreement with Sports for Learning to provide in-person learning support for all of the District's elementary and middle schools through the end of the 2021-22 school year.

- The Board approved the renaming of the Henry J. Kaiser High School Softball Field to John "Spotty" Stevens Memorial Field.
- Information was presented on facilities modifications at Juniper Elementary as requested by a Board member. Information on facilities and repairs/needs at each school site, as well as how improvements are funded and needs are addressed, was presented to the Board. Following discussion with the Board, District staff will do an assessment on the state of all elementary school sound systems and present findings to the Board.



Sept. 22, 2021

- Superintendent Bassett reported that the increase in COVID-19 cases is beginning to slow, and the District will continue to work with the community to find ways to positively impact the situation. Mr. Bassett also shared that Assembly Bill 361 allows for school board meetings to return to the online format if needed, and that the District will continue

- with in-person meetings at this time.
- The Board held a public hearing on the sufficiency of standards-aligned textbooks and instructional materials, which is a condition of receiving certain state textbook funds. District staff determined, and visits by the County Superintendent of Schools have verified, that all students have standards-aligned textbooks and instructional materials in English language arts, mathematics, science, and history/social science, including the English Language Development component for the 2021-2022 year. There were no comments during the public hearing.
- Following this public hearing, the Board adopted Resolution No. 21-25: Sufficiency of Standards-Aligned Textbooks and Instructional Materials.
- The Board voted to accept the 2021-2022 Fontana Unified School District Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services Plan (CCEIS), following a presentation from SELPA Director J. Williams that outlined the plan and the need behind it. The presentation outlined that IEP audit reviews have been conducted to improve timelines to get them completed; that the District is down four school psychologists and we are actively working to hire more; and we currently have 163 IEPs that are not signed by parents.
- The Board approved an amendment to the District's agreement with Beach Cities Learning, LLC to provide Special Education services and support for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.



## Around Campus: Elementary Schools Canyon Crest Elementary Launches Peer Reading Program



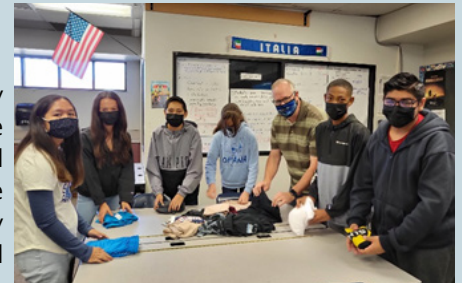
Canyon Crest Elementary is taking a collaborative approach to fostering literacy through its newly launched "Reading Buddies" program, which empowers fifth-grade students to serve as tutors to first- and second-graders. The program, which aims to address literacy and achievement gaps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, is designed to get students reading confidently by third grade and to develop leadership skills among the upper grades. Canyon Crest Elementary provides equity through both technology-infused curriculums and peer learning programs like "Reading Buddies," efforts that garnered the school's recognition as a 21st Century Exemplar School by the Battelle for Kids Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) in 2019. "Over 60 percent of our fifth-graders volunteered to work with our younger students,"

Principal Kelly Wilbert said. "They're so excited to be in a leadership role. And we want to build leaders, so any time we can partner our students is a win-win. Both the fifth-graders and the first- and second-graders are developing literacy. At the same time, we're building our community and developing student confidence." For the first months of the program, the "Reading Buddies" will meet one to two times a week to develop their relationship and read first- and second-grade level books together. Next, the "Buddies" will practice identifying sight words, decoding or 'sounding out' words based on letter-sound association and developing reading fluency. "There is nothing more important than developing literacy," Wilbert said. "We have high expectations at Canyon Crest, so we are going to provide students with what they need to meet those expectations. With 'Reading Buddies' we can address student need and give upper graders a project they can eagerly 'Reading Buddies' we can address student need and give upper graders a project they can eagerly accept."

## Around Campus: Middle Schools

### Southridge Tech Middle School IB Students Give Back to Community with Service Projects

Southridge Tech Middle School eighth-grade students are busy preparing for community service projects that will allow them to fulfill their International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme completion requirements, while also demonstrating responsible action and appreciating the process of learning. Southridge Tech IB students can volunteer for a service project that benefits the environment, senior citizens, homeless or struggling community members, their classmates, or create a project of their choosing. The projects are designed to incorporate a variety of learning approaches that will bolster a student's communication, inquiry, self-management, research and social skills. "It is an honor for Southridge Tech to offer such a comprehensive community service project to our students through the International Baccalaureate program," Principal Dr. Roy Rogers said. "We have seen that students that volunteer may perform better in school and build a stronger resume for college and scholarship applications. We can't wait to see what projects our students pursue this year." The IB community projects have three components: Service as Action, where students develop and implement their plan, collecting physical or digital evidence; complete a Process Journal detailing their weekly progress; and make an oral presentation showing the results of their investigations, planning, service action, and a self-evaluation of the project. The service projects are an essential component of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), which engages students in a rigorous, inquiry-led framework of learning that fosters creative and critical thinking, as well as inspires them to explore local and global issues in real-life contexts. Fontana Unified offers a K-12 IB Continuum, beginning with the Primary Years Programme at Dolores Huerta International Academy. Students can then enroll in the first three years of the five-year MYP at Southridge Tech Middle School and complete the programme at Jurupa Hills High School, followed by the IB Diploma Programme offered to juniors and seniors.



