

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Westminster School District**



Volume 21, Issue 122

March 2025

## Westminster School District: Embracing Diversity, Enriching Heritage



**WSD Participates in the Annual UVSA Tết Festival – This Year it was Hosted in Garden Grove**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)



## Superintendent



**Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen**  
*Superintendent*

As we enter February, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and express my gratitude for the WSD Community's continued dedication and support.

This year, we made history at the annual Westminster Têt Parade! For the first time ever, our district had an incredible turnout of over 240 WSD staff, students, and family members participating in this celebration. Our presence was truly felt as we joined the City of Westminster in honoring the Lunar New Year.

The festivities didn't stop there. Our talented students from DeMille and Warner schools showcased their skills throughout the entire weekend at the annual Têt Festival, further cementing our district's commitment to cultural engagement and community involvement.

February also marks a time to recognize some of the unsung heroes in our educational community. We honored

our dedicated School Counselors and School Resource Officers this month. Their tireless efforts in supporting our students' well-being and ensuring a safe learning environment are invaluable. To these professionals: thank you for your service.

As we find ourselves more than halfway through the school year, I'm filled with excitement for the recognitions and celebrations yet to come. The energy and enthusiasm I've witnessed across our schools are truly inspiring.

To every member of the WSD family - students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators - I want to express my appreciation for all that you do. Your commitment to excellence and your passion for education continue to make Westminster School District a shining example of what a school community can achieve when we work together.

Let's carry this momentum forward as we continue to inspire, connect, and elevate one another in the months ahead!



**Vietnamese American Cultural Club (VACC) students showed off their talents on the main stage at the UVSA Têt Festival.**



## Board of Trustees



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### **WSD Shines at Westminster's Tết Parade: Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Community Spirit**

*By Jeremy Khalaf, President, Board of Trustees*

As Board President of Westminster School District (WSD), I am proud to announce our significant participation in the Annual Westminster Tết Parade. With nearly 250 participants, WSD once again demonstrated its commitment to cultural celebration and community engagement.

This year, I had the honor of introducing our district on stage and expressing our pride in WSD's contributions. As the lead sponsor for the event, we continue to strengthen our partnership with the City of Westminster, promoting community growth and success.

In my speech, I highlighted our expanding Dual Language Immersion Programs. We're thrilled to announce that these programs will now be available at Anderson Elementary for Vietnamese and Finley Elementary for Spanish, reflecting our dedication to linguistic and cultural diversity!

Our district's commitment to innovative education is evident in the wide array of specialties we offer. From GATE and STEAM to Computer Science, AVID, and Robotics, we're providing our students with cutting-edge educational opportunities that prepare them for the future.

During the parade, our students and staff marched proudly, carrying QR codes for easy enrollment in our exceptional programs. This initiative showcases our innovative approach to connecting with the community and making our educational offerings easily accessible.

The Tết Parade, celebrating the Lunar New Year, is a vibrant display of cultural heritage and community spirit. With approximately 80 entries this year, the event featured a diverse lineup of participants, including local dignitaries and traditional performances.

As we celebrate the Tết Parade, we at Westminster School District reaffirm our commitment to providing exceptional and innovative experiences where all learners can thrive. We thank the community for their continued support and look forward to another year of academic excellence and cultural enrichment.

**Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!**



**WSD Shows up in Full Force During the City of Westminster's Annual Tết Parade**



## City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • [www.westminster-ca.gov](http://www.westminster-ca.gov)



**Chi Charlie  
Nguyen**  
Mayor

### 2025 Têt Parade

We were thrilled to have many students from districts across the county participate in the 2025 Têt Parade, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the community. The event was a vibrant display of unity and tradition, with students, teachers, and administrators proudly marching together.

Families, staff, and spectators cheered as the students embraced this year's theme "Spring of Resiliency," celebrating the Year of the Snake. The Westminster School District, Garden Grove Unified School District, Ocean View School District, Huntington Beach Union High School District, and other districts participated, highlighting the districts' commitment to fostering inclusivity and strengthening ties within the city.

