



FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD

NEWSLETTER

September 2021

DISTRICT NEWS

Fontana Unified's Innovation Empire to foster Maker Culture, Inspire Students

Work is underway on the Innovation Empire, a state-of-the-art Makerspace that aims to break the barriers of learning and inspire Fontana Unified students to unlock their imagination and create forward-thinking products. Innovation Empire, located on Valley

Boulevard and Juniper Avenue, is tentatively set to open to the public in January 2022, marking an exciting new chapter for Fontana Unified School District and the community.

The idea development, prototyping and incubation space will be equipped with the latest tools and technology, including a variety of 3D printing systems and a laser engraver. Innovation Empire will also feature open spaces dedicated to planning, teaching and demonstration, as well as individual meeting rooms and display areas.

Innovation Empire will empower students to build on their learning and exercise their creativity, all while gaining practical experience in a retail/business setting where they can create and sell products to the public.

More information on the opportunities available through the Innovation Empire will be shared with the Fontana Unified community as the project approaches completion.



innovation
empire

BOARD BRIEFS - View full meetings at www.fusd.net

Highlights from the JULY Board of Education Meetings

July 7, 2021

- Board of Education received a program review regarding our Multi-Tiered Systems Support (MTSS). MTSS is a state-adopted format where academics, behavioral and social-emotional learning are aligned to serve the whole child. MTSS supports services for foster youth, homeless, English learners and any students in danger of failing. There are multiple steps to support both Climate and Culture, and Social and Emotional lessons within the MTSS department.
- After the approval of bonuses and salary adjustments for other employee groups, the Board requested the contracts of executive management employees be brought for consideration to ensure that full-time employees be considered for the same bonuses and adjustments. Each Cabinet Member and the Superintendent donated their bonuses to the Fontana Public Schools Education Foundation.
- An update regarding the two standing board committees was given. The committee on "Preventing Police Brutality and Inequality in Law Enforcement" (Board Representatives are Adam Perez and Marcelino "Mars" Serna), and "Committee on Celebrating

Diversity and Ending Inequality" (Board Representatives are Joe Armendarez and Jennifer Quezada, Ed.D). Both committees have been established and initial planning has been completed. Now that committees will be able to meet in person, the next steps are to appoint a committee chair, adopt meeting schedule, and establish an agenda.



July 21, 2021

- The Board approved the purchase of a license for ParentSquare, which offers features such

as teacher and administrator level access to communicate with parents via email, text message, or phone call, and offers integrated school calendaring, as well as engages parents through interactive polls/surveys. The District began utilizing ParentSquare during the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Board approved an agreement with All City Management Services to provide crossing guards at 58 locations within Fontana Unified School District. The City of Fontana partners with Fontana Unified to split the cost of providing crossing guard services in the District.
- The Board approved a Master Agreement and Project Authorization with SVA Architects, for the design and engineering of the Fontana Middle School Modernization Project. The scope of work includes the replacement of Classroom Building "L" and modernization of various classrooms and buildings.
- The Board adopted a revised board policy to reflect the new independent study program requirements for 2021-22 and ensure policies are updated prior to the beginning of instruction. There have been significant changes to state law regarding independent study and the District is required to update Board policies to ensure alignment with the new state policies.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

ELEMENTARY:

Elementary Students Embrace Learning in Summer Literacy and Math Camp

For the first time in many years, 25 Fontana Unified elementary schools engaged students in Summer Literacy and Math Camp, which bolstered student learning in core subjects through exciting lessons.

Second- and third-grade students bolstered their social-emotional learning through literature as part of the Summer Lit Camp language arts curriculum, developed by Scholastic. Popular titles like "Bobby the Brave" and "The Rainbow Mystery" came alive in the classroom, supported by engaging arts and crafts lessons that extended learning and inspired creativity.

Lit Camp fosters seven key strengths – belonging, curiosity, kindness, confidence, courage and hope – that help children develop the resilience to be lifelong readers and learners who flourish in and out of the classroom.

