



**Orangethorpe Elementary
Principal: Debbie Bennett**

School Mission/Vision/Demographics

Mission:

At Orangethorpe Elementary, home of the ORCAs, we are a creative and inclusive community where every student feels safe, supported, and valued. Through strong family partnerships, co-taught classrooms, and hands-on learning experiences like Project Curiosity, we nurture curiosity, celebrate diversity, and empower students to think critically and creatively. Together, we help students grow academically and personally—developing into kind, responsible, and compassionate individuals ready to make a difference.

Vision:

At Orangethorpe Elementary, we envision a creative and inclusive community where every student grows into a kind, confident, and compassionate individual. Through strong partnerships, supportive environments, and engaging learning experiences, students discover their strengths, pursue their passions, and develop the skills to make a meaningful impact in the world.

Project Curiosity:

Offers opportunities for real life experiences, conservationism, art and science lessons that will be used to express content knowledge, make meaningful pedagogical connections and have applications for student learning.

Demographics:

Orangethorpe comprises of 489 students. We are currently 80.4% socioeconomically disadvantaged, 34.6% English learners and 1% foster youth. The makeup of our student population is: African American 1.4%; Asian 6.1%; Filipino 2%; Hispanic 78.3%; two or more races 3.5%; Pacific Islander 0.2%; White 8.4%.



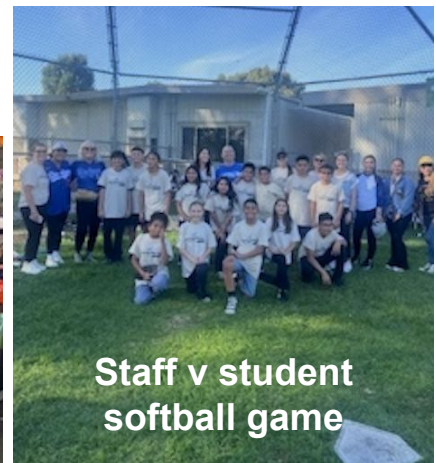
Winter Sing-a-long



E-Sports team



Dia de los muertos



**Staff v student
softball game**



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School Data

Orangethorpe Elementary demonstrated significant academic growth in English Language Arts during the 2025–2026 school year as measured by i-Ready data. The schoolwide distance from standard (DFS) improved from 86.2 in the fall to 62.7 in the spring, reflecting strong overall progress. The percentage of students on grade level increased from 6% to 13%, with 58% of students meeting their individual growth goals. English Learners showed notable gains, improving from 93.9 DFS to 71.7 DFS while 5th grade made the greatest progress, increasing from 6% to 17% proficiency and showing the largest DFS gain 36.7 points. Students with disabilities also improved but remain significantly below standard. In mathematics, I-Ready data revealed that Orangethorpe students demonstrated strong academic growth during the 2025–2026 school year. The schoolwide distance from standard (DFS) improved from 58 in the fall to 43.5 in the spring, reflecting meaningful progress toward grade-level proficiency. The percentage of students performing on grade level increased from 4% to 10%. English Learners showed notable gains, improving from 62 DFS to 46.5 DFS, a 15-point increase, with Fourth grade demonstrating the greatest growth, rising from 2% to 10% proficiency and fifth grade recording the largest DFS improvement. Students with disabilities improved but remain significantly below standard.

The 2025 California School Dashboard data for Orangethorpe Elementary shows overall positive academic trends with steady growth and stable school climate indicators. In English Language Arts, performance remained in the yellow band, improving by 4 points to a distance from standard (DFS) of 34.6. Mathematics also remained in the yellow band, increasing by 6.8 points to a DFS of 65.7, reflecting continued progress in core instruction. Chronic absenteeism improved to yellow, decreasing by 2.4% to 16%, demonstrating the effectiveness of attendance initiatives and family engagement efforts. Suspension rates remained in the blue performance level, indicating sustained positive behavior outcomes and a supportive school climate. English Learner progress declined to the orange band, with 44.6% of students making progress toward English proficiency, highlighting a need for continued targeted language support. Overall, both state and local data reflect consistent academic gains and strong behavioral outcomes. Orangethorpe continues to build momentum through differentiated instruction, targeted interventions, and inclusive practices to ensure access and close achievement gaps.

