



Dear American Lakes Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I am honored to begin my fifth year as your Principal at American Lakes School and am excited to continue serving this incredible community. Please join me in welcoming back Ezekiel Valenga for the start of his first full year as the American Lakes School Assistant Principal.

Our dedicated staff has been hard at work over the summer—working summer school, piloting potential new math curriculum, attending professional development, and preparing their classrooms—all to ensure a smooth and positive start for our scholars. Below, you'll find important updates, reminders, and upcoming events to help your child begin the school year with confidence and enthusiasm.

Our Commitment to Academic Excellence

As you may already know, American Lakes School will be transitioning away from the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework that has guided our instructional program over the past six years. While IB will no longer be a part of our academic framework, our commitment to providing students with a well-rounded, rigorous education supported by differentiated instruction remains stronger than ever.

To support this work, American Lakes School will partner closely with the consulting organization Aspire EDU to strengthen teachers' planning and implementation of **high-quality first instruction (HQFI)**. We will continue to build on our Early Literacy Initiative in grades TK–3, expanding the program to include third grade this year, while using Read 180 as our primary literacy curriculum for students in grades 4–8.

In addition, our staff will continue to use student data to drive instructional decisions through weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings and monthly professional development. This ongoing focus on data-informed planning and targeted support will help ensure that every student receives the instruction and interventions they need to succeed academically.

The Importance of Attendance

Strong school attendance is foundational to student success. Scholars who attend regularly perform better academically, develop stronger relationships, and are more likely to be college and career-ready. Please help us build strong attendance habits from the start. If you have questions or need support regarding attendance, don't hesitate to contact our front office.

Programs and Supports for Scholars

At American Lakes, we're proud to offer a variety of academic, extracurricular, and wellness supports, including:

- **Athletics** (Grades 4–8)
- **After School Intervention (ASI)**
- **Student Council & Middle School Leadership**
- **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**
- **Restorative Justice (RJ)**
- **1:1 and small group support from our Wellness Team**

We're also continuing our partnership with **LEAP Academy**, which provides enrichment activities and academic support for students in grades TK–6, Monday through Friday until 6 PM. LEAP offers engaging experiences in art, athletics, cooking, science, technology, and more. While priority enrollment is given to scholars who meet specific criteria, space may be available for others. If your family is interested, we encourage you to register early. Once submitted, you'll be notified of your child's enrollment status.



Family Engagement and Opportunities to Get Involved

We deeply value our families as partners in education. There are many ways to get involved, including:

- **School Site Council (SSC)** – Helps develop and evaluate school improvement plans and budgets.
- **English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)** – Supports educational planning for English learners.
- **Volunteers** - Complete the [volunteer packet](#) to support in the classroom, at events, and on field trips.

If you are interested in volunteering or joining any of these groups, please contact our school office. We welcome your voice and participation!

Stay Connected

Be sure to sign up for [ParentSquare](#) to receive important school updates and announcements. Also, ensure you have access to [Infinite Campus](#), where you can monitor your scholar's grades and attendance daily.

We encourage you to visit the **Natomas Unified School District** [website](#) to explore all of the opportunities and resources available to students and their families in NUSD.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we're building a strong, inclusive, and high-achieving learning community.

Getting Started: Important Dates and Information:

- **Enrollment Nights:** 7/28, 8/4, and 8/10 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at the NUSD Welcome Center (1931 Arena Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95834).
- **Middle School Orientation:** August 11, 2026, from 4:30 - 5:00 in the ALS Gym
- **Ice Cream Social:** August 11, 2026, from 5:00 - 6:00 in the ALS quad.
- **First day of school:** Thursday, August 13th, 2026. Here is a [link](#) to the 26-27 school year's calendar.
- **Back to School Night:** September 3, 2026, from 5:30pm - 7:00pm
- School offices will reopen to the public on August 4th at 1:00pm
- **Class lists and middle school schedules** will be finalized and available in Infinite Campus (IC) on August 7, 2026, by 4:00pm.
 - If you do not have an IC account set up yet, you can find instructions on how to do that by going to these [Parent Instructions](#). When it asks for your activation key, enter the number given.
 - If you have already set up an account, but do not remember your login information, you can click "forgot password" to retrieve your password. For more help, contact your school or email icportal@natomasunified.org.
- **Please see our [digital backpack](#) for more resources, which also contains the American Lakes Bell Schedule.**
- Please contact our Constituent and Customer Services at customerservice@natomasunified.org or (916) 561-5253 for emergencies and urgent matters.

We look forward to working with you this year! If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 567-5500 or visit us on our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Brian Sanino
American Lakes School, Principal