BUCKEYE UNION HAPPENINGS

July 2026

SAVE THE DATE

August 12
First Day of School

August 19
Board Meeting

August 28
Staff Dev. Day



Middle School Days

Wednesday 8/5/26 - VVCM Rattler Ready Day
Thursday 8/6/26 - RH/BUMI Bengal & Panda Day
Friday 8/7/26 - Camerado WOW Day

2026 BOARD CALENDAR

Buckeye Union School District

ENROLLMENT

☑ FOUR YEARS OLD BY SEPT. 1
TK (TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN)

☑ FIVE YEARS OLD BY SEPT. 1
KINDERGARTEN

We are Buckeye!

5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Phone: 916-985-2183 www.buckeyeusd.org

BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MISSION

Working together with families, the community, and highly qualified staff, the Buckeye Union School District ensures that each student masters the knowledge and skills needed to maximize their academic and personal success in a global society.

TO DO

Middle School offices reopen on July 22, 2026
Elementary School offices reopen on July 29, 2026

We're excited to kick off another great year with you! **The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 12, 2026.**

Families will be able to view their student's **class placement on the evening of Monday, August 10, 2026.**

Beginning on August 1, 2026, please log in to the Alma Parent Portal and complete the **Annual Alma Update.** Completing the update immediately ensures your school office has the most accurate and up-to-date information on file *before* the start of the new school year, or on their middle school pick-up date:

- Wednesday 8/5/26 - VVCM Rattler Ready Day
- Thursday 8/6/26 - RH/BUMI Bengal & Panda Day
- Friday 8/7/26 - Camerado WOW Day

To get started:

- Log in to the Alma Parent Portal using your **school's link**.
  - Under your student's name and photo, select Alma Start Forms and Tasks.
  - Complete the Annual Alma Update for each student.
- New Parents (*or parents who have not created an Alma account*) should watch for an email from notifications@getalma.com at the end of July.

Review and update:

- Parent/guardian contact information
- Emergency contact information
- Required student forms and records

For additional guidance, please refer to the instructions provided by your school. We appreciate your support and look forward to welcoming our students back for another successful school year!

STUDENT & STAFF RECOGNITIONS



March 11, 2026
The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **Oak Meadow student, Zoe Ancheta,** as Student of the Year.

May 13, 2026
The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **Silva Valley student, Jacob Johnson,** as Student of the Year.



EDH Educators of the Year recognized by the local EDH Rotary Club

El Dorado Hills educators earned the spotlight at the May 27 Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills meeting, where a crowd gathered to celebrate teachers of the year.

BUSD Superintendent Dr. David Roth handed out the first award to **Kelly Rose**, a language arts, social studies and exploratory teacher at **Rolling Hills Middle School**. "Her enthusiasm for her subject matter is contagious," Roth shared, adding Rose goes above and beyond not only in the classroom but also in after-school and G.A.T.E. programs. Rose was instrumental in encouraging students to research and comment on the proposed Costco project down the street from the school. The grateful teacher thanked Rotary and her peers, sharing she believes it's important to give students as many opportunities as possible.



STUDENT & STAFF RECOGNITIONS

March 12, 2026
The Rotary Club of Cameron Park honors **Camerado Springs student, Austin Coyne,** as an Outstanding Student.





May 14, 2026
The Rotary Club of Cameron Park honors **Camerado Springs student, Jacob Jones,** as an Outstanding Student.

Association of California School Administrators "ACSA"

Local Charter Distinguished Service Awards





Two BUSD schools bring home distinguished honors!

California Distinguished Schools Recipients

- 2026 Camerado Springs Middle School
- 2026 Rolling Hills Middle School

This recognition is a direct reflection of the hard work, dedication, and passion of our entire staff. From teachers and instructional aides to office teams, custodians, campus supervisors, counselors, cafeteria staff, and support personnel, every member of the school family plays a vital role in creating a school where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

Furthermore, because middle schools are recognized every other year, this distinction makes **Camerado Springs a back-to-back recipient of the California Distinguished School award,** an incredible accomplishment for our entire school community.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STUDENT

Buckeye USD is home to Award-Winning Schools with amazing teachers, facilities, curriculum, libraries, PE programs...and so much MORE.

More Programs.
More Opportunities.
More Success!