The City of Westminster is grateful for all the participation in this beloved event. Your involvement not only enriched the

parade but also reinforced the importance of celebrating cultural appreciation among future generations. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this celebration a success!





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# Orange County Department of Education

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## Celebrating 50 Years of Inside the Outdoors: A Legacy of Learning and Renewal



**Dr. Stefan Bean**  
Superintendent

For five decades, Inside the Outdoors has served as a gateway to discovery, inspiring generations of students to connect with the natural world in meaningful ways.

Since its inception in 1974, this Orange County Department of Education program has provided immersive outdoor experiences to more than 3.5 million students, bringing science to life in ways

that textbooks cannot.

It all began with the first Outdoor Science School, which gave students the chance to step beyond classroom walls and into nature. In 1981, the program expanded to include day programs at other picturesque sites throughout Orange County, ensuring even more students could take part in hands-on environmental learning.

For many young learners, today's Inside the Outdoors program represents a first encounter with nature — one that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration and instills a sense of environmental stewardship. In fact, research consistently shows that outdoor education increases student engagement, strengthens academic achievement and promotes social-emotional well-being while deepening appreciation for the environment.

This year, we celebrate not only the program's 50-year history but also its impact and resilience.

In December 2020, tragedy struck when a fast-moving wildfire swept through Rancho Soñado, which had long served as ITO's headquarters. Along with destroying the caretakers' home, the fire claimed the lives of many of the animals that had been part of the program's educational experiences. It was a heartbreaking loss for our Inside the Outdoors family and for the many students and educators who had formed lasting connections with the site.

Yet, that loss has strengthened our resolve to provide these kinds of opportunities. We are now actively working to redevelop Rancho Soñado with a vision that honors its natural beauty while enhancing its role as an immersive outdoor learning space. Our goal is not just to rebuild, but to thoughtfully restore and reimagine the site, ensuring future generations can take in the sights, sounds and lessons of nature in Orange County's own backyard.

Inside the Outdoors has remained at the forefront of environmental education by evolving to meet the needs of today's students. Its Traveling Scientist program, field trips and interactive lessons continue to provide high-quality, standards-based instruction while inspiring young people to develop a deeper connection to the natural world.

As we celebrate its golden anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to expanding access to environmental education and encourage schools, educators and community members to explore all that Inside the Outdoors has to offer.

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So here's to 50 great years  
and to 50 more  
filled with exploration,  
discovery and learning  
in the great outdoors.

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I believe the mission of Inside the Outdoors remains as vital as ever. When students connect with nature, they develop a deeper appreciation for their surroundings and a clearer understanding of how their actions shape the world around them.

So here's to 50 great years — and to 50 more filled with exploration, discovery and learning in the great outdoors.

For more information on Inside the Outdoors and its 50th anniversary events, visit [www.insidetheoutdoors.org](http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org).

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## Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • [anderson.wsdk8.us](http://anderson.wsdk8.us)



**Kim Breckenridge**  
Principal

### A Heartfelt Family Night

On February 12, 2025, Anderson was filled with literacy, love, and creativity as families came together for a special Valentine's Family Night! This heartwarming event gave parents, students, and staff the opportunity to connect while making three fun, hands-on projects inspired by Valentine's Day.

Families enjoyed rotating through different activity rooms, each designed to celebrate the season of love in a creative and engaging way:

**Color Monsters** – After reading *The Color Monster* by Anna Llenas, a story which focuses on identifying feelings, families created their own color monsters using hearts.

**Heart Penguins** – Teachers read aloud *Penguin in Love* by Salina Yoon and then made their own penguins out of hearts.

**Heart Wreaths** – Students designed and created paper wreaths made of hearts.

Through our Extended Learning Opportunity Program, students also had the opportunity to choose a book from our book vending machine to take home and enjoy. The evening was filled with smiles, creativity, and quality time, reminding us all of the importance of family and togetherness.





## Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • [clegg.wsdk8.us](http://clegg.wsdk8.us)



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

### Teacher of the Year

We're thrilled to congratulate Mrs. Yee on being named Clegg's Teacher of the Year! This award is a testament to her hard work and dedication to education, and it's a well-deserved recognition from her peers.

Mrs. Yee has a gift for connecting with her students, which is key to her success in the classroom. She's always committed to making sure her students are engaged and empowered throughout their learning journey.

Her passion for teaching is contagious, inspiring both her students and colleagues. Mrs. Yee's creative approaches to teaching create a supportive environment where students can grow academically and personally.

Beyond her role as an educator, Mrs. Yee is deeply involved in the school community. She helps with many after-school activities and plays a vital role in leading our Student Council, where she guides students in developing leadership skills and making positive contributions to the school. Her influence extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the lives of everyone she meets.

We're so proud of Mrs. Yee and grateful for all she does to help shape the minds of future generations. Congratulations again on this wonderful honor!







**Christina Hiraless**  
*Principal*

## DeMille School News March 2025

Chúc mừng năm mới (Happy New Year) was heard throughout our school community during the month of February for the Lunar New Year or Tết. It is the biggest holiday celebrated in the Vietnamese community and a time where culturally we welcome ancestors, share meals and prepare for the new year.

DeMille had its 1st very own Tết Kickoff Parade where the entire school dressed in our colorful ao dai's and our amazing parents cheered us on!

That weekend, we had a great time with students, parents, and teachers walking in the Westminster Tết Parade and afterward celebrating at the Tết Festival! A great time was had by all! Our Vietnamese Culture Club had so many requests that kept them extremely busy performing all over Orange County at various events and

we are so very proud of them! Our students provide a great show by speaking, singing and dancing to share the beauty and richness of the Vietnamese culture. We had students compete in the district spelling bee, our 5th grade students were able to have fun and attend Science Camp. We have been very busy with Mc Teacher Night and all can agree that spending time with our families outside of school is always fun! What a great start to the new year!





# Eastwood *Elementary* (K-6)

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • [eastwood.wsdk8.us](http://eastwood.wsdk8.us)



**Kathryn Cox**  
Principal

## Building Connections: Eastwood Elementary's Buddy Program

At Eastwood Elementary, we believe in the power of connection, and our Buddy Program is a shining example of that philosophy in action. What started organically through teacher collaboration has grown into a cherished tradition, pairing younger students with older peers to foster mentorship, learning, and friendship.

Our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students are paired with sixth graders, while other grade levels also form buddy partnerships. Together, they engage in a variety of enriching activities, including team-building games, STEM challenges, and creative crafts. Literacy development is another key focus, with students participating in paired reading and writing exercises. Some groups have even worked together to craft original stories using Thinking Maps and GATE frames, strengthening their comprehension and storytelling skills.



Beyond academics, the Buddy Program creates a strong sense of community. With students ranging from ages 4 to 12, these connections help bridge age differences, making our school feel like a big family. Seeing our older students take on leadership roles and our younger students gain confidence is one of the most rewarding aspects of this program.

This is just one of the many things that makes Eastwood Elementary an amazing place to learn and grow. Our enrollment for next year is filling up quickly—don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible community. Enroll today!





**Pam LeMuix**  
*Principal*

## Finley Elementary 5th Graders Share Dreams in OC GRIP Project

This past week, Finley Elementary School's fifth-grade students participated in the Dream Box project, a meaningful activity designed to help them reflect on their goals and aspirations. Facilitated by District Attorney Investigator Tom Finley and Probation Officer Yara Solorzano of the OC GRIP program, the project encouraged students to create personalized "dream boxes" filled with symbols representing who they are, what they value, and where they hope to go in life.