## Around Campus: High Schools

### 180 Seniors to Receive State Seal of Biliteracy Recognized by County Superintendent of Schools

One hundred and eighty Fontana Unified School District seniors were recognized by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools for their proficiency in bilingualism and biliteracy, an achievement that will earn them the State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB) at graduation. To receive the SSB, marked by a gold seal on a graduate's diploma and notation on their transcript, students must meet requirements outlined in the California Education Code that demonstrate high levels of achievement in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and one or more partner languages. The District's 180 seniors, who are track to meet these requirements by graduation, were recognized by San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Ted Alejandre during a virtual ceremony on Oct. 16. "Fontana Unified is positioning itself to make a major difference and to compete globally, and it will be so exciting to see where our students take the future of Fontana," said Martha Dueñas, Fontana Unified Director of Multilingual Programs and Services. "By developing bilingualism and biliteracy, they will be able to address the Fontana community and its needs." Fontana Unified aims to foster multilingualism as early as kindergarten, providing a Spanish dual-language immersion program at Redwood Elementary and Dolores Huerta International Academy that jumpstarts learning in both languages for native English speakers and English learners. Currently, the District is extending foreign language instruction to middle school students, providing a continuum of language instruction from elementary school to high school.



# School Shout Outs – Elementary Schools



**Almond Elementary:** Shout out to our students who are learning to become filmmakers through our Pacer Production Studios after-school video program!

**Canyon Crest Elementary:** Thanks to Canyon Crest PTO for inviting the Mariachi Trompetas de Mexico to close out our Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 15!

**Chaparral Academy of Technology:** Our students enjoyed a harvest-themed photo op during Red Ribbon celebrations!

**Cypress Elementary:** Thank you to PTA for supporting our Monster Mash PBIS Celebration!

**Date Elementary:** STEM activities are more fun with friends and collaboration. Great job fifth-grade Date Dragons!

**Dolores Huerta International Academy:** We want to recognize our amazing student leaders: President - Joaquin A., Vice President - Kayla A., Secretary - Andrew L., Historian - Sophia A.

**Dorothy Grant Innovations Academy:** Thank you to our families who joined us for our first Parent Empowerment Workshop! Our next one on Improving Literacy Skills is at 3 p.m. on Nov. 18.

**Hemlock Elementary:** Thank you to Fontana Police Department for helping teach our students the importance of staying drug-free during Red Ribbon Week.

**Live Oak Elementary:** Thank you to all our Bobcats who participated in our Halloween fun! The day was truly magical!

**Maple Elementary:** Shout to our amazing Maple families who participated in the Read to Your Child Week.

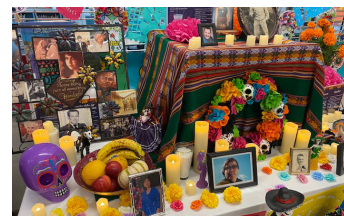
**Oak Park Elementary:** Congratulations to Mrs. Humphreys on her 25th year at Oak Park! We appreciate you so much!

**Redwood Elementary:** We were very excited for students to participate in Día De Los Muertos celebrations, immersing in not only the Spanish language, but also in additional cultures.

**Sierra Lakes Elementary:** Thank you to all of our families who supported the Scholastic Book Fair!

**South Tamarind Elementary:** Taco-bout a fun Red Ribbon Week! Each fun-filled day our students got to show their spirit and say no to drugs!

**Tokay Elementary:** Big shout out to Miss Elisa Polido who ran the Boston Marathon on Oct. 11! Tokay Elementary is very proud!



# School Shout Outs – Middle Schools



**Alder Middle School:** We love when our students get “wrapped up” in spirit week. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Red Ribbon spirit week and enjoyed the Halloween fun!

**Almeria Middle School:** Congratulations to Almeria teachers Veronica Gutierrez and Jean Yoo on being named Educators of the Year by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez of the 52nd District!

