Excelsior Charter Schools
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Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Newsletter



EAGLE EYES SPOTLIGHT

Excelsior Charter School Celebrates the Class of 2026



On the evening of May 27, 2026, Excelsior Charter School proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 during a memorable commencement ceremony held at the Victor Valley College Event Center. Seniors from all eight Excelsior Charter School campuses gathered alongside their families, friends, teachers, and community supporters to celebrate this important milestone together. The event showcased the unity and spirit of the entire Excelsior community as graduates marked the successful completion of their high school journey and the beginning of exciting new opportunities ahead.

The Event Center was filled with excitement and pride as students entered in their caps and gowns to the applause of loved ones. School administrators, faculty members, and guest speakers shared inspiring words of encouragement, reminding graduates of the hard work, perseverance, and determination that brought them to this special moment.

A highlight of the evening was the addition of a spectacular light show that brought energy and excitement to the ceremony. Colorful lighting effects illuminated the Event Center throughout key moments of the program, creating a memorable atmosphere for graduates and guests alike.

Throughout the ceremony, student achievements were recognized in academics, leadership, community service, and personal growth. Several graduates were honored for outstanding accomplishments and scholarships earned for college and career advancement. Student speakers reflected on the friendships, challenges, and unforgettable experiences that shaped their high school years at Excelsior Charter School.

The Class of 2026 represents a diverse group of young adults ready to pursue futures in higher education, military service, technical training, and careers across many fields. Their resilience and dedication have left a lasting impact on the Excelsior community.

As graduates turned their tassels and celebrated together at the close of the ceremony, the audience erupted in cheers, marking a proud and emotional moment for students, families, and staff alike.

Excelsior Charter School congratulates the Class of 2026 and wishes each graduate continued success in all future endeavors.









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WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

unity meals



Pictured above: members of Unity Meals at the Victorville Campus Tasting Tour held back in April 2026.

We are EXCITED to announce that after careful consideration, valuable feedback from our recent Tasting Tour events, and careful collaboration within our Students Services Department, Excelsior Charter Schools have officially selected **Unity Meals** as our new food service partner.

Unity Meals is a school lunch provider dedicated to ensuring every child has access to scratch-made, nutritious meals that fuel learning, spark joy, and foster lifelong healthy habits through trusted partnerships and responsive service schools can count on.

For the past 17 years, **Unity Meals** has remained committed to providing healthy meals while continuously improving their offerings to meet the needs of students and schools. Their focus on quality nutrition, exceptional service, and creating enjoyable mealtime experiences aligns closely with Excelsior's commitment to student wellness and success.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all students, staff, and families who participated in the Tasting Tour and shared feedback throughout the selection process. Your input played an important role in helping us choose a partner that reflects our community's values and priorities.

To celebrate this exciting new partnership, we will be hosting a special kickoff event early in the new school year to introduce **Unity Meals** to our students and families. We look forward to sharing more details soon and creating a fun opportunity for our school community to experience the Unity difference together.

Additionally, a message will also be shared through Parent Square to keep our families informed and updated about this exciting transition and upcoming events.

We look forward to partnering with **Unity Meals** and are excited for the positive impact this collaboration will bring to our students and campuses.



Impact In Numbers

- **Over 16 million (and counting!) meals served**
- **100% Client Retention**
- **18+ Years in K-12 Food Service**
- **10-40% Increase in Student Participation**

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WELLNESS NEST

+ JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH +

Every June, schools, workplaces, and communities across the country recognize National Safety Month — a time dedicated to promoting safe habits and preventing injuries. Sponsored by the National Safety Council (NSC), this month encourages everyone to focus on physical safety, mental wellness, and emergency preparedness both at school and at home.
For high school students, safety is an important part of everyday life. Whether it's driving responsibly, staying safe online, protecting mental health, or preparing for summer activities, small choices can make a big difference.