Fiscal Information

Budget Information	
LCFF Supplemental	196,810
LCFF Base	65,075
Title I	174,970

SPSA Goal	Total Expenditures
Goal 1	333,477
Goal 2	25,076
Goal 3	53,068
Goal 4	25,234



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Goal 1: Student Achievement

Orangethorpe Elementary has increased student achievement through a strategic focus on high-quality instruction, targeted supports, and continuous data analysis. Utilizing a physical education teacher twice weekly has created dedicated time for grade-level professional learning communities (PLCs), where teachers analyze data, identify learning gaps, and plan responsive instruction. Instructional aides are strategically placed in early grades to strengthen Tier 1 core instruction and Tier 2 small-group support, allowing for greater differentiation and personalized learning. The implementation of a co-teaching model across all grade levels enhances inclusive practices and increases access to grade-level content for all students. Teachers are trained in Orton-Gillingham, Thinking Maps, and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) strategies, strengthening literacy development, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning. English Learners are supported through both designated and integrated English Language Development (ELD), ensuring explicit language instruction while also embedding language development within core content areas. In addition, targeted after-school interventions are provided to further support English Learners in accelerating both language acquisition and academic achievement. Ongoing walkthroughs, instructional rounds, data chats, and analysis of student performance data ensure timely identification of student needs and targeted instructional adjustments. A focus on High Reliability Schools Level 3 components has further improved classroom practices by emphasizing clear learning goals, effective feedback, and student engagement. Investments in standards-aligned instructional materials support diverse learners and strengthen family engagement. Collectively, these efforts reinforce strong Tier 1 instruction, targeted Tier 2 interventions, and sustained academic growth for all students.

Goal 2: Digital and Informational Literacy

Orangethorpe Elementary is committed to ensuring all students and staff have access to technology that supports the development of essential 21st century skills. Through intentional planning and resource allocation, students engage with digital tools that promote creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. All 4th–6th grade students are equipped with the newest iPads, providing access to interactive learning platforms, research opportunities, and real-time collaboration. A comprehensive needs assessment conducted with input from Community Schools participants, ELAC, and SSC identified areas for growth, including the need for parent education on digital programs such as I-Ready, Reflex, and Accelerated Reader, as well as increased awareness of emerging tools like artificial intelligence. The assessment also highlighted the importance of strengthening typing skills, research abilities, and expanding opportunities in robotics and coding. To address these needs, Orangethorpe is expanding student and family education around technology use. Students participate in digital citizenship lessons that emphasize responsible use, internet safety, and awareness of screen time. Parent workshops provide guidance on supporting students at home. These efforts ensure a safe, innovative learning environment that prepares students for future success.



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Goal 3: Safe and Secure Environment

Orangethorpe Elementary maintains a safe and secure learning environment through a comprehensive approach that integrates character education, social-emotional learning, wellness programs, and strong attendance supports. Students receive instruction in ORCA Expectations and PBIS, promoting positive behavior and sustaining low suspension rates at the blue performance level. Second Step instruction, along with staff practices such as morning greetings, morning meetings, calm corners, mindfulness, and restorative strategies, strengthens student social-emotional skills. Mental health counselors provide additional support through small-group “lunch bunch” sessions, while Daybreak and Hazel Health services offer individualized and family counseling to address student needs. A schoolwide Wellness Program ensures 100% participation in brain breaks, healthy celebrations, physical activities, after-school sports, and the morning WAVE program, supporting student engagement and well-being. To improve attendance, Orangethorpe is working to reduce chronic absenteeism from 16% to 11% by Spring 2027 through outreach, monitoring, and incentives. Key strategies include Social Services Assistants (SSAs), Saturday SSOAR and strong family partnerships to remove barriers to attendance and increase engagement.

Goal 4: Parent and Community Engagement

Parent and community engagement is central to Orangethorpe’s commitment to student success. By Spring 2027, the school aims to increase participation in DELAC, Community Schools, PTA, ELAC, School Site Council (SSC), room parent roles, and Coffee with the Principal. These opportunities build an inclusive culture that encourages families to actively support student learning during and after school. Stakeholder engagement is embedded in the school’s planning process, ensuring alignment of instructional programs, professional development, and family engagement with shared student achievement goals. Families, staff, and community members provide input through surveys, meetings, needs assessments, and ongoing dialogue. This collaboration directly informs academic supports, intervention programs, and staff learning while strengthening meaningful family involvement. Through strong home, school, and community partnerships, Orangethorpe fosters shared responsibility for both academic success and social-emotional growth for all students.

Title I/Community School

Orangethorpe leverages Title I and Community Schools resources to promote student success through targeted academic and social-emotional supports. Title I funding provides supplemental materials, interventions, and professional development, while an additional instructional assistant strengthens Tier 1 core instruction and Tier 2 small-group support within classrooms. The implementation of a co-teach model adds another layer of support, increasing access and inclusion for diverse learners. Community Schools initiatives expand family outreach, offering resources and education on the importance of consistent attendance. These combined efforts foster strong partnerships between school and home, enhancing inclusive practices that address students’ academic achievement and social-emotional well-being.

