



NORWALK - LA MIRADA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!

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Dr. Natasha Baker

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – MARCH 14, 2025**

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Natasha Baker, Superintendent

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Natasha Baker, Superintendent**

Superintendent's Calendar Highlights

**BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES – Estuardo Santillan, Assistant Superintendent**

Measure G Bond Program  
Maintenance and Operations and Transportation

**EDUCATION SERVICES – Dr. Kristine Cvar and Dr. Jessica Medrano, Asst. Superintendents**

Elementary Schools Celebrating Read Across America  
Nuffer Elementary School and La Mirada High School Highlights  
College and Career Readiness' Mock Interview Event

**COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Christopher Hargraves, Public Information Officer**

La Mirada High School Soccer  
Waite Drill Team  
Benton Schools to Watch Award  
NLM Survey: 90-Day Entry Plan

Norwalk-La Mirada USD  
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Trustees  
Prepared by: Norma Altamirano, Executive Secretary

Date: March 14, 2025

Regarding: Superintendent's Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Presented 90-Day Plan at the La Mirada Kiwanis Club
- Attended Edmondson's Annual AVID Showcase event
- Met with Dr. Cathy Alvarez for lunch meeting
- Attended the Principal Leadership Meeting
- Visited Norwalk High School
- Attended WASC Report with Staff at El Camino High School
- Participated in Principal's Meeting

Approved by the Superintendent  
Dr. Natasha Baker \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 3/14/2025

Norwalk-La Mirada USD  
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Trustees  
Prepared by: Estuardo Santillan, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Date: March 14, 2025

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of a summary of the Measure G Bond Program and Maintenance and Operations Highlights and Transportation Highlights.

**Measure G Bond Program**

The total bond funds available per the Measure G Bond Program are \$375,000,000. The District has received Bond Issuance Series A thru F for a total of \$273,795,000. The remaining amount for future project is \$101,205,000. The District has completed thirteen projects that range from landscape renovation, building modernizations, new construction athletic facilities and new synthetic turf fields, including technology upgrades.

**Measure G Bond Program**

BOND ISSUANCE SERIES A	\$24,000,000
BOND ISSUANCE SERIES B	\$59,000,000
BOND ISSUANCE SERIES C	\$10,250,000
BOND ISSUANCE SERIES D	\$60,000,000
BOND ISSUANCE SERIES E	\$80,545,000
BOND ISSUANCE SERIES F	\$40,000,000
<b>Total Issuances Received To-Date</b>	<b>\$273,795,000</b>

Total Bond Funds Available	\$375,000,000
Total Issuances Received	(\$273,795,000)
<b>Remaining Funds</b>	<b>\$101,205,000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Budget</b>
Technology - Infrastructure & Equipment	\$20,000,000.00
Facilities Planning	\$3,980,430.00
Benton MS - Landscape Renovation	\$7,329,601.43
Corvallis MS - Landscape Renovation	\$5,492,257.91
Glenn HS - Athletic Fields	\$26,593,186.54
La Mirada - Gym Expansion & Locker Room Modernization	\$26,133,391.65
Morrison ES - Admin & MPR Modernization	\$4,314,402.82
Los Alisos MS - Admin & MPR Modernization	\$3,193,307.75
Gardenhill ES - Admin & MPR Modernization	\$3,190,284.75
Hutchinson MS - Admin & MPR Modernization	\$2,883,426.20
Norwalk HS - Athletic Fields	\$34,696,911.57
La Mirada HS - New Football Stadium	\$31,085,114.18
District-Wide - Safety (IP Speakers)	\$3,000,000.00*
Unforeseen Conditions	\$3,902,685.20*
Norwalk HS - New Athletic Facility	\$40,000,000.00*
La Mirada HS - Baseball, Softball, Practice Fields	\$42,000,000.00*
La Mirada HS - Gym HVAC	\$5,000,000.00*
Hutchinson MS - Band Room	\$3,000,000.00*
Elementary School - Playgrounds	\$7,500,000.00*
Norwalk HS - Baseball, Softball Netting	\$500,000.00*
<b>TOTAL Project Budgets</b>	<b>\$273,795,000.00*</b>

\*Estimate

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**Maintenance and Operations**