Why Safety Matters

Teenagers are often balancing busy schedules, sports, jobs, driving, and social activities. Learning safe habits now can help prevent accidents and build lifelong responsibility. National Safety Month reminds us that safety is not just about rules — it's about protecting ourselves and the people around us. Check out this important safety topic on Teen Driving:

Teen Driving



About 2,800 teens in the U.S. ages 13-19 were killed [1] [2] and about 227,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2020. [1]
The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among teens ages 16-19 than among any other age group. Teen drivers in this age group have a fatal crash rate almost three times as high as drivers ages 20 and older per mile driven. [2]

Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of accidents among teens, and even a few seconds of taking your eyes off the road can change lives forever. Texting, checking social media, eating, or talking with friends while driving may seem harmless, but they reduce your focus and reaction time. As students and future leaders, it's important to build safe driving habits now by staying alert, putting phones away, and keeping full attention on the road. Making responsible choices behind the wheel helps protect not only you, but also your passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers. See the attached PDF of, *"What Distracted Driving Looks Like*" from the National Safety Council.

Having regular conversations about safety, practicing driving together, and leading by example go a long way in ensuring your teen makes smart decisions when they get behind the wheel. But there's another simple step you can take to get on the same page about your family's rules of the road.

Create a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement that puts your rules in writing to clearly set expectations and limits. Work with your teen to outline hazards to avoid and consequences for breaking rules. Keep it on the fridge and update it as your teen gains experience and more driving privileges. **Visit: www.cdc.gov/teen-drivers** for the Parent-Teen Agreement and resources or **download the agreement here.**

References

1. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). WISQARS — Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2022.*
2. *Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Fatality Facts 2020: Teenagers. Arlington, VA: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Highway Loss Data Institute; May 2022.*

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SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Discover ways to stay safe while making the most of your outdoor adventures this summer. Whether you're heading to the beach, camping in the woods, or cooking on the grill, taking a few precautions can help ensure a fun and safe season for everyone. Don't forget about your pets either—there are important safety measures you can follow to help protect your furry companions during the summer months.

WATER SAFETY

Water Safety for Teens and Families

As warmer weather brings more time at pools, lakes, and beaches, it's important to remember that water can be dangerous if safety steps are ignored. According to the CDC, about 11 people die each day in the U.S. from unintentional drowning, including many children and teens.

Drowning often happens quickly and quietly, which makes supervision and smart choices essential. Teens should always swim with others, avoid risky behavior in or near water, and choose lifeguarded areas whenever possible.

Families can help prevent accidents by using a "water watcher" system—an adult who stays focused on watching swimmers without distractions. Learning to swim, along with CPR and first aid, also adds important layers of protection.

The American Red Cross offers helpful safety tips, swim lessons, and emergency resources to help families stay prepared.

Water activities should be enjoyable, not dangerous. By staying alert, making responsible decisions, and learning basic safety skills, teens and families can help prevent tragedies and keep everyone safe this summer.



CAMPING SAFETY

PREPARE, PROTECT, AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS



IF YOU'RE PLANNING A CAMPING TRIP, MAKE SURE YOU CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE LEVEL OF EVERYONE IN YOUR GROUP AS WELL AS THE CONDITIONS OF THE AREA YOU'LL BE VISITING, AND PREPARE YOUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

BRING A WELL-STOCKED FIRST AID KIT TO TREAT COMMON ISSUES SUCH AS INSECT BITES, SPRAINS, CUTS, AND MINOR INJURIES THAT MAY OCCUR. IT'S ALSO HELPFUL TO TAKE A RED CROSS FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING COURSE AND INSTALL THEIR FIRST AID APP SO YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO RESPOND IF MEDICAL HELP IS DELAYED. THIS CAN HELP YOU HANDLE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS LIKE FRACTURES, SEVERE WOUNDS, OR BITES.

COMMON OUTDOOR RISKS INCLUDE SPRAINS AND ACCIDENTAL FALLS, WHICH OFTEN HAPPEN DUE TO POOR PREPARATION, LIMITED EXPERIENCE, OR UNSAFE CHOICES. DEHYDRATION IS ANOTHER FREQUENT CONCERN, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO STAY AHEAD OF THESE HAZARDS WITH PROPER PLANNING.

ALWAYS LET A TRUSTED FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR NEIGHBOR KNOW YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY AND EXPECTED LOCATIONS.