- Band and VAPA LEARN MORE
- GATE LEARN MORE
- STEM LEARN MORE
- Athletic Programs
- Meet the Masters
- Gardens
- Student Clubs
- CJSF



250 Celebration

Rolling Hills 5/14/26



Heritage Festival - USA

William Brooks





USA Show Performance

Oak Meadow

5/6-5/7/26



This Land is Your Land

Blue Oak 5/18/26



Greatest Americans Play

Buckeye El 5/13/26

Happy 250th, America!
Celebrating our Country's Semiquincentennial in BUSD!

Famous Americans Play

Valley View 5/29/26









Mountain Democrat

VILLAGE life
IN EL DORADO HILLS

Play Video

Video Credit to Principal Shupe

Happy 250th, America!
Celebrating our Country's Semiquincentennial in BUSD!

Placerville Elks Americanism Essay Contest 1st Place Winner: Rivaan Tanneru



Rivaan's essay was selected as one of the best in the 8th-grade division. Rivaan was celebrated alongside his family and **Rolling Hills** teacher, Eric Perkins.



Rivaan was later invited to read his essay at the Buckeye Union School Board meeting on April 8.



SPELLING BEE



Congratulations to all of our students who participated in this year's Spelling Bee! We are incredibly proud of every student who demonstrated courage, preparation, and outstanding academic effort while representing their classrooms and schools. A special congratulations goes to the students and grade-level divisions who earned top placements in the competition.



Division 3

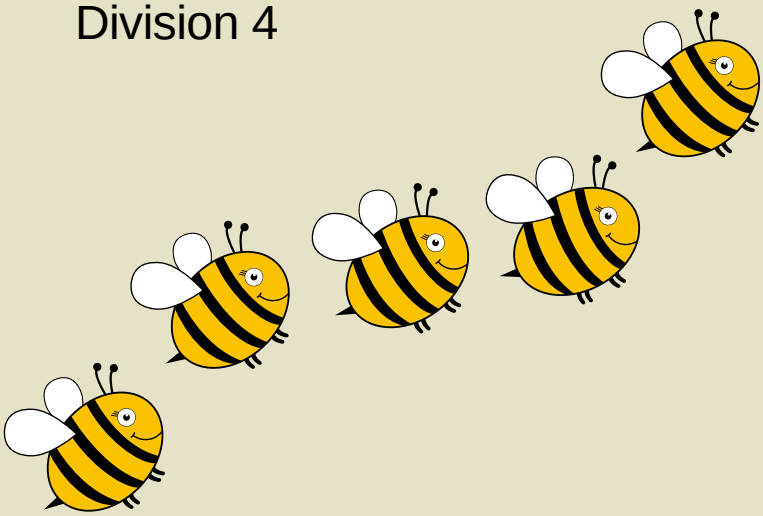


Division 1

Division 4



Division 3





Division 1

Division 1

Division 3

SPRING BAND CONCERTS



Obi-Wan Kenobi,
played by Principal Stewart

Princess Leia,
played by Mrs. Hassey

Darth Vader,
played by Superintendent Roth

WATCH VIDEO







ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL



The Buckeye Union School District hosted its 13th Annual **Heritage Festival** on March 25 at **William Brooks** in El Dorado Hills, bringing together cultures from all over the world.















VILLAGE life IN EL DORADO HILLS

Thank you to the event coordinator,
Annie Muse-Fisher,
and all the volunteers and participants!

MARCH IS THE ANNUAL BOB (BATTLE OF THE BOOKS) COUNTY-WIDE COMPETITION, THIS YEAR HOSTED BY ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade

- 1st Rolling Hills
- 2nd Camerado Springs



1st

7th Grade

- 1st Rolling Hills
- 2nd Camerado Springs



1st

8th Grade

- 1st Rolling Hills
- 2nd Valley View



1st

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL TEAMS!

Gold Dust or Bust

Blue Oak 5/21/26



Awards Assembly

Buckeye Elementary 5/29/26





Into the wild! Trout Release

Rolling Hills Friday 3/6/26

Prop 28 funds at Work!

Valley View's PE specialist, Mrs. Perez, led her students in a dynamic drumming and rhythm activity using exercise balls and drumsticks in the gym. This activity was made possible through the District's use of Proposition 28 funds to expand access to arts and music education.