- Staff welcomed new Director of Risk Management, Mr. Lawrence Luna.
- The John Glenn High School Science Building Intumescent Paint Repair Project is out to bid. The job walk was held on March 5. Four contractors attended the job walk. Bids are due on April 4, 2025.
- The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) team participated in training sessions provided by Carrier Inc. to enhance their understanding of economizers. Economizers are integral components of HVAC systems that can significantly lower building energy costs.
- Maintenance and plumbing staff replaced two (2) 100-gallon water heaters serving the Boys Locker Room at John Glenn High School. In doing so, they also replaced approximately 70-feet of corroded piping.
- Grounds staff prepared for the forecast of rain by clearing debris from roofs and gutters.
- Grounds staff worked to enhance the quad area at Norwalk Adult School by renovating the rose planters, redesigning the irrigation system for better efficiency, installing a Western Redbud tree, and fertilizing the lawns to promote healthy growth. These enhancements have greatly improved the overall aesthetics and functionality.



- Maintenance and Operations leadership attended the Wildfire and Winds training provided by ASCIP. This training reviewed lessons learned from the recent wildfires. Grounds Supervisor, Jose Gutierrez, shared insights on how NLMUSD utilizes ArborPro, an urban forest management program, to effectively identify trees needing pruning in such weather conditions.

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**Transportation Department**

- Each month, the Transportation Department acknowledges their model employees. During their most recent in-services, fourteen (14) drivers/mechanics were recognized for having perfect attendance for the month of January, two (2) drivers were recognized for having perfect attendance since the start of the school year, and the Department's Employee Recognition Committee nominated and recognized Mr. Edward Foss for his positive attitude, ability to adapt well to change, and always being available to assist the Department.



Pictured above are employees with Perfect Attendance for the month of January



24/25 School Year Perfect Attendance



Exemplary Employee, Mr. Edward Foss

Approved by the Superintendent  
Dr. Natasha Baker \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 3/14/2025

Norwalk-La Mirada USD  
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Trustees

Date: March 14, 2025

Prepared by: Dr. Kristine Cvar, Assistant Superintendent (Elementary)  
Dr. Jessica Medrano, Assistant Superintendent (Secondary)

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with information pertaining to Elementary Schools Celebrating Read Across America, Nuffer Elementary School and La Mirada High School highlights and College and Career Readiness' Mock Interviews Event.

**Elementary Schools Celebrate Read Across America**

As part of our district's ongoing commitment to literacy and student engagement, our elementary schools participated in Read Across America with great enthusiasm. This nationwide celebration of reading, spearheaded by the National Education Association (NEA), provided students with meaningful and exciting opportunities to develop their love for books and storytelling.



Throughout the week, schools hosted a variety of engaging activities to promote reading. Guest readers, including our district and site administration, community leaders, school board members, and local authors, visited classrooms to share their favorite books. Many schools organized themed dress-up days inspired by beloved literary characters, adding an extra layer of excitement for students. In addition to in-person reading events, several schools incorporated innovative approaches to literacy engagement, such as virtual author visits, buddy reading programs pairing older and younger students, and book giveaways to encourage at-home reading.

Our libraries played a central role, curating special book displays and hosting read-aloud sessions that captivated young audiences.



Teachers and staff also took creative approaches to making reading fun and interactive. From classroom door-decorating contests showcasing favorite books to literacy-focused activities, students were immersed in a week of literary adventure. Parents and caregivers were encouraged to participate by reading with their children at home, reinforcing the importance of daily reading habits. The impact of Read Across America goes beyond just one week. It helps to instill a lifelong love of reading in our students. We are proud of the dedication shown by our educators, staff, and community partners in making this event a



success. Their efforts have helped foster a culture of literacy that will benefit our students for years to come.