PACK HEALTHY FOOD, PLENTY OF WATER, LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING SUITABLE FOR LAYERING, AND ANY ESSENTIALS YOUR PETS MAY NEED.

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Staying Hydrated This Summer: A Simple Guide for Students



As temperatures rise during summer break, staying hydrated is more important than many students realize. Whether you're playing sports, working, or spending time outside, your body loses water faster in hot weather. Early signs of dehydration include headaches, dizziness, fatigue, dry mouth, and trouble concentrating. In severe cases, it can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Experts recommend drinking water regularly throughout the day instead of waiting until you feel thirsty. Carrying a reusable water bottle and eating water-rich foods like watermelon, oranges, and cucumbers can also help. While sports drinks may help during intense exercise, water is usually the best choice.

To stay safe in the heat, take breaks in the shade, wear lightweight clothing, and avoid outdoor activities during the hottest hours of the day. Staying hydrated helps your body regulate temperature, maintain energy, and stay focused all summer long.

Trusted Online Resources

Here are reliable sources where you can learn more about hydration and heat safety:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Heat & hydration safety
- American Heart Assocation - Staying Hydrated, Staying Healthy





SUMMER & PETS

Summer heat can be dangerous for pets, so taking a few precautions can help keep them safe.

Never leave your pet in a parked car, even for a short time. The temperature inside can rise to around 120°F within minutes, even with the windows slightly open.

Pets can also suffer from heat stroke in hot weather. Higher-risk animals include short-nosed breeds such as boxers and bulldogs, overweight pets, animals with thick coats, and those with breathing issues like collapsing trachea or laryngeal paralysis.

Signs of heat stroke include heavy panting, restlessness or inability to settle, dark red or brick-colored gums, a rapid heartbeat, and weakness or collapse.

If you suspect heat stroke, take your pet's temperature rectally. If it is above 105°F, begin cooling immediately using cool (not ice-cold) water, such as from a hose. Stop cooling once the temperature reaches about 103°F.

After initial first aid, seek veterinary care right away, since heat stroke can cause serious organ damage or even be fatal.

For step-by-step emergency guidance and pet first aid instructions, you can use the American Red Cross resources:

- Pet First Aid App (American Red Cross)
- Cat and Dog First Aid Online Course

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

If you need to talk, the 988 Lifeline is here.

At the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, we understand that life's challenges can sometimes be difficult. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you. You are not alone.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

If you or someone you know needs support now,
CALL OR TEXT: 988
CHAT: 988lifeline.org

Talk with us.



[Visit : 988Lifeline.org](#)

Your Local Food Bank
FEEDING AMERICA
RIVERSIDE | SAN BERNARDINO

Find Food and Community Support

Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino provides more than 20 million meals annually through a network of nearly 250 partner organizations, including food pantries, emergency shelters, soup kitchens, community centers, and other local agencies. These food assistance programs are free and available to the public. [Visit: www.FeedAmericaIE.org](#) to identify the services that best meet your needs

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SAVE THE DATE

Orientation dates have been scheduled. Additional details regarding times and locations will be shared soon with students and parents. Please watch for upcoming announcements and communications from your school.

EXCELSIOR CHARTER SCHOOLS 2026 - 2027 ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

26-27 Orientation Schedule

Campus	Date(s)
Barstow	August 6 (Returning Students) August 7 (New Enrollments)
Corona	August 6 (Returning Students) August 7 (New Enrollments)
North Victorville	August 6 (Grades 7, 8) August 7 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)
Ontario	August 6 (Returning Students) August 7 (New Enrollments)
Phelan	August 6 (Returning Students) August 7 (New Enrollments)
Redlands	August 6 (Returning Students) August 7 (New Enrollments)
San Bernardino	August 5 (AM English New Enrollments/PM Spanish New Enrollments) August 6 (AM English Grades 8, 9, 10 Returning Students/PM Spanish Grades 8, 9, 10 Returning Students) August 7 (AM English Grades 11, 12 Returning Students/PM Spanish Grades 11, 12 Returning Students)
Victorville	August 6 (12, 10, 8 grades) August 7th (9, 11, and 7 grades)