The Cottonwood School / Buckeye August 2026

EVERYONE HAS A STORY


EVERYONE
HAS A STORY

The Leadership Challenge



At The Cottonwood School,Our leadership focus is centered on The Leadership Challenge and its Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership. As we write our 2026–2027 story, we will remember that we become part of someone else's story every day.....Leaving them better because our paths crossed.

EVERYONE
HAS A STORY

Model the Way

It’s not intentions that matter.. It's our actions

Inspire a Shared Vision

We are here to build unique educational opportunities, build meaningful relationships, and create a place where every student and every family feels seen, supported, and valued

EVERYONE
HAS A STORY

Challenge the Process

Sometimes it asks us to rethink what we've always done so we can become even better

Enable Others to Act

The strongest organizations aren't built by one person, They're built by people who trust one another, collaborate, empower each other, and celebrate one another's success

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Encourage the Heart

Never underestimate the impact of encouragement:

Sometimes the smallest moments become the biggest chapters in someone's story

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

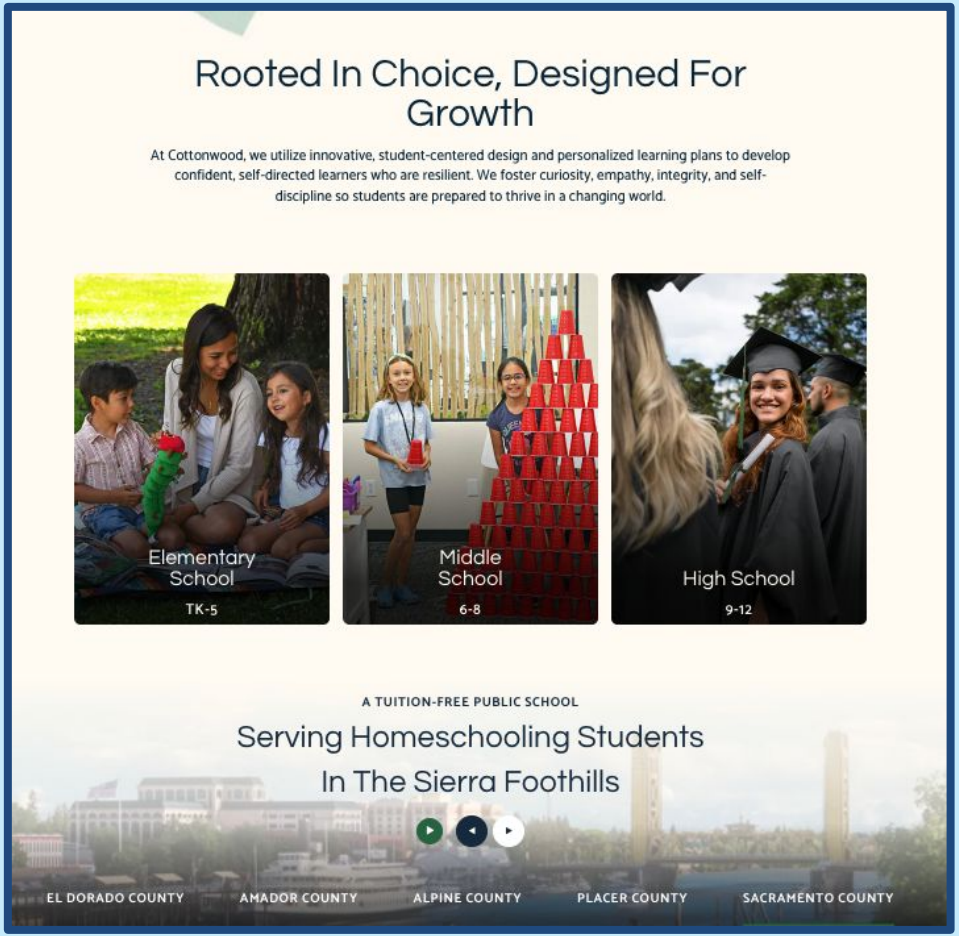


Compass

How do I want to be remembered?