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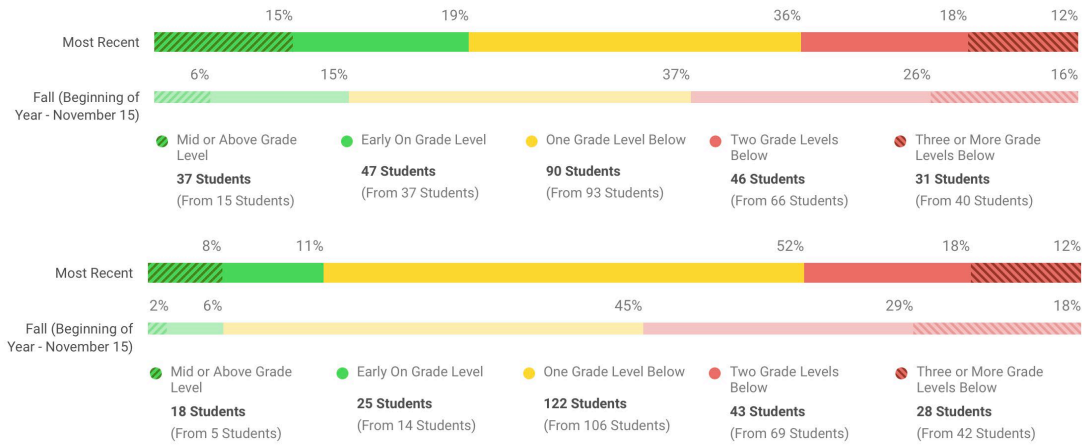
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this inspiring celebration of books and learning. We look forward to continuing to support literacy initiatives that empower our students to become enthusiastic and confident readers.



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**Nuffer Elementary School – Mak Sar, Principal**

**iReady Diagnostic Growth**



At Nuffer Elementary, we are proud to celebrate the tremendous progress our students have made on their iReady Diagnostic assessments. Since the fall, 26% of our students (61 out of 236) have moved up a tier in ELA, while 27% (67 out of 236) have advanced in Math. These gains reflect our students’ hard work, the dedication of our teachers, and the ongoing support from our families.

This growth is a testament to the power of persistence, targeted instruction, and the commitment to academic excellence. As we continue the school year, our focus remains on pushing students toward their stretch growth goals, ensuring that every child reaches their full potential. By maintaining a strong emphasis on individualized learning, engaging instruction, and continuous encouragement, we aim to help students achieve even greater success.

We look forward to celebrating their achievements at the end of the year, recognizing their hard work, and fostering a lifelong love of learning. The progress made so far is just the beginning, and we are excited to see how much more our Bobcats can accomplish!

**PBIS Bobcat Store**

At Nuffer Elementary, we believe in recognizing and reinforcing positive behavior through our Bobcat Bucks program. Throughout the year, students earn Bobcat Bucks by demonstrating school-wide behavior expectations, fostering responsibility and good citizenship. Each month, they have the opportunity to spend or save their earnings at our PBIS store, which offers a variety of rewards ranging from \$1 stickers to a \$100 special lunch with the principal. This system not only encourages positive behavior but also teaches valuable lessons in financial literacy and decision-making. By celebrating good choices, we create a supportive and engaging learning environment for all students.

**Ties and Tiaras**

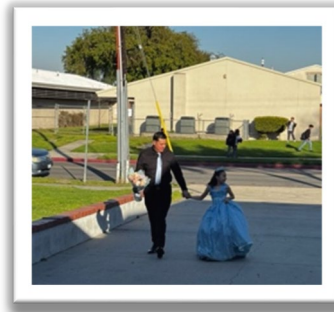
At the end of February, Nuffer Elementary’s PTO hosted its first-ever Father-Daughter Dance, a night filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable memories. The event was a resounding success, selling out completely and creating a magical evening for our students and their fathers.

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From the moment the doors opened, excitement filled the air. Fathers and daughters arrived dressed in their best, ready to share a special evening together. The dance floor quickly became the heart of the event, as dads twirled their daughters with joy, creating moments of pure happiness. Beyond the dancing, the event featured engaging games that gave dads a chance to win prizes for their daughters, adding an extra layer of fun and friendly competition. The smiles and cheers that followed each game showcased the deep bonds between fathers and their little girls.

This dance was more than just an event—it was a tribute to the special relationship between fathers and daughters. It provided a space where fathers could express their love, support, and dedication in a way their daughters will cherish for years to come. The success of the evening was evident in the laughter, the warm embraces, and the heartfelt moments shared by all.

Nuffer Elementary PTO is proud to have hosted such a meaningful event, and we look forward to continuing this beautiful tradition, strengthening the precious connections between fathers and daughters in our community.