The project culminated in a powerful presentation, where students shared their dream boxes with OC GRIP officers and classmates. Many overcame their fears of public speaking to present their aspirations with confidence. "I really enjoyed learning about my friends' passions and dreams," said Jayson Thapa, a fifth-grade student. "I was really proud that I faced my fear and got up in front of the group to present my ideas."

Officer Finley and Solorzano guided students through the process, helping them see the importance of setting goals and working toward a bright future. Teachers emphasized the impact of the OC GRIP program in shaping students' mindsets. "OC GRIP helps our students see that their futures start now. This project showed them that planning, goal-setting, and believing in themselves can make a real difference in their lives," Mrs. Amy Nguyen shared.

Through its partnership with OC GRIP, Finley Elementary continues to provide mentorship and encouragement, empowering students to make positive choices. The Dream Box project was a powerful reminder that with determination and support, every student has the potential to achieve their dreams.





# Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • [fryberger.wsdk8.us](http://fryberger.wsdk8.us)



**Laura Urquhart**  
Principal

## Fryberger Elementary's Hands-On Journey into Life Science and Discovery

At Fryberger Elementary, students are diving into hands-on learning through an exciting project-based learning (PBL) initiative centered on life science. This year, classrooms across grade levels are engaging in real-world applications of science by exploring hydroponics, raised bed gardening, and greenhouse gardening. Through these projects, students are gaining a deeper understanding of how plants grow while developing essential academic and life skills.

The school's outdoor learning spaces have become vibrant hubs of activity. In the hydroponics project, students are experimenting with growing plants without soil, carefully monitoring water levels, nutrients, and light exposure. Raised bed gardens offer a more traditional approach, where students plant seeds, water, weed, and observe growth over time. Meanwhile, the greenhouse provides a controlled environment where students can test different variables like temperature and humidity to see how they affect plant development.

What makes this project-based approach so impactful is how it connects life science with literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Students strengthen their reading skills by following multi-step directions for planting and maintaining their gardens. They apply their understanding of cause and effect when they observe how changes in water or sunlight influence plant health. By making predictions about plant growth and using trial and error to adjust their methods, students gain valuable experience in the scientific process.



In addition to academic growth, students are developing collaboration, leadership, and teamwork skills. Each classroom garden is a shared responsibility, requiring students to communicate, delegate tasks, and support one another. Whether measuring water levels, tracking growth in journals, or troubleshooting unexpected challenges, students take on leadership roles and learn how to problem-solve together.

"This kind of hands-on learning really engages students in a meaningful way," says Principal Urquhart. "They're not just reading about science—they're doing science. And through that experience, they're building skills they'll use for a lifetime."

As Fryberger Elementary continues to foster innovation and student-centered learning, projects like these highlight the school's commitment to providing rich, real-world educational experiences. By combining life science with collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, Fryberger's young scientists are growing not just plants—but a passion for learning and discovery.





# Hayden *Elementary* (K-5)

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • [hayden.wsdk8.us](http://hayden.wsdk8.us)



**Wendy Baird**  
Principal

## Hayden Highlights: Celebrating Community and Creativity

At Hayden, we take pride in fostering a strong sense of community, and our recent events have brought students, families, and staff together in wonderful ways!

We kicked off the season with a Lunar New Year Parade, where Hayden families proudly walked together, representing our school with joy and unity. The enthusiasm was contagious as our families joined the larger community in celebrating this cultural tradition.

Next, our Family Art Night gave families the chance to unleash their creativity while learning about an artist. Students and parents experimented with oil pastels to create their own masterpieces. It was a night of artistic exploration and bonding, proving that creativity is even more fun when shared!

Our students also participated in Kindness Week, where they performed acts of kindness to spread positivity throughout the school. The week ended with a kindness snowball fight, where students tossed messages of kindness to one another. It was a heartwarming reminder that small acts of kindness can make a big impact.