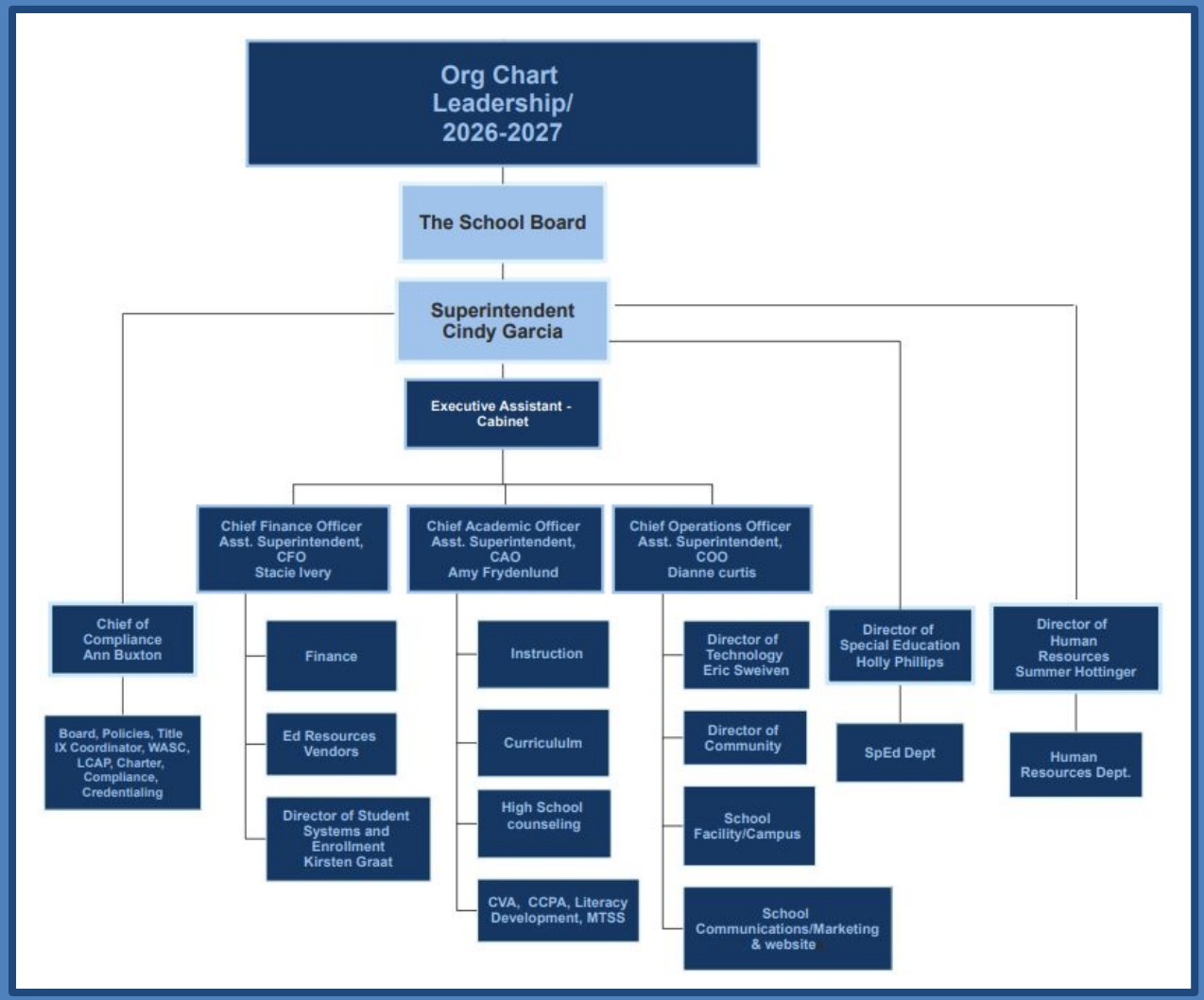
What chapter will I help write in someone else's story today?

The New Cottonwood Website



The Cottonwood School Enrollment Report 2026/27

Current Enrollment by County/Gradelevel as of 08/11/2026							
Grade Level	**Amador**	**Alpine**	**El Dorado**	**Placer**	**Sacramento**	**Yuba (MV)**	**Grand Total**
TK	2	1	49	86	169	0	307
KN	3	0	51	76	164	1	295
1	3	0	55	74	200	0	332
2	5	1	68	69	176	0	319
3	3	0	54	80	187	0	324
4	2	0	67	68	166	0	303
5	2	0	52	88	184	0	326
6	2	0	52	83	162	0	299
7	2	1	57	71	171	1	303
8	2	0	53	74	152	0	281
9	0	0	32	54	152	0	238
10	2	0	33	62	132	0	229
11	0	1	30	50	136	0	217
12	1	0	15	36	71	0	123
Grand Total	**29**	**4**	**668**	**971**	**2222**	**2**	**3896**


