

FREE

School News

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Covering the Glendora Unified School District

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Understanding Student Test Scores



Dr. Robert J. Voors
Superintendent

Last spring, students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 took part in California's new statewide assessments in English language arts and mathematics. The new name is California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

These were new, more rigorous computer-based tests. They were also computer adaptive, meaning that the questions become easier or more difficult depending on the test-taker's ability to answer them correctly. Families were scheduled to receive individual student score reports for those tests in early September. This may lead some parents to have questions and need assistance understanding the results.

It's important to note that the Smarter Balanced scores are different from the previous state test and cannot be compared to previous years' results. The numerical scores will be different because they reflect performance on a new test that measures different



standards. The 2015 scores will establish a new baseline — a starting point from which we'll measure our progress towards preparing our students for the future workforce and economy of tomorrow.

Keep in mind that the tests are just one part of a much bigger, statewide, K-12 remodeling effort that will require time and effort to carry out. California recently adopted new standards, and has

been developing new professional development efforts for teachers, new instructional resources and new state accountability measures.

These changes are big, a bit disruptive, and difficult to align — like trying to get all the subcontractors to work together on a kitchen remodel and still cook dinner every night. The "under construction" signs of this remodeling are still very visible. Like any successful

remodeling project, this work will take time and effort to carry out.

Just One Gauge On the Dashboard

As a part of the remodeling, California is moving toward a dashboard approach to measuring what students are learning. The statewide tests are something like the odometer on a car's dashboard, letting us know how far the child traveled by the end of the school year. While the odometer is important, it's not the only gauge on the dashboard.

The state system of tests also includes formative assessments used locally that tell us how a child is making progress throughout the year. California updated its standards and built matching assessments to shift the focus of student learning toward more complex skills that today's colleges and careers require. As we move forward, students, staff and parents working together will adapt and find even greater success with these new changes.

(Adapted from CSBA Talking Points)



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Giving 100 Percent for Glendora Schools

Each year, the Glendora Education Foundation works to provide the best education possible for every student of the Glendora Unified School District (GUSD). The collective efforts of families, residents, businesses, and civic leaders provide vital funding for our schools. Last year, we were able to contribute \$425,000 to our district.

This year, for the first time in our history, you are able to contribute 100 percent of your donations to the school of your choice to be spent on school-specific projects decided by the principals, teachers, and foundation leaders at each of our nine school locations. This new way of giving allows each parent or family member to support the particular needs of each school. By choosing to give 100 percent for your school, you know you are making a difference!



In addition, we want you to know that your involvement is essential, and our goal is to move toward 100-percent participation among GUSD families. We are stronger together! When we all participate, our students win! If each family commits just \$12 per month, we will reach our goal to sustain and grow the vital programs that enhance education for all students in the district!

So, what now? The first thing you can do is visit the foundation Web site at www.GlendoraEdFoundation.org/give to financially support our schools with your contributions today. Second, please tell someone else that you are now able to contribute 100 percent of your donation to the school of your choice and that we want 100-percent participation from our GUSD families to build brighter futures for our students!

PTA Council

500 N. Loraine Ave., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-1611 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Charles Albrecht
President

Building Great Schools

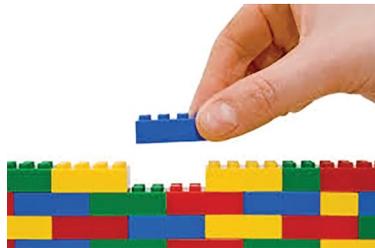
My wife, Susi, and I really enjoy being part of our Glendora community and consider it a blessing that our children are growing up in this wonderful city. Glendora has a rich history of being family and child focused.

This is especially evident when looking at our schools, which strive to provide a professional, creative and fun learning environment where students can flourish and thrive. Parent and community involvement are vital to that goal.

The 2015–16 school year has started off well, and the Glendora schools are carrying on that strong tradition of academic excellence. Our Glendora PTA is committed to partnering with families, teachers and school administrators to help our students build a strong educational foundation for life.

If you have children in school and you've not yet joined the PTA at your school, please consider joining. It is a great way to get plugged into the community, which hopes to encourage a love for lifelong learning for each young student. Some of the main ways our PTA supports schools is by helping to provide classroom resources, by sponsoring extracurricular activities, and by providing volunteers for the daily and weekly school activities. Of course, there are even more opportunities to serve and get involved.