Another highlight was Mad Science Night, where students were amazed by thrilling experiments conducted by a Mad Scientist. From a foggy ice storm to a bubbling potion, students got a hands-on lesson in chemical reactions. The biggest hit of the night was the slime booth, where students had the chance to create their own slime to take home. The excitement and curiosity in the room were truly inspiring!

At Hayden, learning goes far beyond the classroom walls. Whether through cultural celebrations, creative arts, science exploration, or community-building activities, we continue to create meaningful experiences that bring our school community together. We are grateful for the participation of our amazing families and can't wait for more exciting events to come!



**Lunar New Year Parade**



**Throwing Kindness Snowballs**



**Family Art Night**



**Mad Science**



# Johnson *Middle School* (6–8)

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • [johnson.wsdk8.us](http://johnson.wsdk8.us)



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

## Johnson Middle School Recognized as a 2025 California and National “School to Watch”

Johnson Middle School has been recognized as a 2025 California and National “School to Watch,” honoring its commitment to excellence in education. This recognition highlights the school’s outstanding programs and initiatives aligned with four key domains: Academic Excellence, Social Equity, Developmental Responsiveness, and Organizational Structures.

To receive this award, Johnson Middle School demonstrated its dedication to helping all students succeed academically while providing a welcoming and supportive school environment. The school’s application emphasized its many opportunities for students to explore their interests and develop new skills both during elective courses as well as during after school clubs and activities.

One of the most impressive aspects of Johnson Middle School’s recognition is its strong commitment to inclusion. The school goes above and beyond to ensure that students in their special education program are fully included in all activities and experiences on campus. From clubs and



**CALIFORNIA**  
**SCHOOLS TO WATCH**  
HIGH PERFORMING MODEL MIDDLE SCHOOLS

sports teams to leadership roles and classroom projects, every student at Johnson has the opportunity to be an active part of the school community. This focus on inclusivity reflects the school’s belief that every student deserves to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive environment.

Earning the “Schools to Watch” recognition is a significant achievement, and it speaks to the dedication of Johnson Middle School’s teachers, staff, students, and families. Their hard work and commitment to making Johnson a great place to learn have made this honor possible.

As a 2025 “School to Watch,” Johnson Middle School serves as a model for other schools across the state and the nation and will collaborate with other recognized schools to build stronger programs with even deeper commitments to success.

## Things to Sit On—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 Westminster in the subject line.

**Congratulations to Winners of Our January Contests:**

**Emma Ayala, Sean Wright, and Ben Nguyen**

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2025**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • [land.wsdk8.us](http://land.wsdk8.us) • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



**Dr. Stephanie Ceminsky**  
*Director  
Early and Expanded  
Learning*

## Recognition from CABC

Land Early Learning Center's Dual Language program has received prestigious recognition for its high-quality approach to early childhood education from the California Association of Bilingual Education (CABC). The program, which fosters bilingualism and biliteracy by immersing young learners in both English and a partner language, was praised for its innovative

curriculum, skilled educators, and positive impact on students' language development.

Officials highlighted the program's commitment to cultural inclusivity and its focus on nurturing cognitive skills, social-emotional growth, and academic readiness. Parents have also expressed their enthusiasm, noting how their children gain confidence in communicating across languages.

"This recognition validates the hard work of our teachers and the incredible progress our students make every day," said Stephanie Ceminsky. "We're proud to offer an environment where children embrace multiple languages and cultures."

The honor reinforces the growing importance of dual language education in preparing students for a globalized world. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open.





## Meairs Elementary (K-5)

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • [meairs.wsdck8.us](http://meairs.wsdck8.us)



**Nicole Alvarado**  
*Principal*

### Meairs Elementary Expands AVID with RIASEC to Inspire Future Careers

Meairs Elementary is excited to expand our AVID program by introducing RIASEC, a framework that helps students explore their interests and potential career paths. This initiative will be

implemented in TK-5th grade, encouraging students to develop self-awareness and a growth mindset.

