

Future Ready

My First Year as Superintendent

2025–2026 School Year

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Sunnyvale Community,

As I reflect on my first year serving as Superintendent of Sunnyvale School District, I am filled with gratitude and optimism.

Over the past year, I have dedicated myself to listening, learning, and building connections across our district. Through countless conversations and experiences across our schools, I have gained a deeper understanding of both the strengths that make Sunnyvale exceptional and the opportunities that will help us reach even greater heights. Those insights have shaped this report and continue to inform our work moving forward.

This year, we celebrated remarkable achievements together, including earning a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association for our Parent Engagement Program, recognition

of Sunnyvale Middle School as both a California Distinguished School and an Achievement Gap Closer, significant progress on the Sunnyvale Middle School Modernization Project, and more than \$6.7 million in savings for local taxpayers through a successful bond refinancing effort. These accomplishments, along with many others, reflect the dedication and collective effort that continue to move our district forward.

I am proud of what we have achieved together and excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue to ensure every student is supported, challenged, and prepared for the future.

Together, We Shine Brighter,

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Our Promise: *Every student is known by name, strength and need, ready to excel in high school and beyond, and to lead a life of joy and purpose.*

LISTENING FIRST

Our future starts here.

This year was grounded in listening and learning from across all schools.

10 Schools

**5,700
Students
(PreK-8)**

**9%
Newcomer
Students**



Through conversations across the district, a clear message emerged: students succeed when academic programs, language supports, and services work together seamlessly.

PRIORITIES

Shaping the future through aligned goals.

These priorities have guided our work and decision-making in the past year.

- **Student Outcomes: Literacy and math achievement; applying learnings from research by Orenda Education focused on our middle schools**
- **Belonging & Engagement: Inclusion and family partnership**
- **English Learner Success: Access and progress**
- **Systems Alignment: Clear goals and accountability**
- **Fiscal Stewardship: Long-term sustainability**



STRENGTHENING LEARNING

We're turning opportunity into reality for every learner.

Improving student learning remains our top priority.

This year, we launched a new elementary literacy curriculum and partnered with Orenda Education to study our middle schools through observations, surveys, focus groups, and student data analysis.

The findings highlight key strengths—caring relationships, dedicated staff, and strong student belonging—while also pointing to the need to improve outcomes and close equity gaps.

Our Focus Moving Forward:

- **Equip teachers with the tools and supports they need**
- **Improve alignment of curriculum and assessments**
- **Expand access to rigorous learning opportunities**
- **Supercharge efforts to close achievement gaps**



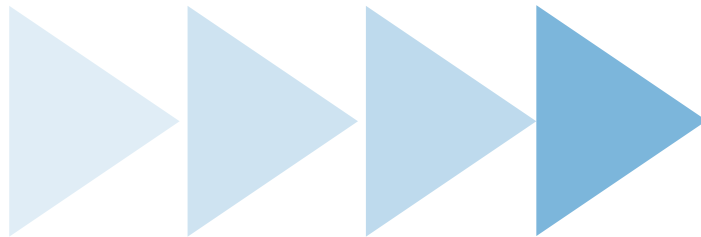
SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

Student success requires belonging, support, and opportunity.

We expanded after-school programs and redesigned summer learning to focus on academics in addition to enrichment. At the same time, we are strengthening how we support students who need more by examining how to bring the Community Schools Model to our District.

Also, we are improving services for students receiving Special Education by increasing inclusion, strengthening coordination, and ensuring access to grade-level learning.

We are also continuing to strengthen programs and opportunities for English Language Learners.



We're improving our systems of support so every student thrives academically, socially, and emotionally.

FUTURE READINESS

We're looking ahead to Sunnyvale's next chapter.

Preparing students for the future means helping them navigate a rapidly changing world.

This year, Sunnyvale joined the national AI Literacy League Learning Collaborative and launched a district task force to guide responsible use of technology. We also joined a global cohort, organized by Digital Promise, focused on better supporting newcomer students. In April, we earned \$100,000 from Applied Materials to launch a new hands-on STEM elective designed to help bridge opportunity gaps at Columbia Middle School.