By working together, we are giving each student a chance to build a positive foundation for life. It doesn't happen overnight, and it can't happen without volunteers, but every day is a chance to add another layer to that foundation, one brick at a time! Let's make this a great year



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another exciting school year. We look forward to publishing the excellence from the GUSD and appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read about plans for the upcoming school year. The focus is on academic success. It is an exciting time to be a student with all of the technology advances and academic choices.

As we move into fall and winter months we need to continue to be mindful of the drought conditions and how we must do our part.

Our next issue is November 10.

School News

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Covering the
GLENORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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GUSD Educational Services

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Rebecca Summers, Ed.D.
Director of
Curriculum &
Instruction,
Staff Development,
& Categorical
Programs

Exploring 21st-Century Careers

At Glendora Unified, we believe that all of our students should graduate and be ready to succeed in either college or a career of their choice.

Being “career ready” means that a high school graduate has the knowledge and skills they need to qualify for (and succeed) in postsecondary job training or education, whether it is in community college, a university, a technical/vocational program, an apprenticeship, or during on-the-job training. As part of Glendora’s mission to help students prepare for 21st-century careers, our middle and high school students now have many opportunities to explore career interests and participate in technical education.

The students begin to explore their careers through exciting “Career Days” at Sandburg and Goddard Middle Schools. Each Career Day is filled with dynamic speakers that represent a wide variety of interests. For the high school students, Glendora partners with the East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Center (ROP) and the Pomona Fairplex Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) to provide career-based classroom opportunities both on and off campus at Glendora and Whitcomb High Schools.



Career education offered through these programs includes video production, digital photography, computer-assisted drafting and design (CADD), child development, auto mechanics, fashion design, and even urban farming, to name just a few. Glendora Unified is also fortunate to have a supportive business community which partners with us through the local Chamber of Commerce to provide guest speakers and additional opportunities for students.

From high-quality early education and strong foundational standards in elementary school – all the way to rigorous career and technical education programs and college-completion goals – Glendora Unified knows that college and career readiness is the unifying agenda across our 21st-century educational pipeline.

Please Drive Safely...Students are Back in School!

GUSD Drought Response



California is experiencing one of the worst droughts in the state's history. The current snowpack is less than 5 percent of the average. It is critical that all Californians – including all of us – do our part to conserve water. We will do our best as center of the community, and as an educational institution, to lead by example and to educate the public on what can be done to stretch the supply of water until the drought ends.

As you probably know, the majority of our water use is for irrigation of landscaping and playfields, so a focus on outdoor areas yields the largest savings. However, school fields are key educational and community resources and, as such, need to be maintained to a minimum safety standard. Similar to the City, we will be placing signs on landscaped areas not being maintained to help to inform the public of the District's water conservation efforts and to assure the public that the instructional/athletic programs and community use of fields are still being met.

What Can Schools Do?

GUSD and the City of Glendora are working closely to ensure that we take advantage of available programs and assistance that may be available. Some of our schools have already cut water use by up to 50%! The city has also developed a grant/rebate program to help implement water conservation projects, as well as water audits and assistance in developing lower water use landscaping.



Outdoor

We are establishing priorities for our water conservation efforts and mapping which portions of our sites must be irrigated for programmatic uses. Most playfields need to be watered continually to maintain student safety as dry, hard ground produces more injuries. Some effective strategies include:

- We are making sure our irrigation systems are in good repair and adjusting for maximum efficiency.
- In partnership with the City of Glendora, we are retrofitting schools with new low-flow sprinkler heads and “smart” controllers that use an irrigation management moisture sensor to target watering of fields.
- We will be aerating soil in fields.
- Whenever possible, we will use native or drought tolerant plants.
- We are watering during the early parts of the day or at night and are avoiding watering when it is windy.
- So that plants develop deeper root systems and can manage drought better, we are watering plants for a longer time period, but less frequently.
- We are allowing the grass to grow a bit longer, especially in the summer.
- We use a pool cover on the GHS swimming pools when not in use. Uncovered pools can lose 1,000 gallons per month or more to evaporation.
- Please call or email us to report broken sprinklers.

Indoor

- When upgrades are necessary, we will attempt to use water savers such as: automatic flush, low-flow toilets, and waterless urinals; replace older plumbing fixtures with water efficient fixtures; replace sink aerators, shower heads, and other fittings with lower-flow fittings; and use metered or optical-sensor faucets to reduce water use.