**Fontana Middle School:** Shout out to our FMS afterschool program and students who participated in the La Gran Fiesta, displaying their works in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Harry S. Truman Middle School:** Thank you to Mr. Skinner for his tireless dedication to our Truman MS students. He was our October Staff Member of the Month.

**Sequoia Middle School:** Sequoia AVID students who engineered safe landings during “Egg Drop Friday!”

**Southridge Tech Middle School:** Congratulations to both JV and Varsity Volleyball teams who are league champions this year!



# School Shout Outs – High Schools, Alternative Schools & Adult Education

Congratulations to the League Champions and all of the teams who advanced to CIF Playoffs!



## A.B. Miller High School

Cheer: Sharp Championship Winners

Football: Mountain Valley League Champs, advanced to first round of CIF

Volleyball: Mountain Valley League Runner-Up, advanced to first round of CIF

## Fontana High School

Boys' Water Polo: San Andrea League Champs, advanced to second round of CIF



## Henry J. Kaiser High School

Football: Sunkist League Runner-Up, advanced to first round of CIF

Volleyball: Sunkist League Runner-Up, advanced to first round of CIF

## Jurupa Hills High School

Boys Individual Cross Country, Alejandro D.: San Andreas League Champion, advanced to first round of CIF

Girls Tennis: San Andreas League CIF Qualifier



Girls Tennis Doubles Team, Sophia F. and Arianna V.: San Andreas League Champions

Football: Sunkist League Champions, advanced to first round of CIF

## Summit High School

Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams: Sunkist League Runner-Up, advanced to first round of CIF

Girls Tennis: Sunkist League Runner-Up, advanced to first round of CIF

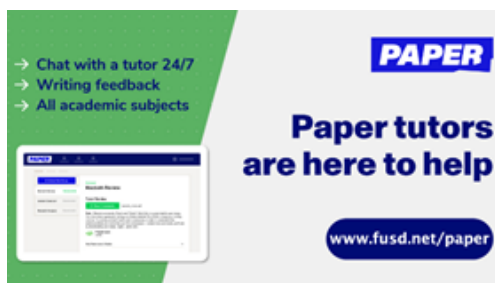
Football: San Andreas League Champions, advanced to first round of CIF

Volleyball: Sunkist League Champions, advanced to first round of CIF

Congratulations to Coach Whitcomb on reaching more than 200 wins!



# FUSD Students Can Receive Free 24/7 Tutoring through Paper Education



→ Chat with a tutor 24/7  
→ Writing feedback  
→ All academic subjects

**PAPER**

**Paper tutors are here to help**

[www.fusd.net/paper](http://www.fusd.net/paper)

Fontana Unified students can receive live, 24/7 aid in core subjects and an array of electives for free through the District's partnership with digital tutoring service Paper Education.

The service provides students in grades three to 12 with access to one-on-one tutoring 24 hours a day, seven days a week in English and Spanish.

Paper Education's tutors are trained in the Socratic method, which aims to foster critical thinking and focuses on giving students questions rather than answers. Fontana Unified students also have access to essay review services through Paper Education, allowing them to upload any piece of written work and receive an annotated version of their work within 24-48 hours.

Students can access Paper through their ClassLink portal, and simple, easy-to-use videos on navigating the platform are available at [www.fusd.net/paper](http://www.fusd.net/paper).

## Fontana Adult School Prepares Students for Careers in the Classroom

Fontana Adult School (FAS) is inspiring students to pursue new career opportunities and make a positive impact on the community through its Education Pathway, which offers hands-on work experience in the classroom with teachers and students. This hands-on training lets students discover for themselves if working in a classroom is a good fit and opens the doors to employment opportunities once a student has received their certification. In partnership with Fontana Unified and the City of Fontana Human Resources Department, FAS offers paraprofessional testing to the public, paraprofessional students, potential Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutors and those interested in the After School Program. FAS Principal Cynthia Gleason said these skills are in demand and can lead to employment opportunities with the City of Fontana, which is currently looking to hire After School Community Services assistants through the Fontana Expanded Learning Program. Lisbet Vera had nearly given up on her dream to work in education when she enrolled at FAS. "Fontana Adult School changed my life in many ways – personal, emotional and economic," Vera said. "Today I am on the path to achieving my dream. Fontana Adult School made me believe in myself again." FAS offers 12 educational pathways, from English as a Second Language to culinary arts, is an official Pearson VUE test center for IT certification, provides High School Equivalency (HSE) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) testing, and offers dual enrollment with Chaffey College. To register for classes or learn more about Fontana Adult School's offerings, please call 909-357-5490.



## FUSD Fun Fact

Students from Wayne Ruble Middle School and Randall Pepper Elementary competed in the World Robot Olympiad Friendship Invitational in 2019, gaining international recognition for their coding and robotics skills!