### **Community School - Financial Literacy Class**

At Nuffer Elementary, we are committed to the Community Schools learning model, which focuses on removing barriers to student success by engaging families and leveraging community resources. A key aspect of this approach is providing meaningful opportunities for parents to grow alongside their children. One such initiative is our six-week Financial Literacy class, which began the first week of March.

Every Monday, parents come together to learn essential financial skills, including savings strategies, understanding credit, and distinguishing between wants and needs. By equipping parents with this knowledge, we empower families to make informed financial decisions that will positively impact their households and, ultimately, their children's futures. A strong financial foundation at home contributes to a more stable learning environment for students, reducing stress and fostering academic success.

The first session was met with enthusiasm, as parents actively engaged in discussions and shared their own experiences. This program not only provides valuable financial education but also strengthens our school's connection with families, reinforcing the idea that education is a lifelong journey.

By implementing initiatives like this, Nuffer Elementary continues to uphold the Community Schools model, ensuring that our students, families, and the greater community have the support and

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resources they need to thrive. We look forward to seeing the lasting impact of this program and the positive changes it will bring to our families.

**Lunch with the Principal**

A few of our students recently used their Bobcat Bucks to purchase a special lunch with the principal, one of the most coveted rewards in our PBIS store. They got to choose their favorite restaurant, making the experience even more exciting. As we enjoyed our meal together, we shared stories, laughed, and talked about their past and upcoming weekend adventures. This special time not only rewards positive behavior but also strengthens connections between students and school leadership, creating a supportive and encouraging environment where every Bobcat feels valued and heard.



**Read Across America Week**

Nuffer Elementary celebrated Read Across America Week with enthusiasm, kicking off the festivities with a fun-filled “Crazy About Reading” day. Students embraced their creativity by sporting crazy hair and wacky outfits, showcasing their excitement for books in a colorful and playful way. This spirit of fun set the tone for an engaging week centered around the joy of reading.

The highlight of the week was our guest readers, who brought stories to life with energy and enthusiasm. Their visits sparked curiosity and excitement, reinforcing the importance of reading in a fun and interactive way. Seeing students’ faces light up as they listened to stories was a reminder of the power of books to inspire and connect us.

Read Across America Week not only encouraged a love for reading but also strengthened our school community. We look forward to continuing to foster a culture where reading is celebrated and enjoyed by all!



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**Project Lead the Way and STEAM**

As a National Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch School, every class at Nuffer Elementary participates in at least one PLTW module, providing hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences. Our kindergarteners have already begun exploring the structures and functions of the human body, sparking curiosity and critical thinking. Through engaging activities, they are discovering how different body parts work together to help us move, grow, and stay healthy. By integrating STEM education early on, we are fostering a love for learning and problem-solving, preparing our students for future academic success and a lifelong passion for discovery.

**Nuffer STEAM Night**

Nuffer Elementary is thrilled to once again host our Family STEAM Night, a fun and interactive evening where families come together to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. With the help of our dedicated teacher volunteers, students and their families will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on STEAM activities that spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Events like these reinforce the importance of learning beyond the classroom, fostering a love for exploration and innovation. Family STEAM Night not only strengthens students' critical thinking skills but also brings our school community together in a meaningful way. We are excited to see families engage in these exciting challenges and create lasting memories while discovering the wonders of STEAM. This event continues to be a highlight of the year, and we look forward to another successful night of learning and fun!



## La Mirada High School - Ben Webster, Principal

### La Mirada High School earns College Board Recognition

La Mirada High School earned College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science A (CSA). Through these diversity awards, the AP Program acknowledges 1,153 schools for their work toward improving female representation during the 2023-24 school year. La Mirada High School is one of only 237 schools to achieve this accomplishment for AP Computer Science.