Azusa Pacific University School of Education



Karina Quezada '08, M.A.Ed. '09 and '11
School Psychologist, Victor Elementary School District



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Cullen *Elementary*

440 N. Live Oak, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4593 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Dr. Cheryl Bonner
Principal

Cullen Visits LA County Fair

As summer draws to a conclusion, school bells begin to sound throughout the town, indicating school is again in session. These cues also signal that the LA County Fair is on! Thanks to the fundraising efforts and generosity of the Big Yellow Bus Committee and the LA County Fair, many Glendora Unified Students visited the Fairplex on September 16, Glendora Day at the Fair, just as they have for the past several years.

This year over 450 Cullen students had the opportunity to explore the fair, prior to its opening to the public. Among their experiences cow & goat milking, butter & ice cream, possibly may baby animal deliveries and any number of farm life experiences.

They also visited the Lagoon to learn more about jungle life. The options continued at the king size aquarium where they have observed sharks in the past and this year were also able to see sting rays and sea lions.

Each year Jim Cogan, story teller extraordinaire, holds the attention of hundreds of children as he expounds stories in a way, only a professional story teller can. These are only a few of the many exciting and educational experiences available to students on their short visit during Glendora Day at the Fair.



Jim Cogan, story teller in action.

Glendora *High School*

1600 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/963-5731 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Paul Lopez
Principal

Big, Diverse Group!

Hello from Glendora High School—we are very excited about the 2015–16 school year! We have had a busy summer hiring new staff members. All in all, I think we will have 16 new people on our campus.

We have just finished registration week, and it looks like we will be in the neighborhood of 2,600 Tartans next year. We have had a number of international students enroll at GHS as our population gets more diverse. We embrace our diversity and look forward to the cultural experiences that other students bring to our campus.

Our fall sports teams have been working hard over the summer to prepare for the upcoming season. Two student athletes have made commitments to take their talents to the next level. Quarterback Matt Fink has committed to USC, and Riley Jacobs will play volleyball at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

We look forward to a fun and exciting school year!



GHS students registering for school.

Goddard *Middle School*

859 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4500 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Brock Jacobsen
Principal

Building a Positive Culture

As we start another year at Goddard Middle School, I can't help but reflect on the importance of building a positive school culture on a middle school campus. Before the first bell rang, we already had over 150 student leaders from our Associated Student Body (ASB), leadership, yearbook, and Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) groups undergoing summer training. We are

developing student leaders who can impact the school experience for nearly 1,000 Goddard students.

In our WEB program, 70 eighth-grade leaders work in pairs to lead coed groups of sixth-graders and facilitate a smooth transition to middle school. They plan fun events and activities throughout the year, beginning with our sixth-grade orientation, and offer a veteran perspective on how to be successful at Goddard.

Our ASB and leadership groups have been hard at work planning for dances, our new lunchtime games, and various activities throughout the year. They also serve as terrific ambassadors for parents during events such as Schedule Pickup Day and Back-to-School Night.

Goddard's award-winning yearbook class is undergoing training on the use of cameras, optimal lighting, formatting, and writing, which will no doubt lead to yet another memorable yearbook to treasure for years to come.

As the principal, I can't help but feel blessed. While the teachers and staff certainly deserve credit for the job they do, it truly is the students who create the culture fun, respect, and hard work. We still grapple with student conflicts, challenging behaviors, and bullying. Yet, the harder we work to get all of our students connected here, the stronger our culture becomes. Please encourage your student to get involved. If your student needs help, please let us know.



La Fetra *Elementary*

547 W. Bennett, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4566 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Marie Porcell
Principal

We've Got Talent!

La Fetra's got talent! We were really excited to host our traditional school talent show in May. With state testing behind us, our students and staff were eager to experience the softer side of school life.

There is so much more that goes on at La Fetra besides rigorous learning. Our amazing PTA partners with staff and community volunteers to coordinate a fantastic talent show, and this year's was one of the best! Over 40 acts were represented, including soloists, cellists and even a few magic shows.

Student performances were terrific, and our community support was inspiring. We even had a La Fetra alumna facilitating practices and coordinating schedules. Special thanks go out to Allie Aluzzi—once a La Fetran, always a lion at heart!



Sandburg *Middle School*

819 W. Bennett, Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4530 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Eric Osborne
Principal

Students Tour Japan

The anticipation and excitement were building as 15 Sandburg Spartans and their adult chaperones boarded their plane for Tokyo, Japan. As part of a longstanding tradition at both middle schools in Glendora, these students were about to embark on the educational trip of a lifetime.