Home Economics with Mrs. Ferretti
Granola Making Demo

Rolling Hills, Thursday 4/16/26



Making granola allows students to practice measuring skills and equivalent fractions, learn their way around our kitchen labs, and work together as a team. It's always an early culinary lab experience in our classes. We also discuss the nutritive value of whole ingredients and the cost-effectiveness of making your own vs. conventional granola. This lab concludes with fruit & yogurt parfaits!

FARM TO FORK! The students were also recently able to use some strawberries that were grown in the Bengal Culinary Garden!



Oak Ridge High School opened its Science Fair to middle school participants!

Fun Run

Blue Oak 4/1/26





Color Run

Oak Meadow 4/23/26







It's a Jungle Out There

Valley View

5/14/26

Bike to School Day

Valley View 5/6/26



Donuts with Grown Ups

Valley View 3/25/26







TK Red Carpet Promotion to K

Valley View 5/27/26





Career Day

Blue Oak 3/26/26



Hoedown

Silva Valley 3/26/26



Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion (BUMI) engaged in learning



Superintendent Roth judging at the Annual Oral Interpretation Festival

3/25/26



El Dorado County Offic... · 20h

Celebrating 46 Years of Student Voices! 🎤✨

What an incredible day at the 46th Annual Festival of Oral Interpretation! This week, the campuses of Pioneer Elementary and Mountain Creek Middle School were alive with the talent of over 500 students from across El Dorado County.

From 4th-grade prose to 8th-grade poetry, these students reminded us that public speaking is an art form. A huge round of applause to participants like Angelica Mendoza from Lakeview Elementary (pictured!), who showcased incredible poise and skill! 👏

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Judges: We are so grateful to the educators, parents, and community members who joined us for our judges' luncheon and stayed for two full sessions of performances. This isn't a contest—it's a festival of growth—and your encouragement makes all the difference for these young speakers.



Summer School Fun at Blue Oak

Door Contest













ATHLETICS: RUNNING, JUMPING, KICKING, AND WINNING!

Elementary

Fall
Cross Country and Unified Sports Soccer

Winter
Basketball

Spring
Unified Sports Basketball

Middle School

Fall
Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, and Flag Football

Winter
Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball

Spring
Boys Volleyball, Track and Field, Unified Sports Basketball, and Unified Sports Track



Students from across the district came together to compete in this year's **Unified Sports Basketball event**, promoting teamwork, inclusion, and fun on the court. The energy was high, and the spirit of unity was on full display as athletes of all abilities played side by side.

Elementary 5/1/26
Hosted by Buckeye Elem.





Middle School 3/6/26
Hosted by Rolling Hills



Mountain Democrat

BASKETBALL

THANK YOU TO OUR PTA/PTO/PTC GROUPS



Oak Meadow and
Buckeye Union Mandarin Immersion

We believe that learning should be celebrated! Throughout the school year, our students work incredibly hard to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. To recognize their dedication, our **Oak Meadow and BUMI** principals love creating memorable experiences that bring smiles, laughter, and lasting memories.

Thanks to the generous support of their families through the Parent Gala Silent Auction, students enjoyed one-of-a-kind experiences such as

- Lunch Delivery with the Principal
- Student Principal for a Day
- Principals on the Roof for Water Day
- and the always-popular Prank with the Principal featuring Dinosaur Dr. Zhai and Flamingo Mrs. Pirkl!

thank you volunteers

From leading morning announcements and helping with school-wide activities to sharing laughs during surprise appearances, these special moments celebrated our students' hard work in fun and meaningful ways.

These experiences reflect the strong partnership among our families, PTA/PTO/PTC groups, and school staff, all working together to create a joyful and engaging school community at each of our schools.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help make these types of unforgettable celebrations possible. Together, we continue to make Buckeye a place where students are inspired to learn, lead, and thrive!

Effective July 1, 2026

ALL BUSD Volunteers will be required to complete Child Abuse Mandated Reporter training.

More information to come!

VOLUNTEER SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Shelley Joyer and Christy Calderon were nominated by our School Board and selected by the El Dorado County School Boards Association (EDCSBA) to receive the **Outstanding Community Members Award.** Congratulations, and thank you for all you do to support our garden program at **William Brooks!**







EDCOE
EL DORADO COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2026 Buckeye Education Foundation
Virtual Poetry Showcase winners
came to read their poems to the Board of Trustees.



Thanks to generous community donations, the
Buckeye Education Foundation
continues to give back to our schools!