Second- and third-graders also engaged in hands-on math activities driven by Graham Fletcher's 3 Act Tasks, which spark curiosity and make real-world connections to the daily math students learn in the classroom.

The whole-class, problem-based approach helped develop students' ability to question, engage in problem solving, develop a range of strategies and mathematically model.

The program's success is not only illustrated in the high student engagement, but also in their pre- and post- assessment scores. Post assessment results revealed gains in students' grade-level proficiency with problem solving, critical thinking and reasoning. Thank you to the teachers, counselors, office clerks, school site aides and summer school administrators – as well as the students – who made Summer Lit and Math Camp a huge success!



MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Sequoia Middle School Celebrates 'School to Watch' Status, Aims to Build Success in 2021-22

Sequoia Middle School has a nurturing school climate that allows its students to flourish academically and socially, providing them with engaging learning experiences and 21st century skills that will prepare them for success in college and career.

Following a year in which the middle school was redesignated a 2021 California School to Watch and recognized as a Microsoft Showcase Incubator School, Sequoia administrators, faculty, and staff are excited to see what the 2021-22 school year and a return to in-person learning will bring.

"When the students returned to campus last May, there was a really good vibe. Our kids really enjoyed being back in class," Sequoia Principal Antonio Viramontes said. "We want to continue that momentum this year, providing rigorous curriculum and using the best of modern technology to unlock our student's inner genius."

This year, Sequoia will continue its efforts to boost social-emotional wellness and academic achievement, providing additional mental health resources to students in need, as well as a new elective to jumpstart high-school level studies. Sequoia students can now enroll in Spanish 1, a combination of native and non-native language arts, allowing them the opportunity to take Spanish 2 as freshmen.

"At Sequoia, we truly believe in our student's abilities to grow into community leaders, and that is our focus every day," Sequoia Assistant Principal Kim Moyer said. "Real world problem solving, and skilled communication will be the keys to their success."



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

HIGH SCHOOL:

FOHI and Kaiser High Enhance Learning through Makerspaces

Fontana High School and Kaiser High School are expanding learning beyond the classroom in 2021-22, thanks to state-of-the-art Makerspaces that inspire innovation.

Designed to enhance the learning process, the makerspaces at Fontana and Kaiser high schools provide a hands-on environment where students can exercise their creativity and explore ideas – across various subjects and disciplines – using the latest tools and technology.

The Makerspaces will also support the robust career technical education pathways offered at each high school. Fontana High School's Bio-Animakerspace, created in partnership with Garner Holt Education through Imagination, promote career exploration and problem-solving across the biomedical, biomechanical and biotechnological industries.



SCHOOL SHOUT OUTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-2021

Nancy L. Wheeler - Almond Elementary
Jamie L. Heyes - Beech Avenue Elementary
Edith C. Chavez - Kathy Binks Elementary
Mary K. Catren-Crull - Canyon Crest Elementary
Laura J. Wood - Chaparral Academy of Technology
Baudelio Santana, Jr. - Citrus Elementary
Debra G. Moncayo - Cypress Elementary
Audrey J. Cox - Date Elementary
Erika Olmedo - Dolores Huerta International Academy
Linda B. Veik - Hemlock Elementary
Marissa A. Bomar - Juniper Elementary
Wendy E. Vega-Franco - Live Oak Elementary
Kristy A. Stevens - Locust Elementary
Leticia Mendoza - Mango Elementary
Jimena J. Furlani Barrera - Maple Elementary
Nancy J. Baker - North Tamarind Elementary
Sommer M. Mendoza - Oak Park Elementary
Francisco J. Caloca - Oleander Elementary
Susan J. Little - Palmetto Elementary
Jennifer Saikaly Moreno - Poplar Elementary
J. Louise Kennedy - Ted J. Porter Elementary
Dawn M. Juhas - Virginia Primrose Elementary
Sunshine L. Contreras - Randall-Pepper Elementary