### La Mirada High School Celebrates Student Success

At our Winter Rally, LMHS recognized students for their outstanding work in the classroom. Following the Fall Semester, over 1300 students were recognized for their GPAs. Additionally, another 400+ students were recognized for Perfect Attendance in the fall semester. Here are our statistics for student performance:

- ❖ Honor Roll (3.0-3.49 GPA)--300 Students
- ❖ Principal's Honor Roll (3.5-3.74 GPA)--188 Students
- ❖ High Honors (3.75-3.99 GPA)--98 Students
- ❖ Highest Honors (4.0+ GPA)--395 Students
- ❖ GPA Movers (improved 0.5 from Spring)--226 Students
- ❖ GPA Shakers (improved 1.0 from Spring)--78 Students
- ❖ GPA Movers and Shakers (improved 1.5+)--43 Students
- ❖ Perfect Attendance--408 Students (thank you parents!)



Additionally, La Mirada also held our very first Top 25 Night on January 29. During this time, we recognized the top students for each grade level. Over 200 students and family members attended this event to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our top students.

### La Mirada High School Completes at the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon

The La Mirada High School Academic Decathlon team participated this winter in the Los Angeles County competition. Students compete in a variety of categories, including Economics, Art, History, Speech, Science, Literature, Essays and Interviews. Thank you to our team advisors, Maya Hamilton and Rebecca Upson for their continued guidance with the AcaDec team. Our Matadors did exceptionally well at the awards ceremony that was held at the Queen Mary this past February.



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Joey Mora	Silver Medal - Economics Gold Medal - Art Gold Medal - Social Studies
Brandon Suzuki	Silver Medal - Economics Bronze Medal - Science
Charlotte Tarango	Gold Medal - Speech
Danna Herrera Rodriguez	Bronze Medal - Economics Silver Medal - Science
Julianne Souza	Bronze Medal - Economics Silver Medal - Essay Gold Medal - Literature Gold Medal - Interview Gold Medal - Overall La Mirada's top decathlete \$200 Scholarship

**La Mirada High School's Youth in Government**

For the past several decades, La Mirada High School has worked with the City of La Mirada's City Council to run a Youth in Government program. Students participating in Youth in Government meet regularly through the year to collaborate on a presentation for a city council meeting. Students are invited to simulate a city council meeting and vote on a proposal. This year's proposals included a Youth Center at City Hall and a La Mirada Cultural Fair.



**Staff of the Year!**



Mr. Stroup is a consummate professional. In his second career, Mr. Stroup brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his Public Safety classroom. His students love to learn about crimes, the law, and law enforcement. Mr. Stroup's friendly disposition and positive nature allows him to make positive connections to his students and fellow staff members. Mr. Stroup volunteers to help out around campus and we are proud that he represents the Matadores as our Teacher of the Year.

Debbie Willey is our Back-To-Back Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Willey understands the importance of a well-run office staff and she works every day to make sure the school runs smoothly. Her vast knowledge of the NLMUSD and La Mirada High School have been invaluable to the staff. Ms. Willey cares deeply for students and she has an uncanny knack for connecting with kids, even when they are having a tough day. She goes out of her way to help others and we are grateful she is at LMHS.



### **Jihoo Han Wins the Prestigious Questbridge National College Match Scholarship**

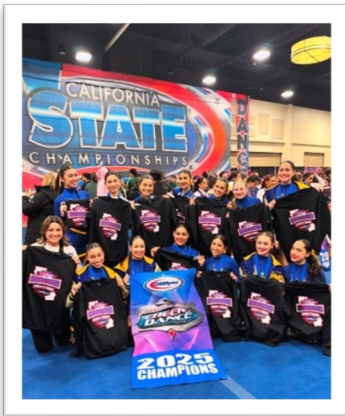
Senior Jihoo Han won a full ride scholarship (included books and travel) to Cornell University. Han's dedication to academics, community service, and personal growth has not only earned him this prestigious scholarship but also serves as an inspiration to his peers. As he embarks on his journey at Cornell University, his story highlights the power of perseverance and passion in achieving one's dreams. Jihoo will be a premed major at Cornell.

### **LMHS Pilots the 5-Star System**

This semester, La Mirada High School is piloting a system to help manage hall passes, intervention, and events. The 5-Star Student System electronically monitors when students are out of class and allows our team to efficiently provide a safe learning environment. Students use an app on their phone or laptop to electronically request a pass. This system has been a "game-changer" for our staff and students and we look forward to expanding the tools of 5-Star into other areas of the school.