$500 G.A.T.E. Grants

In the fall, the Foundation sent $500 per site to boost the GATE activities. The funds have gone to great use!

Stipend Enhancements

The Foundation recognizes the vital importance of your efforts in supporting the many special activities that serve our students. Many stipend positions received a 60% increase for the 2025/2026 school year.

BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Britni Miller, Teacher, Rolling Hills, March 4, 2026



Debbie Bowers, Rolling Hills Principal, congratulated Britni and stated that in her two years at Rolling Hills she has made a significant impact in the Special Day Class program by creating a supportive classroom environment, advocating for students with complex learning needs, and fostering strong academic and social-emotional growth.

Superintendent Roth presented Britni with a certificate and stated that she brings enthusiasm, care, and dedication to a critical special education role, noting the District is fortunate to have her serving students and families at Rolling Hills.

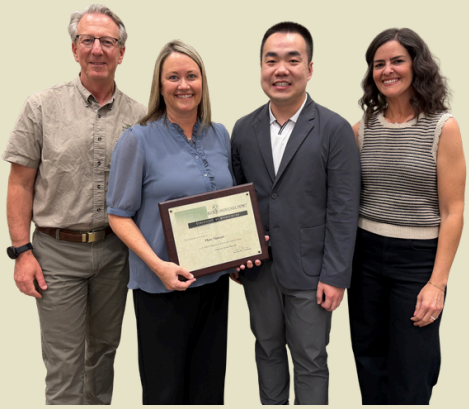
Danielle VanderVeen, Administrative Assistant, Rolling Hills, March 4, 2026



Sean Gallagher, Rolling Hills Assistant Principal, congratulated Danielle and stated that she consistently goes above and beyond in the front office, supporting attendance processes, scheduling, and daily operations while creating a welcoming and supportive environment for students, families, and staff.

Superintendent Roth presented Danielle with a certificate and stated that her calm, hardworking presence in the busy school office and her ability to multitask and support the entire school community make a meaningful impact at Rolling Hills.

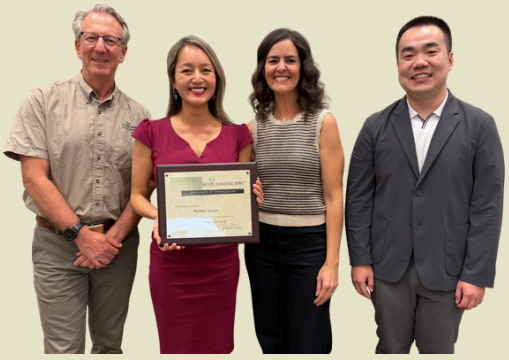
Meredith “Mimi” Nelson, Teacher, Oak Meadow/BUMI, March 18, 2026



Amy Pirkl, Oak Meadow Principal, congratulated Mimi as the certificated employee of the year and stated she demonstrates strong instructional practices, student engagement, and collaboration with staff.

Superintendent Roth presented Mimi with a certificate and stated she is a dedicated educator whose professionalism and communication positively impact students and staff.

Michelle Schnell, Teacher Associate, Oak Meadow/BUMI, March 18, 2026



Lu Zhai, BUMI Principal, congratulated Michelle as the classified employee of the year and stated she builds meaningful relationships with students and supports a nurturing learning environment.

Superintendent Roth presented Michelle with a certificate and stated her kindness, flexibility, and dedication make a positive impact on students and staff.

BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Cori Alameda, Teacher, Silva Valley, April 8, 2026



Brandon Beadle, Principal, congratulated Cori as the certificated employee of the year and stated she is a dedicated educator, instructional leader, and active contributor to school programs and student success.

Superintendent Roth presented Cori with a certificate and recognized her leadership, commitment, and contributions beyond the classroom.

Caitlin Brooks, Administrative Assistant, Silva Valley, April 8, 2026



Brandon Beadle, Principal, congratulated Caitlin as the classified employee of the year and stated she has demonstrated strong organizational skills, supports attendance efforts, and creates a welcoming and calm office environment.

Superintendent Roth presented Caitlin with a certificate and commended her positive impact on school operations and culture.

Robin Thomas, Teacher, Camerado Springs, May 6, 2026

Doug Shupe, Camerado Springs Middle School Principal, congratulated Robin as the certificated employee of the year and stated that Robin has dedicated 30 years to Buckeye Union School District, effectively supports students in mathematics instruction, mentors teachers, collaborates within the math department, and consistently achieves strong student results.