Org Chart
Leadership/
2026-2027
The School Board
Superintendent
Cindy Garcia
Executive Assistant -
Cabinet
Chief Finance Officer
Asst. Superintendent,
CFO
Stacie Ivery
Chief Academic Officer
Asst. Superintendent,
CAO
Amy Frydenlund
Chief Operations Officer
Asst. Superintendent,
COO
Dianne curtis
Chief of
Compliance
Ann Buxton
Board, Policies, Title
IX Coordinator, WASC,
LCAP, Charter,
Compliance,
Credentialing
Finance
Ed Resources
Vendors
Director of Student
Systems and
Enrollment
Kirsten Graat
Instruction
Curriculuim
High School
counseling
CVA, CCPA, Literacy
Development, MTSS
Director of
Technology
Eric Sweiven
Director of
Community
School
Facility/Campus
School
Communications/Marketing
& website
Director of
Special Education
Holly Phillips
SpEd Dept
Director of
Human
Resources
Summer Hottinger
Human
Resources Dept.

Great News!

ELA: From Orange to Green – A Two Level Dashboard Improvement

Math: Within striking distance of Green

ELA: Orange → Green	Math: Closing the Gap to Green
2024-25 🟧 Orange ⬆️ Significant Growth 2025-26 Projected Results 🟩 Green	🟨 2024-25 DFS: **- 44.72** Points 🟨 2025-26 DFS: **- 29.88** Points 📈 Improvement: **+ 14.8 DFS Points** Approximately **5** Points from Green

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

California School DASHBOARD

Assessment Success Stories!

Reflecting on 25-26

- Implemented the use of i-Ready as a local assessment option
- Celebrated 22 perfect Math and ELA CAASPP scores!
- 1,434 CAASPP tests with students achieving either a 3 or 4 in ELA & Math!
- Recognized 450 tests where students showed growth in ELA & Math!



EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Academic Achievement Celebrations

September 18th : 1pm to 2:30pm

- 3 Locations: Elk Grove, Folsom & Rocklin
- All Families are invited to attend
- Ice Cream & Sprinkles
- Achievement students will receive a ribbon
- Perfect Score students get additional large button

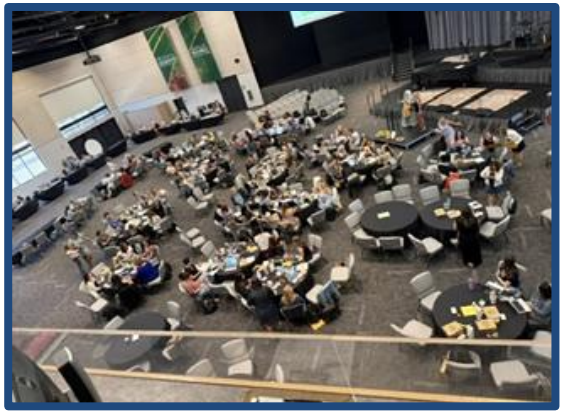


2025 Academic Celebration Video

Back to School Inservice



Inservice



Reconnect – with colleagues
Relationships – strengthening connections
Reflect – looking back at what worked and what we learned
Reimagine – thinking creatively about how we serve students
Refocus – getting centered on students and our shared goals
Recharge – returning with renewed energy
Reach – reaching every student where they are

Cottonwood Art Collective (CAC)

Student Artists from K - 12th classes:



ARTIST: ALLISON H.
DIGITAL ARTS - FANTASY

Fantasy landscapes created by combining terrain, architecture, and characters into unified scenes. Using Adobe Photoshop, they layered images, added blur and special effects, and transformed individual elements into imaginative, cohesive compositions. (CVA Students)

High school students explored light and shadow through five-point value scales, studying highlights, shadows, and everything in between to create the illusion of 3D form. The detailed detailed shaded images were then transformed into line drawings using a sketch app—revealing the artwork beneath the shadows in **"Shadows Removed, Lines Revealed."**





Abigail R.

CVA-HS Students

Cottonwood Art Collective (CAC)

Observing an object takes time. Artists must quiet the brain from what it thinks it knows and focus on the basic shapes they truly see. With animals, whimsy removes the pressure to be realistic, and the medium choice of watercolor means the paint is supposed to “leak and bleed” into another. Students could choose any color palette they wanted and the results created a beautiful impact.



Charlotte C.



Anastaysa M.



ARTIST: ABIGAIL C.

SPRING LANDSCAPE/WATERCOLOR ON PAPER

Many of our students create outside of classes all the time! Painting what inspires, where their imaginations take them, with whatever art supplies are at hand. Landscapes that show depth, light, and focus are a favorite theme. (K-8 student)

100% ACCOUNTABLE

"Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you."

ALDOUS HUXLEY

EVERYONE HAS A STORY