**AI Literacy
League
Member**

**District AI
Task Force
Launched**

**Global
Newcomer
Student Cohort
Member**

**Earned a
\$100,000 Grant
to Launch a
STEM Course**



Innovation with purpose, we're expanding opportunity for all students.

SYSTEMS & STEWARDSHIP

Building a Strong Foundation

Strong systems make strong schools possible.

This year, we aligned goals across schools, improved communication, and made disciplined financial decisions in a changing economic environment, which is impacting many school districts statewide.

- **Staffing aligned to enrollment**
- **Strengthened financial oversight**
- **Closing structural budget deficit by June 2028**
- **Community input guiding budget decisions**



Protecting classroom learning while ensuring long-term stability.

COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATION

Where every student's voice is heard and every family belongs.

Throughout the year, Sunnyvale schools celebrated student achievement and community connection. From cultural events and guest speakers to assemblies focused on student recognitions and awards, our celebrations brought us together.

These moments reflect a shared belief: strong schools are built through belonging, opportunity, and meaningful engagement. Across Sunnyvale, schools are filled with moments of pride:

Student achievement
Cultural celebrations
Family engagement



*Strong schools are built on relationships,
connection, and belonging.*

LOOKING AHEAD

Lasting improvement happens when people move together.

This first year has been about building a foundation. The work ahead is about turning that foundation into lasting impact.

We will continue to focus on:

**Strong,
engaging
instruction**

**Connected
systems of
support**

**Equity and
access for
every student**

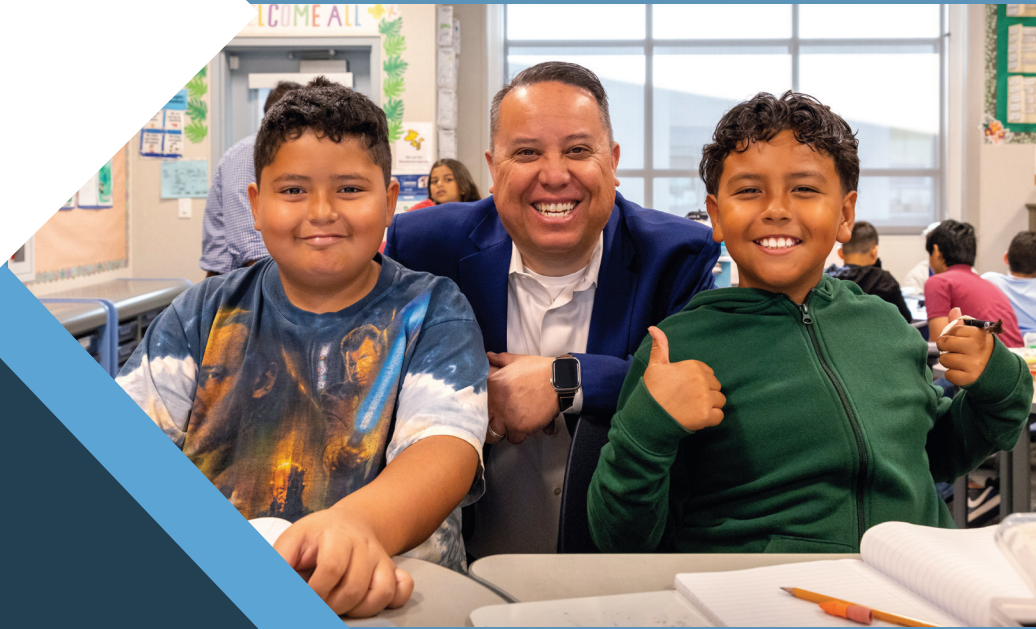
**Partnerships
that increase
opportunity**

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, the District recognizes the importance of early exposure to the fields shaping today's economy. We are expanding partnerships with local employers to provide real-world learning experiences and ensure our students are prepared for future careers.



*The choices we make today create stronger,
sustainable futures tomorrow.*

**Sunnyvale School District
is where every student
is future ready.**



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