RIASEC categorizes interests into six areas: Realistic (hands-on learners), Investigative (problem-solvers), Artistic (creative thinkers), Social (helpers and leaders), Enterprising (motivators), and Conventional (organized and detail-oriented).



By integrating RIASEC into classrooms, students engage in self-assessments, role-playing, and hands-on activities that connect learning to real-world careers. Younger students will explore interests through storytelling and projects, while older students will participate in structured career-related discussions.

This approach enhances AVID's mission by fostering goal-setting, critical thinking, and future planning. Meairs Elementary is committed to helping students discover their passions, inspiring them to dream big, and preparing them for success in the future.





## Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • [schmitt.wsdk8.us](http://schmitt.wsdk8.us)



**Sarah  
Nead-Rendon**  
*Principal*

### Exciting Winter Clubs at Schmitt Elementary!

At Schmitt Elementary, we are thrilled to offer a variety of winter clubs that provide students with enriching opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and collaborate with peers.

This season, we have introduced several new clubs to spark curiosity and creativity! Our

All Things Science Rocket Club allows students to engage in hands-on experiments each week, fostering a love for scientific exploration while strengthening critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In Art Club, students are not only creating unique artwork but also learning about influential artists and their techniques, helping them develop creativity, fine motor skills, and self-expression. We are also excited to offer an after-school Conversational Spanish Club for TK-5th grade, where students can develop their language skills, cultural awareness, and confidence in communication through interactive activities.



Along with our exciting new additions, we are proud to continue offering our returning clubs that have been favorites among students. Our Schmitt Choir Club is helping students build confidence and teamwork, and they are excited to showcase their talents at the end-of-year district performance. Lego Club encourages creativity, engineering skills, and collaboration as students design and construct together. Chess Club teaches strategic thinking, patience, and logical reasoning, while Origami Club enhances focus, precision, and perseverance through the intricate art of paper folding.

Each of these clubs not only provides a fun and engaging experience but also supports the development of valuable lifelong skills. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer these enriching experiences, allowing students to explore new interests and develop valuable skills.



# Schroeder College & Career Academy

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • [schroeder.wsdk8.us](http://schroeder.wsdk8.us)



**Robert Murdock**  
*Principal*

## Unforgettable Adventure

From February 18 through 21, the sixth-grade students at Schroeder College and Career Academy embarked on an unforgettable adventure to science camp in Running Springs, California. Traveling in comfort aboard coach buses, the students eagerly anticipated a week filled with hands-on learning, outdoor exploration, and team-building experiences.

At camp, students engaged in a variety of science classes that expanded their understanding of the natural world. Lessons in aerodynamics, rocketry, biodiversity, and biology brought science to life in ways that a classroom simply cannot. Through these interactive sessions, students gained valuable knowledge while applying scientific principles in real-world settings.

Beyond academics, camp activities pushed students to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new challenges. Hiking through the scenic mountain

landscape, ziplining through the trees, practicing their aim in archery, and testing their courage on the high ropes course were just a few of the thrilling adventures they tackled. The nighttime astronomy session allowed students to gaze at the stars and learn about constellations in a way that deepened their appreciation for the universe.

While many students admitted to missing their families, their overall experience was overwhelmingly positive. When asked about their favorite parts of the trip, the most common responses were the delicious camp food, the exhilarating zipline, and the high ropes course.

A special thank you goes to Mr. Chien and Mrs. Griffith, who dedicated their time to ensuring the students had a safe, educational, and memorable week at camp. Their commitment to making this trip a success did not go unnoticed, and their efforts are deeply appreciated.

Science camp was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Schroeder's sixth graders, leaving them with lasting memories and a newfound love for science and adventure.





# Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • [sequoia.wsdk8.us](http://sequoia.wsdk8.us)



**Alisha Tardif**  
Principal

## Sequoia Academy Kicks Off Read Across America Week with a Fun-Filled Reading Celebration!

Sequoia Academy kicked off Read Across America Week with a celebration of our favorite activity—reading! This annual event, held around Dr. Seuss's birthday, highlights the importance of

literacy and honors the diversity of learners in our community. It encourages every child to become a reader, which is key to academic success and lifelong learning. To promote literacy and community involvement, we began the week with a flag assembly and welcomed guest readers from various local organizations. These guests visited

classrooms to read aloud and share how they contribute to the Sequoia community. We were honored to host members of the Westminster City Council, WSD Board of Education & Superintendent, WSD Cabinet & District Office Staff, HBUHSD Trustee, Westminster Police & Fire Departments, Orange County Fire Authority, Girl Scouts of America,

healthcare professionals, community supporters, and Miss Taiwan California. Students, staff, and guests embraced the spirit of the event by dressing as Dr. Seuss characters or wearing themed clothing. Our Eagle Scholars were thrilled to engage with guest readers, learn about different careers, and showcase their enthusiasm for reading and learning. Sequoia Academy is proud to foster a love for literacy and bring our community together in support of student success!



**Board Trustee Gurney aka Harry Potter**



**Mayor Charlie Chi Nguyen Reads to 1st Grade**



**SRO Vo reads to 3rd Grade**



**Pharmacist Ung reads to Kinders**



**Read Across America Day Guest Readers & Student Ambassadors**



# Stacey Middle School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • [stacey.wsdk8.us](http://stacey.wsdk8.us)



**Rick Nichols**  
Principal

## Opportunities

At Stacey Middle School, we believe in providing opportunities for students to explore their interests, expand their knowledge, and develop new skills. Our wide range of after-school clubs offers students the chance to dive deeper into subjects they love, try something new, and connect with friends. Whether your child is passionate about sports, arts, technology, or community service, there's a club for them!

Here's a glimpse of the exciting after-school clubs available:

- Basketball Club
- Volleyball League
- Badminton Club
- National Junior Honor Society College Bound
- Digital Canva Club
- Garden Club -Year 11
- After School Reading Club
- Archery Club
- Futsal /Soccer Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- CyberPatriot Team + Possible Elective
- Photography Club
- Stacey Afterschool Choir
- eSports
- Tie-Dye Club
- Multicultural/Culture Club
- Folklorico de Stacey
- Mural Academy
- Leadership Club

At Stacey Middle School, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals. Our after-school clubs offer students the chance to explore different interests while building valuable skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

**After School Program**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
GRADES 6-8  
REGISTER NOW  
JOIN A CLUB

- Basketball Club
- Volleyball League
- Badminton Club
- National Junior Honor Society College Bound
- Digital Canva Club
- Garden Club -Year 11
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- Folklorico de Stacey
- Mural Academy
- Leadership Club





## Warner Middle School (6–8)

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • [warner.wsdk8.us](http://warner.wsdk8.us)



**Dr. Kenneth  
Lopour**  
*Principal*

### Amazing Programs

The Warner Wildcat family continues to have a great year. Our second semester is coming to a close and our students have been performing admirably in the academic realm. We continue to have many amazing programs that provide students with engaging learning opportunities and create a positive and welcoming campus culture.

One such program is our annual “Kid Conference” which is a conference created “by kids for kids” that Warner has been hosting for over 20 years. Our site leadership groups which include ASB, PAL, and Yearbook work to create a specialized day that focuses on student mental health and personal success. There are specialized activities designed for each grade level. The sixth (6th) grade sessions are centered on teamwork and communication. Students will participate in group activities that require verbal and non-verbal communication to be successful. Seventh grade (7th)

sessions center on the question: “Who am I and what is my place in the world?” These activities focus on student self-esteem and positive peer relations. Eight (8th) grade sessions focus on what will happen in the future at high school. There are four sessions, each designed by students at Westminster High School that demonstrate all the amazing programs our students can participate when they matriculate up to the high school level. The day culminates with an all-school assembly hosted by the various performance groups at Westminster High School. This is a long-standing and amazing event at Warner that we look forward to every year.