The Sandburg Middle School-Nakamura Junior High School exchange program is in its ninth year. It allows students from both countries to learn about the cultural and educational

differences between our two countries through a unique homestay program. During their nine-day trip to Japan, Sandburg students stayed with Japanese host families, attended Nakamura Junior High, and lived a traditional Japanese life. In addition to their educational experiences at home and school, students learned to cook Japanese curry and yakisoba noodles, participated in science experiences, toured 400-year-old Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, traveled 175 miles per hour on the Shinkansen (bullet train), and toured Tokyo. They also participated in summer festival in Moka City (Glendora's sister city), where they carried a portable shrine called a mikoshi. But, most importantly, they formed friendships that not only bridge the Pacific Ocean but will last a lifetime.



Sellers *Elementary*

500 N. Loraine Ave., Glendora, CA 91741 • 626/852-4574 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Steve Bishop
Principal

At the Fair

Each year our students have a wonderful opportunity to travel to the Los Angeles County Fair at the Fairplex. This is made possible through the collaboration of many agencies. Our local PTA works with a transportation company and the fair to make it possible to send as many children as we can to the fair each year. Our students, along with their teachers and many parent volunteers, are able to experience many areas of the fair, especially the farm area. Students get close to farm animals that many have only see on television or in movies. They have the opportunity to milk a cow and pet a goat.

There are many other opportunities for our students at the fair as well. They can see crafts and learn about farm life. They are able to visit the train exhibits and see actual steam locomotives. Shark Encounter and Mojo's Jungle are some of the students other favorites.



The trip to the fair is a big day out for our students, teachers, and parents, and it gives them a chance to build background knowledge and experience they can use as they continue in their educational journey.

Sutherland *Elementary*

1330 N. Amelia, Glendora, CA 91740 • 626/852-4614 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Sheri Cole
Principal

Welcome Back

This summer our school had a couple of projects that helped the campus look even more beautiful!

A new digital marquee was purchased and installed, paid for with PTA school gift funds. We look forward to posting our current school news on this state-of-the-art marquee for our parents to see. In addition, a former Sutherland student, Justin Viteri, recently completed his Eagle Scout project at our school.

Justin and his troop members refurbished and painted all of our ball walls. The vibrant colors and beautiful art work are truly masterpieces.

Our students will thoroughly enjoy using the new ball walls. We also look forward to another Eagle Scout project by former Sutherland student Alaric Burgess. He will be creating a lovely garden space in our kindergarten playground area.

Many parents of the TK and kindergarten students recently took part in an event called "Tears and Tissues." For some children, the transition from home to school can be challenging, and for many parents this might be the first child they are sending to school. So Tears and Tissues is a great way for the school to welcome our parents with open arms.

Parents dropped their children off on the first day and then went to the cafeteria, where they enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by our fabulous GUSD Food Services Department. While eating, the parents also listened to



Primary Playground

a welcome message from the school principal, and were able to connect with the other new parents. This event offered everyone a chance to enjoy the first day of school and to make connections.

Sutherland is looking forward to another successful school year, one filled with meaningful learning and fun school activities. Here is to a great school year!

Stanton *Elementary*

725 S. Vecino Ave., Glendora, CA 91740 • 626/852-4604 • www.glendora.k12.ca.us



Dr. Sara Najarro
Principal

Our Summer Vacation

As the school year wound down with many incredible celebrations and goodbyes, including Stanton Elementary School's victory at the district Science Bowl, we all looked forward to summer vacation. Some may think that school settles down over the summer, but that is the time when we prepare for the coming year. Our campus was busy over the summer with cleaning, repairs, and organization. Many of our teachers attended professional development seminars or served on curriculum planning committees. This time has allowed us to come back ready to do whatever it takes for our students. Our theme for No Excuses University this year encourages us to approach everything we do with excellence, expertise and excitement, because what we do each day impacts our most precious commodity, children. We know that education is the most important profession there is. We believe that it is the profession with the highest expectations and that the only acceptable standard for our school community is greatness. This is how we welcome our staff, students, and parents back to the 2015–2016 school year.

The beginning of the school year has already brought about many fun activities. We held our Back-to-School Night on August 18 with great success. Parents were able to interact with their children's teachers and get a clear view of the plans for the school year and the teachers' expectations.