### **La Mirada High School Cheer Wins at the State and National Level**



The Matador Cheer Squad is dedicated to building a great fan experience at all our games. But our cheer teams also have their own competition season where they perform several routines. Our cheer squad is often out late supporting a school team and then back in the gym at 6:30 AM preparing for their own season. This winter, our team had their best showing in school history. In early February, both our JV and Varsity Cheer teams were named California State Champions for their division. In late February, both teams earned bronze medals at the



National Competition in Anaheim.

### **La Mirada's Winter Guard continues to rock!**

La Mirada's Winter Guard performs each weekend at various competitions throughout the winter and spring months. There are few students as dedicated to their craft as our Color Guard, often spending long days of practice for a short routine. On March 8, the Winter Guard earned Third Place honors (out of 32 teams) and received over 1000 votes as the Fan Favorite for their show, "Taylor the Latte Boy."



**La Mirada High School Winter Sports Wrap-Up**

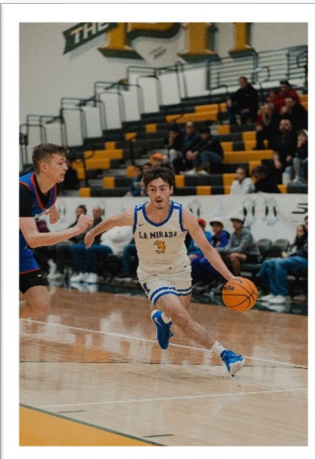
The Matadors had an exceptionally successful Winter Sports season. Competing in Basketball, Soccer, Water Polo, and Wrestling, La Mirada High School demonstrated perseverance and success during competition.

**Girls Water Polo** made it to the first round of CIF but lost to Fullerton High School.

**Boys Wrestling earned their 3<sup>rd</sup> league title in a row.** Several wrestlers qualified for CIF including three for the Master's Meet. Congratulations to Tyler Mason, Eugene Escalona, and Matthew Olivarez for their medals at the Master's Meet in February.



**Boys Basketball qualified for the prestigious CIF Open Division tournament after winning another league title.** The top 10 basketball programs in Southern California compete in a four-game pool-play bracket for the right to play in the final State tournament. La Mirada High School was one of only three public schools to be invited to the Open Division this year. While our only win was against JSerra High School, our team definitely put La Mirada on the map.



**Girls Basketball won their first league championship in over 31 years.** The Girls Basketball team relied heavily on their seniors this year as played their way to the CIF final. Our Lady Matadores played hard every single game and often overwhelmed teams with their tenacious defense and scrappy offense. And though they came up a bit short in the CIF Final, they enjoyed a rather dominate season. The girls team also qualified for the state tournament, losing to Sacred Heart Academy in the first round.

**Girls Soccer finished up third in a very competitive league.** But, then they went on a run through the Division 4 playoff bracket. Anchored by a defense that only gave up two goals over seven playoff games, the Soccer team played in the CIF Southern Section Final on March 1, losing to Sage Hill High School on Penalty Kicks. But one week later, the team worked its way through the State Championship bracket, this time defeating Sage Hill 1-0 to capture the California State Regional Championship.



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**College and Career Readiness:** On March 6th, students from John Glenn, Southeast Academy, El Camino, Norwalk, and La Mirada High Schools participated in a highly successful Mock Interview Day. As part of the AVID and Career Pathways programs, students engaged in interview preparation workshops led by Ms. Maribel Vieira, College & Career Pathways TOSA, where they developed essential skills such as professional attire, resume building, and confident communication—key components for job and college interviews.

Mock Interviews play a vital role in equipping students with work-readiness skills and preparing them for future career opportunities. This event was made possible through the invaluable partnerships with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, City of Norwalk, Cerritos College, and the Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated teachers who also helped prepare and support students for this event. Your guidance and encouragement ensured that students felt confident and ready to engage with professionals. Your commitment to their success is truly appreciated, and we thank you for your invaluable contributions.

A heartfelt thank you to all interview panelists from various organizations and local businesses for generously dedicating their time and expertise. A special appreciation goes to our NLMUSD Board Members, Ms. Becky Langenwaller and Mr. Jose Rios; Executive Cabinet Members, Dr. Kristine Cvar, Dr. Michael Gotto, Mr. Estuardo Santillan, and Mr. Chris Hargraves; and Directors, Ms. Michelle Centeno and Ms. Laurel Parker. Your support and involvement have made a lasting impact on our students' futures.