Bret T. Nason - Redwood Elementary
Andrea J. Mc Clure - Shadow Hills Elementary
Heather N. Minnick - Sierra Lakes Elementary
Laura B. Galvez - South Tamarind Elementary
Sommer M. Mendoza - Tokay Elementary
Megan E. Pulham - West Randall Elementary
Shawn K. Gibson - Alder Middle
Heather L. Rhodes - Almeria Middle
Yvonne F. Quinto - Fontana Middle
Shawn M. Farnsworth - Wayne Ruble Middle
Brianna A. Hoch - Sequoia Middle
Lauren E. Freeman - Southridge Tech Middle
Virginia C. Johnson - Harry S. Truman Middle
Nate Abba - A. B. Miller High
Gilberto Vega - Eric Birch High
Ryan M. Augustine - Citrus High
David W. Fischer - Fontana High
Albar X. Inzunza - Jurupa Hills High
Leandra P. Marchis - Henry J. Kaiser High
Robert J. Braucht - Summit High
Rosa Aguilar - Fontana Adult School
Margaret J. Vollmer - Elementary Instruction
Ana L. Espinosa Hernandez - VLP - Online Learning

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Cynthia E. Cervantes - Senior Custodian
Kathleen M. Holtsclaw - Senior Custodian
Rosalind B. Wilkins - Secretary I - Secondary
Guadalupe Berry - District Office Receptionist (Bilingual)
Susana Ventura - Secretary I - High School
Brenda S. Cardona - Secretary I - Elementary School
Fabiola Ramirez - Secretary I - Elementary School
Maria D. Medeiros - Community Aide - Bilingual

Elsa Lafarga Avila - Secretary I - Elementary School
Patricia Martinez - Secretary I - Elementary School
Claudia G. Quen - Intermediate Clerk Typist
Laura E. Urbina - Kitchen Operator
Amelia L. Lafleur - Library Specialist
Jocelyn M. Mendoza - Intermediate Clerk Typist
Leonardo Perez - Senior Custodian
Ana I. Gutierrez - Community Aide - Bilingual

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



FONTANA UNIFIED
FORWARD
NEWSLETTER



Dear Fontana Unified families,

The 2021-22 school year is off to an exciting start in Fontana Unified, with many students back on campus for full in-person instruction and embracing the wealth of learning opportunities available at our schools.

As we celebrate the successful launch of another school year, we are also thrilled to introduce a new method of engaging with our community: our Fontana Unified Forward newsletter.

There are countless stories of achievement to be told in Fontana Unified, made possible by the dedication and passion of our students and employees alike.

This monthly newsletter will shine a spotlight on Districtwide news, highlight standout programs and events at the elementary, secondary and high school levels, and provide updates from each of our campuses.

Fontana Unified remains committed to providing innovative and forward-thinking opportunities that empower our students to achieve personal and academic success in and out of the classroom – and we look forward to sharing more about these efforts through Fontana Unified Forward.

Sincerely,
Randal S. Bassett
Superintendent
Fontana Unified School District

Save the Dates

Monday
September 6
No School

Wednesday
September 8
School Board Meeting

Wednesday
September 2
School Board Meeting

FUSD FUN FACT: Fontana's 1st Permanent school was built in 1895 on the corner of Locust Avenue and Foothill Blvd.



DISTRICT NEWS (continue)

Fontana Unified Continues to Provide Free Meals for All Students

Fontana Unified School District is dedicated to supporting all facets of student success, including the nutritional well-being of students.

In 2021-22, the District will continue to serve free meals to all enrolled students – both on-campus for students receiving in-person learning and via pick-up for students enrolled in the District's online learning programs.

As of 2020, nearly 84 percent of Fontana Unified students qualified for free or reduced-lunch prices. The community need – coupled with the food shortages in local markets during the COVID-19 pandemic – bolstered the District's decision to continue providing Grab-and-Go meals to all students during the school closures in 2020 and 2021.

In total, Fontana Unified served approximately 20 million meals during the pandemic and period of school closures.

As Fontana Unified's Food Services team prepared meals for the first day of school, FUSD Director of Food Services Trieste Huey spoke with CBS Los Angeles on Aug. 6 about the District's meal distribution program.