A big thank you goes out to the local transportation company that supported our Glendora Day at the Fair. All 450 students in first through fifth grades were able to spend the day at the Los Angeles County Fair. The students were able to experience the new farm and garden area as well as extended learning opportunities.

We are looking forward to the year ahead. We can't wait to watch our community of scholars grow.



2014-2015 Stanton Science Bowl Team.

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Whitcomb *Continuation High School*

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Ron Letourneau
Principal

Welcome, All!

Here we are again—the start of another school year fast underway! As in years past, we are coming off a very successful school year. Many exciting things have been taking place over the past month. We continue to get new students from Glendora High School and are working diligently to keep our current students on task so that they will be able to either return to Glendora High or, if they want to remain with us at Whitcomb, keep them on a positive course toward graduation.

One very exciting note for us this year is that we were able to increase our school counseling position to 100 percent. We looked at many outstanding candidates, but in the end, I am happy to introduce Joy Dunn to our staff. Mrs. Dunn is a seasoned veteran when it comes to high school counseling. Her first counseling position was at Monrovia High School. She then moved over to the alternative school in Monrovia, where she served as their counselor for five and a half years. She then took her expertise to her former alma mater, La Canada High School, for the past three years. When the position opened up here, we were able to convince her that her experience with both the regular and alternative high schools would be of great value to all our students.

Please help me in welcoming Mrs. Dunn to the Glendora family!



Mrs. Joy Dunn, Counselor

Please drive safely students are back in school!

'Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!'



Kate Karp

This collection arrives just in time for the beginning of the school year, when teachers are scoping out their annual plans and parents are looking for some good, entertaining stuff to enhance their children's knowledge base. *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!* is a real find—a brass-and-woodwind-heavy hail to the Civil War era.

The collection is a compilation of traditional songs, some familiar and others obscure, as well as tunes written by artist Lloyd H. Miller in the sense of the era and what came out of it for better or worse. In the CD, Miller tells the traditional story and sings the well-known tune of radical abolitionist John Brown and adds his own lyrics and music to flesh out the hero's activism and bravery. "Follow the Drinking Gourd," the hymn to Harriet Tubman's night-sky navigation to the land of freedom, is given a celebratory treatment. Another lesser-known Brown—Henry Box Brown—reached the North in another singular way: he shipped himself in a box to Philadelphia, and Miller thought he'd make a great subject for a song. He was right. Equally obscure and of note is the story of Weeksville, one of the first free black enclaves. Weeksville was established in Brooklyn in the 1830s by a former slave, and Miller graced it with a song, too.

A sequenced narration of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address squares the corners of this enlightening collection. And best of all, an online curriculum guide is in development to further link this rich era to our present.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



Financial Aid Factoids



Susan D. Marshall

Test your financial aid knowledge.

Financial Aid does not mean free money = never to be paid back. Instead it's a mixture of gift aid and/or loans. Grants = free; Tuition Reductions (from a school that really wants you to pick them) = Free; Loans = NOT FREE.

Loan Definitions: PLUS = parent loans for student expenses, Direct = student loans, Subsidized = Government pays interest while the student is in school, Unsubsidized = Interest Accrues while Student is in School. HINT: Paying interest while in school on Unsubsidized Student Loans will greatly reduce the overall amount of debt after graduation. This is highly recommended if you want to pay off the loans as quickly as possible and save money in the long run.

529 plans count as an income resource for your student, which could result in less "need-based aid," resulting in more money out of your pocket.

Financial Aid packages sometimes include Work-Study Aid which means the student gets a part-time job typically on campus. Receiving Work-Study Aid does not guarantee the student a job on campus, they still need to apply for the job and pass the interview.

Financial aid packages/awards require you to fill out the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application requires information from the student and the parent's taxes – however you can fill out an application with estimated amounts and amend it at a later date. January is the best time to fill out your FAFSA. Typically the earlier you file a FAFSA the more financial aid you receive.

Pat yourself on the back if you knew all of this! This is the beginning of things you need to know and understand before you can begin to successfully navigate the college financial aid process.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

Lacrosse–Word Search Contest

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Glendora in the subject line.

Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by **October 15, 2015**.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| ATTACK | HEAD | SCORE |
| CLEATS | HELMETS | SHAFT |
| COACH | MIDDIES | SIDE LINES |
| CREASE | MOUTH GUARD | STICK |
| DEFENSE | NET | TEAMS |
| FIELD | PLAYERS | UNIFORMS |
| GOAL KEEPER | RULES | |

**Congratulations to Michael Herrera
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!**





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