Approved by the Superintendent  
Dr. Natasha Baker \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 3/14/2025

Norwalk-La Mirada USD  
Board Communication

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Trustees  
Prepared by: Christopher Hargraves, Public Information Officer

Date: March 14, 2025

Regarding: La Mirada High School Soccer highlights, Waite Drill Team, Benton Schools to Watch Award and NLM Survey.

The purpose of this Board communication is to provide the Board with information regarding our La Mirada High School Soccer highlights, Waite Drill Team, Benton Schools to Watch Award and NLM Survey.

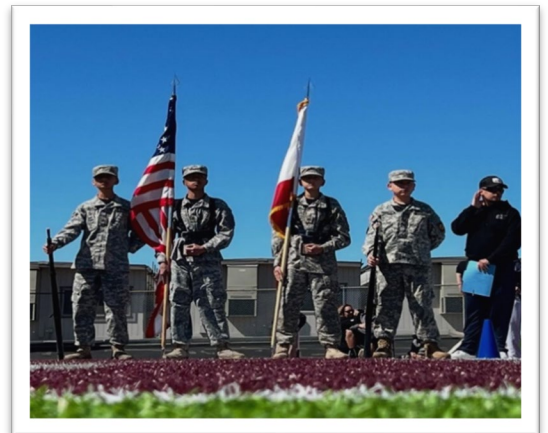
**La Mirada Girls Soccer**

The La Mirada High School girls' soccer team won the CIF SoCal D-IV Regional title last weekend, defeating Sage Hill on the road, 1-0. The team, coached by Dave Christensen, avenged a loss in the CIF-Southern Section final to the same Sage Hill team the week prior. This is the second state title for the program, as they also won the title match in 2016. Congratulations to the Matadores!



**Waite Drill Team**

The Waite Leadership program sent contingents to the Fontana MCJROTC Competition and we are thrilled to announce their 8<sup>th</sup> grade male Colorguard team finished in third place. This is an amazing achievement for team as they competed against high school drill teams on their way to the podium. Congratulations to Waite!



### Benton Middle School receives California Schools to Watch Designation



We are excited to announce that Benton Middle School was recognized at the California Schools to Watch Conference held on March 6-8, 2025 in Monterey, CA. This prestigious honor celebrates Benton’s exceptional commitment to academic excellence, student engagement, and continuous improvement, particularly within the context of our Visual and Performing Arts Magnet program.

Benton’s mission is to inspire and empower all students to achieve academic excellence in a creative visual and performing arts environment. Offering ten arts pathways and over 30 electives taught by specialists in their respective fields, Benton provides a dynamic learning experience. Through our 4x4 block schedule, most students are

able to take three year-long elective classes each academic year, allowing them to deepen their skills and passions.

The recognition at the California Schools to Watch Conference highlights Benton’s innovative approach, not only in fostering student achievement, but in creating a learning environment where creativity and academic rigor go hand in hand. This honor reflects the dedication of our educators, staff, students, and the entire Benton community, who work collaboratively to support each student’s growth and development.



We are also thrilled to announce that Benton Middle School will be further honored at the National Schools to Watch event in Washington, D.C., in June 2025. This national recognition provides us with an incredible opportunity to showcase our school’s achievements on a broader stage and learn from other high-performing schools across the country.

Benton Middle School is truly a Destination for the Arts, and we are proud of the strides we’ve made in helping our students reach their highest potential, find their passion, and prepare for future success.

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**NLM Survey: 90-Day Entry Plan**

As part of Superintendent Dr. Baker's 90-Day Entry Plan, Norwalk-La Mirada is seeking input from students, staff, parents, and the community on how to support, strengthen, and build upon the current and historical successes of our District. This survey is an essential piece of the 90-Day Entry Plan as it touches upon the areas of academic success, well-being, culture, and staff satisfaction.

To access the survey, scan the QR code or click on the link below. The survey will be open until **Monday, March 24, at 12:00pm.**

[NLM Survey: 90-Day Entry Plan](#)



Approved by the Superintendent  
Dr. Natasha Baker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Baker'.

Date: 3/14/2025