Another wonderful program is our school’s Lion Dance Team. This is the first year that any school in the Westminster School District has had a Lion Dance Team and the first year that Warner has had a formal Fan Dance team. Our great dancers got to perform at both the Westminster Tết Festival and will also perform on the main stage at the annual CAFE conference in March. We are so proud to have brought these programs to Warner and are so proud of these students.

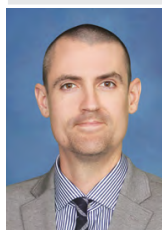


**The Warner Middle School Lion Dance Team and our Fan Dance Team**



## Webber *Elementary* (K-6)

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • [webber.wsdk8.us](http://webber.wsdk8.us)



**Jonathan Edelman**  
*Principal*

### Webber Elementary School Celebrates Lunar New Year with Traditional Vietnamese Tết Performance

Webber Elementary School recently rang in the Lunar New Year with a vibrant and culturally enriching celebration featuring a traditional Vietnamese Tết performance. Students, teachers, and staff came together to honor the holiday, immersing themselves in the beauty and traditions of Vietnamese culture.

A highlight of the event was a mesmerizing dance performance by the Westminster High School Vietnamese Cultural Club. The talented high school students showcased traditional Vietnamese dances, captivating the audience with their graceful movements, colorful attire, and rhythmic music. The performance not only entertained but also provided students with an opportunity to learn about the cultural significance of Tết, Vietnam's most important holiday, which marks the arrival of spring and a fresh start to the new year.

In the spirit of cultural appreciation and celebration, all Webber students were encouraged to wear their Áo Dài, Vietnam's traditional dress. The campus was filled with vibrant colors as students and staff proudly wore their elegant outfits, adding to the festive atmosphere. The event served as a wonderful way to promote cultural awareness and inclusivity within the school community.

Webber Elementary extends a heartfelt thank you to the Westminster High School Vietnamese Cultural Club for bringing this special experience to our students. Their dedication to sharing their heritage made the Lunar New Year celebration both meaningful and memorable.

Through events like this, Webber Elementary continues to foster a school environment that values diversity, cultural education, and community connections. We look forward to celebrating many more traditions together in the future!





# Willmore *Language Academy*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • [willmore.wsdck8.us](http://willmore.wsdck8.us)



**Tieumi "Domi" Ellis**  
Principal

## Willmore Counseling Program

By George Hernandez,  
School Counselor

Willmore Language Academy is proud to announce that we have a full-time School Counselor, George Hernandez. The Willmore Counseling Program is designed to support students in three key areas: Academic, Career/College, and Social-Emotional development. The program provides a range of services, including school-wide counseling supports, classroom lessons, school-wide activities, restorative practices, and individual and group counseling. Topics covered in group counseling include anger management, social skills, study skills, and self-esteem. Additionally, the program helps connect families to outside resources such as in-school counseling providers, outside agencies, family centers, and youth programs.



In January, 38 classroom lessons were conducted. One lesson, titled "Meet the Counselor," gave students the opportunity to learn about the counselor's role and how they can receive support. Another session focused on "Bullying Prevention," where students were taught how to be a buddy, recognize bullying, and report it.

A monthly "Character Trait of the Month" bulletin board has been set up and will be updated regularly to highlight positive traits. For February, lessons will focus on "Zones of Regulation" for TK-K, "Empathy" for 1st-3rd grades, and "Conflict Resolution" for 4th-6th grades.

Additionally, a Tier 1 school-wide-activity activity called "Feel the Love, Share the Kindness" will take place during recess this month. Students are encouraged to write or draw on a heart to share ways they can spread kindness at school. These contributions will be displayed on a collaborative poster for the whole school to see.

Through these initiatives, the Willmore Counseling Program strives to create a positive and supportive environment for all students, fostering their academic, social, and emotional growth.