Superintendent Roth presented Robin with a certificate and stated that Robin is one of the most effective math teachers in the District, has positively impacted students and staff throughout her career, and has continuously adapted instructional practices to improve student learning.



Kent Montgomery, Yard Supervisor, Camerado Springs, May 6, 2026

Sara Matley, Camerado Springs Middle School Assistant Principal, congratulated Kent as the classified employee of the year and stated that Kent positively connects with students through lunchtime games and activities, creates an inclusive campus environment, supports students who may otherwise feel disconnected, and works collaboratively with yard supervisors to maintain a safe and welcoming campus.

Superintendent Roth will present Kent with a certificate at a later date as Kent could not be present and stated that Camerado Springs benefits from staff members who create strong relationships with students and contribute positively to campus culture.



BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Cassandra Valdez, Speech Language Pathologist, William Brooks, May 20



Joel Dameral, William Brooks Elementary Principal, congratulated Cassandra as the certificated employee of the year and stated she demonstrates professionalism, compassion, collaboration, and a strong commitment to supporting students and families.

Superintendent Roth presented Cassandra with a certificate and stated her advocacy and student-centered support have made a positive impact on the William Brooks school community.

Lindsey Oldknow, Library Associate, William Brooks, May 20, 2026



Joel Dameral, William Brooks Elementary Principal, congratulated Lindsey as the classified employee of the year and stated she transformed the school library into a welcoming and engaging environment that inspires students and promotes literacy schoolwide.

Superintendent Roth presented Lindsey with a certificate and stated the William Brooks library has become a special place for students and staff because of her dedication and creativity.

We are so proud to celebrate our outstanding staff members who were selected by their colleagues to be recognized as **Employees of the Year**, honoring their dedication, professionalism, and positive impact on our students and school community.

2025/2026 BUCKEYE UNION STAFF





















COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE

FOR BUCKEYE USD PARENTS & FAMILIES

The Buckeye Union School District aims to engage all members of its school community through open, honest, and transparent communication. This Communication Guide serves as a key resource for our families, while helping you get answers to your questions or concerns in a timely manner.

DISTRICT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- www.BuckeyeUSD.org
- Parent Portal: Alma
- Emails & Connect Messages
- Report Bullying or Safety Concerns
- School Facebook pages
- Newsletters

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

SCHOOL

- Website
- School Newsletters
- Social Media pages
- Teacher Communications and classroom websites
- Connect Emails/ Communications

DISTRICT

- Website
- District Happenings Newsletter (quarterly)
- District Highlights Newsletter (semi-annual)
- Connect Emails/ Communications
- Board Meetings

5049 ROBERT J. MATHEWS PARKWAY | EL DORADO HILLS CA 95762 | (916) 985-2183

BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 - 2027 Student Academic Calendar

July

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

7/3 Independence Day Observed

August

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

8/10-8/11 Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)

8/12 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

8/28 Staff Development Day (Teachers Only) (Non-Student Day)

September

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

9/7 Labor Day

9/28-9/30 Minimum Days Parent Conferences (All Schools)

October

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

10/1-10/2 Minimum Days Parent Conferences (All Schools)

10/12 Staff Development Day (All Staff) (Non-Student Day)

10/30 End of 1st Trimester

November

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

11/11 Veterans Day

11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

December

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

12/21-12/31 Winter Break (Non-Student Days)

Note: EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS

January

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1/1 Winter Break (Non-Student Days)

1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/22 Minimum Day (Only RHMS and CSMS)

February

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

2/12 End of 2nd Trimester

2/12 Staff Development Day (All Staff) (Non-Student Day)

2/15-2/19 Mid-Winter Break

2/15 2/19 Presidents' Day Observed (Washinton & Lincoln)

March

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

3/4-3/5 Minimum Days (Only Elementary Schools)

3/22-3/29 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

April

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

5/31 Memorial Day

June

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

6/3 Minimum Day for CS / RH CSMS – 12 p.m. Dismissal RHMS – 10 a.m. Late Start

6/4 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

6/7-6/8 Emergency School Closure Days (If Necessary)

6/18 Juneteenth Observed

26/27 First Day of School Wed. 8/12/26



APPLY @

We are Buckeye!

EDJOIN.ORG

